

Xtra!

TORONTO'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

#751 AUG 8-21, 2013

the

TRAVEL ISSUE

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RUSSIA

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Photo: David Hawe



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NEWS

Activists march on Russian consulate

Torontonians protested Aug 3 in solidarity with queer Russians who are being persecuted under the country's anti-gay laws. Xtra's Andrea Houston calls on those involved with the upcoming Olympic Games to voice their anger about Russia's increasingly homophobic culture. **▶13**

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Let there be seating



EDITORIAL
DANNY GLENWRIGHT

A small neighbourhood battle — and online comment war — ensued after the removal of four benches from the corner of Alexander and Church streets in November 2011. What might have been viewed as an inconvenience for those who used the rather uncomfortable concrete seating was seen by many as an attempt to alter the personality of the Church-Wellesley Village.

Two years later, those who mourned the loss of the Alexander Street benches now have a number of new places to park their rear ends. The Church-Wellesley Village Business Improvement Area and the 519 Church Street Community Centre (with support from Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam) recently teamed up to create several new street-side patios — or “parklets” — for Church Street. The 519’s Matthew Cutler says the team modelled them after similar patios used on Yonge Street last summer during the Celebrate Yonge event. In fact, the Church Street patios are far superior.

Unlike the Yonge Street seating, which felt a bit too close to traffic for comfort, the pink-and-orange patios on Church Street have been built facing away from the road, toward the strip’s businesses. They offer a variety of seating and have been parked in front of bars, restaurants and shops such as Pusateri. It’s an innovative, community-building initiative that’s already seen success in cities like Halifax, Vancouver and New York.

And it’s a much better way for the BIA to spend its money than on one-off events — such as a sidewalk sale — that its members had previously proposed. With this scheme, the City of Toronto and the BIA seem to be dipping their toes in the water, assessing whether Church Street — like Montreal’s Sainte-Catherine Street — is ready to become a pedestrian-only strip for a few months each year, which is why we should all get out and show them it is.

Drink, tan, cruise, plan a parklet picnic — it’s now up to the residents of the city’s gay village to prove we actually deserve the neighbourhood we so often complain we don’t have.

Urban studies theorist Richard Florida writes in *Who’s Your City* that the aesthetics of a city — “its physical beauty and natural

amenities” — are public goods that should be used and enjoyed by the public. I hope it’s possible to coerce more Torontonians outside to get pleasure from our city. For some reason, many haven’t caught on to this idea, nor has Toronto caught up with European cities when it comes to citizens making use of public space. At the hint of a rare glimmer of summer sun, Londoners rush to Soho Square, in the heart of that city’s gay village, to enjoy a game of Frisbee or lunch on the grass with colleagues. Each evening after dinner, most Italians wander through their cobblestone streets for *la passeggiata*, a social ritual that persists even though Italians have as many television and iPhone screens to distract them as we do.

There’s no good reason that Cawthra Park, Allan Gardens or Queen’s Park are not as vibrant and busy as the parks of Europe. A common complaint is that downtown streets and parks are filled with “dangerous” people: drug dealers, pimps and such. But Europe’s cities have as many (or even more) of these elements. The only reason they’re more visible on our streets and in our parks is because the rest of us are not using these spaces. Crime is down in Toronto, which remains one of the world’s safest places to live. One way to keep it down is to continue to improve our neighbourhoods using the approach known as crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). This development model employs the use of natural surveillance by encouraging the creation of outdoor spaces with benches, tables and parks that promote social interaction.

It is exactly why, instead of lobbying to remove the Alexander Street benches, the residents of the Alexis condo should have lobbied for even more seating there. The knee-jerk bunker mentality that is increasingly common among Village residents is not befitting of Canada’s largest and most diverse city. If you don’t like lively streets, you probably shouldn’t buy a condo on one. The more people who utilize our public spaces, the more vibrant — and safe — our city will be. Kudos to the BIA, Wong-Tam and The 519 for realizing this and for their latest positive contribution to the growth of the gaybourhood. Now let’s get out and use those parklets.

Danny Glenwright is Xtra’s managing editor.

The outcome that we seek is this — gay and lesbian people daring together to set love free.

Xtra is published by Pink Triangle Press, at 2 Carlton St, Ste 1600, Toronto, M5B 1J3.

FEEDBACK

Russian boycotts

All bars and restaurants should join the Vancouver nightspots that are boycotting Russian products, in particular vodka [“Russian Booze Boycott Catching On Around the World,” dailyxtra.com, July 27]. They are protesting Putin’s recently enacted laws meant to restrict homosexuals from living openly in the country, even threatening to arrest openly gay tourists who visit for next year’s Sochi Winter Olympic Games. If Russia’s exports are affected, Mr Putin would have to notice and hopefully reverse the laws. We had success years ago when we managed to stop Anita Bryant preaching against homosexuals. The LGBT community boycotted Florida orange-juice products. It didn’t take long for the Florida orange growers to drop her as their spokesperson. Money always talks.

RON DEMERS
TORONTO, ON

Canadian Olympic Committee

The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) will never overstep the International Olympic Committee (IOC) [“Canadian Olympic Committee Will Not Condemn Russia’s Anti-Gay Laws,” *Xtra* #751, August 7]. They were warned after the women’s ski-jumping issue. This has nothing to do with LGBT. This is a machine at work showing its power, and its underlings (COC) in this case towed the line, as does the Canadian government. This is about billions of dollars, broadcast rights and big oil. The IOC sees Canada as a “franchise” purchaser to host *their* games. The money earned federally for hosting a game is worth billions to a country’s economy.

KRISTEN W
TORONTO, ON

Sochi Olympic boycotts

Most Jewish athletes dropped out of the Olympics when they were held in Germany under Adolf Hitler [“Gay Athlete Plans to Wear Rainbow Pin to Sochi Olympics in Russia,” dailyxtra.com, July 24]. They did not attend and proudly wear a Star of David. They did not go. No LGBT athlete should participate. To be

“Since when does winning a medal take precedence over human rights, violence and murder? It is not enough for our allies to say they support us.”

RE: SOCHI OLYMPIC BOYCOTTS



frank, any country that believes in human rights should not participate, and the television networks that carry these games should be picketed. Since when does winning a medal take precedence over human rights, violence and murder? It is not enough for our allies to say they support us. They should show their support by not attending.

ROBIN TYLER
TORONTO, ON

Wearing a pin isn’t going to quell the homophobic violence that is currently escalating in Russia. The civilized world should pull out of the 2014 Sochi Games completely. Russia should be penalized for its brutality. Gay Olympians won’t be treated the same as ordinary gay Russians.

RYAN
TORONTO, ON

I will boycott Russian goods, such as their second-rate vodka, but I can see serious problems and backlash if we boycott the Olympics. I have also sent a letter of protest to the Russian ambassador to Canada with copies to both Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and Official Opposition Foreign Affairs Critic Paul Dewar urging our government to be very clear in its opposition to this attack on human rights in Russia.

WAYNE M
TORONTO, ON

I highly doubt Russia will bow to pressure. I say boycott! I don’t see

how they are going to show the world how great the country is when it’s being ruled by a dictatorship.

MICHAEL
TORONTO, ON

Tim Horton’s WiFi block

This is another of those homophobic actions that always seem to club everything gay as hypersexual [“Tim Hortons Apologizes for Blocking Dailyxtra.com,” dailyxtra.com, July 19]. Given our sexualized culture, where naked women are used to sell everything, I find it blatantly offensive that all gay sites are deemed as “adult.” Out of personal experience, I can say with confidence that *Xtra* is one of those gay magazines that has consistently refused to fall into the trap of using sexualized images to sell its site or increase readership. *Xtra* is just what a Canadian gay magazine ought to be.

SAMUEL DANIEL
TORONTO, ON

Turkey Pride

Heteronormative constraints affect everyday life but are largely unnoticed by the mainstream masses that fit (if only awkwardly) into carefully constructed boundaries laid for us by traditional, patriarchal/misogynistic and institutional pillars [“Wrapping Turkey in Rainbow Flags,” dailyxtra.com, July 31]. Those of us who fall outside these boundaries are ridiculed, shamed, marginalized, gawked at, harassed, objectified, abused and dominated. We are often made strangers in our own land and homes. Because of all this I am deeply touched when I see this article. Absolutely fabulous to see these boys, ladies and gender non-conformers take back a piece of what is rightfully theirs. Their right to exist, to express, to love and simply to be seen for who they are, even if it falls far from the tree, outside of the box or on the other side of a pillar.

MATTHEW LANDEEN (VIA FACEBOOK)
TORONTO, ON



Female bonobos often engage in erotic acts with males and other females

According to Susan Edwards's article "Sex in the Wild."

Genital rubbing, oral sex and tongue kissing

Some of the bonobo behaviours observed.

'Galoche'

Word added to Le Petit Robert dictionary to describe French kissing.

'Bomasse'

Another new addition to Le Petit Robert, meaning a "sexually attractive person."

60 euros

Price of the 2014 edition of Le Petit Robert.

La Mare Palu

A room at this B&B in Normandy also costs 60 euros.

Le Village-Canal du Midi

Name of a gay retirement home in the South of France that was recently approved by the area's mayor.



\$250 million

Cost of a new retirement development planned for outside Palm Springs.

Curiosity

The title of a short film that premiered at the Palm Springs ShortFest.



Cheyenne Jackson
The star of *Curiosity*.

13

Number of years Jackson and ex-husband Monte Lapka were together before divorcing this month.

OUT ON THE STREET BY KYLE BURTON

What is your favourite gay travel destination?

For more gay destinations, check out our travel section, starting on page 19.



Jesse
MEDICAL RESIDENT
London, England.
My sister lives there, so I go to visit her once in a while. It's a big city with lots of stuff going on all the time.



Leon
BANKER
Punta Cana, Dominican.
The beaches are great. It's a beautiful place with lots to see and do.



Ka
STUDENT
Montreal. It's a fun city that's really gay-friendly, so when you are holding your boyfriend's hand, there won't be an issue.



Kim and Tara
OWNERS OF SPRUCE ON PARLIAMENT
New York. It's a charming city with great energy. You can do anything and everything at any time, day or night.

FROM THE PTP ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO

THE BODY POLITIC #45, AUGUST 1978

Feminist writer Andrea Dworkin responds to *Body Politic* writer Gerald Hannon's critique of feminists lobbying for legislation to restrict porn, noting that there is no question pornography "is the propaganda of sexual fascism."

Hannon's answer: "Calling for pornography legislation is calling for the state to do some of your liberation for you."



“I fully believe that people can engage in any sort of activity. Like I hate basketball, but I've played basketball before and it doesn't make me a professional basketball player.”

— straight pornstar turned actor James Deen on his gay scene in *The Canyons*.

SAME-SEX LEGAL ISSUES



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Lesbian couple married at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives

Pair wanted their wedding to tackle queer-history amnesia

COMMUNITY NEWS
ELAH FEDER

As many younger gays and lesbians venture far from Church Street and write giddy polemics about how post-gay they feel, one couple demonstrated its commitment to the Village, the LGBT community and each other by marrying at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CLGA) this summer.

Selina Abetkoff admits she hadn’t heard of the CLGA until her partner, Ilaneet Goren, suggested it as a wedding venue. Abetkoff is not alone, and spreading the word was one of the reasons the couple chose to wed there.

The CLGA started 40 years ago as a single filing cabinet in the office of *The Body Politic*. Today, it has grown into the world’s second-largest LGBT archives, offering photos, audio-visual materials, memorabilia and an international collection of queer and trans periodicals, all squeezed into its yellow-brick Victorian on Isabella Street and a second storage space at Church and Wellesley.

“The archives has so many hidden treasures that I’m sure are just here to be discovered,” says general manager Scott Kettles. He lists R Douglas Elliott’s papers documenting the fight for same-sex marriage and Mark Tewksbury’s 100th anniversary commemorative Olympic torch among his personal favourites.

The couple’s timing was perfect for the archives, which had never hosted a wedding before: 2013 marks not only its 40th anniversary, but 10 years of same-sex marriage in Ontario.

Abetkoff and Goren infused every aspect of the event with their values, ensuring that queer-friendly businesses supplied the services and refreshments and acknowledging in their speeches that legal same-sex marriage is still the exception globally. They also served rainbow cupcakes in lieu of wedding cake.



Selina Abetkoff and Ilaneet Goren were recently married at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives.

“It’s the highlight of my time at the archives,” says Kettles, who worked closely with the couple on the wedding. “It was very emotional, very beautiful.”

At the time, the second-floor gallery was featuring an exhibit about Rupert Raj, active in the trans community since the 1970s, and Richard Hudler, a long-time social worker and activist in London.

Goren says one of the wedding’s highlights was seeing her grandmother, who had lived through Soviet repression, dancing and clapping at her gay wedding, surrounded by queer and trans artifacts. Similarly for Abetkoff, one of the most powerful moments was watching her parents interact with the edgier pieces.

“I don’t want them to see some sterilized version of what queer culture is... I’m rather vanilla as a lesbian,” Abetkoff jokes, “but I celebrate the people who are boundary pushers.”

Having lobbied for marriage equality a decade earlier, Goren felt like the wedding was a culmination of that work, though she had been conflicted about marriage as an institution and hadn’t expected to get married herself. In fact, when the couple first started dating, one of Goren’s favourite T-shirts read, “Single is the new black.” (Abetkoff insists Goren even wore this on one of their early dates.) But when Abetkoff proposed — seconds after the couple crossed the Pride and Remembrance Run finish line — Goren said yes.

“The selling point for me was when she said, ‘It will be what we want it to be. It will be ours,’” Goren says.

The wedding was a celebration of the progress that has been made but also a reminder of the work yet to be done, and the couple feels the Village, as a physical space, has an important role to play in this, even as the city beyond grows more welcoming.

“I wanted to live in a place in Toronto where I can walk around with my girlfriend holding hands, and I can take that for granted for a change,” Goren says. “I can’t do that, necessarily, in other parts of the GTA, outside of those queer-positive pockets. Still. We still have a long way to go.” X

The CLGA’s current exhibit, Gay Premises: Radical Voices in the Archives, 1973–1983, features photos, cartoons and news items from contributors to The Body Politic and runs until Friday, Sept 6. For more information, go to clga.ca.



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LOCAL NEWS

Friends for Life raises \$1.5 million

More than 400 people set off from Toronto on a 600-kilometre journey July 28 to raise a record \$1.5 million for the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (PWA).

This year marked the 15th anniversary of the six-day Friends for Life Bike Rally, and many past riders returned to celebrate the milestone. Thirteen of the original 25 cyclists from 1999 rejoined the cause.

"It's a very emotional bike rally," says Robert Tomas, director of philanthropy and communications at PWA. "The bike rally moniker is Friends for Life, and in many cases it seems to be true," he says.

Organizers worked to attract a record number of riders to raise a record amount of money this year. They put together a retrospective exhibit detailing the fundraiser's history at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives in the spring and got city councillors spinning outside city hall to boost registration and donations.

Over the last 15 years, Friends for Life has raised more than \$10 million for PWA, accounting for 35 to 40 percent of its annual revenue. "Without the bike rally, the PWA as it is today would not exist," Tomas says. —*Andi Schwartz*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Canadian Olympic Committee will not condemn Russia's anti-gay laws

The executive director of the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) thinks it would be inappropriate for the organization to take a stand on Russia's anti-gay laws.

Dimitri Soudas, who is Prime Minister Stephen Harper's former spokesperson, says he trusts the International Olympic Committee's guarantees that Russian officials will not enforce the country's anti-gay laws during the Olympics.

"For a host country, the values that the Olympic Games bring are powerful and they are lasting," Soudas says. "But for us as the national Olympic committee or the IOC, we don't comment on



Kai Riecken,
left, and
Carey
Heeney.
BRIAN LAWRENCE

legislation in other countries. That is the role of the government of Canada."

Soudas says he's "received assurances" from the IOC that Russian officials will not enforce the country's anti-gay laws. "The IOC has stated that it opposes in the strongest terms any move that would jeopardize the principle of sport as a human right to all regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation. The Canadian Olympic Committee fully supports that."

Despite these assurances, reports out of Russia claim that the authors of the anti-gay legislation have not agreed to a two-week moratorium and that police will continue to enforce the laws, even against athletes and tourists. One Russian sports minister says that while he welcomes gay athletes to participate in the Sochi Games, he warns they must obey the country's new laws banning "gay propaganda," according to an Aug 1 report from *Pink News*. In Russia, "gay propaganda" is any public pro-gay speech or behaviour.

Soudas says that so far there is no official position on whether athletes should speak out, display rainbow flags, make statements or wear rainbow pins on their uniforms.

"We take the safety of the entire Olympic community very seriously," he says. "The safety of our team is our top priority. In preparation for the games, our team, including myself, we have visited Sochi many times. We also work closely with the RCMP, the Sochi organizing committee, the Canadian

government here in Ottawa. We do that to ensure the safety."

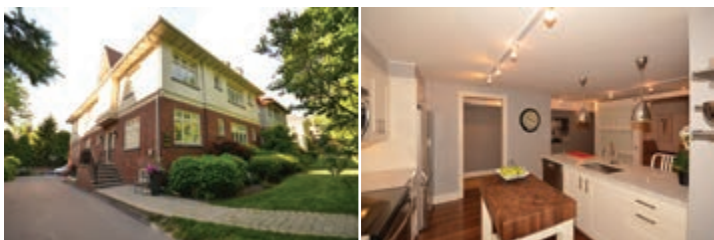
But reassuring words from the IOC and officials like Soudas have done little to appease many in the queer community who remain outraged at Russia's crackdown on gay rights. Activists in Toronto joined an international day of protest Aug 3 when they marched on the Russian consulate. Another group is planning to send a shipment of dildos to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Meanwhile, a boycott of Russian vodka continues to gain momentum.

These activists have been joined by a coalition of international LGBT sports organizations, which is demanding that the IOC host a Pride House during the Sochi Games. The Russian government previously banned any Pride House at the Sochi Games. The group includes GayWhistler, the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation, the Federation of Gay Games, Pride Sports UK and United for Equality in Sports and Entertainment, among others.

Pride Houses provided safe spaces for LGBT people and their allies at both the Vancouver and London Olympic games. New Zealand speed skater Blake Skjellerup, who plans to wear a rainbow pin at the Sochi Games, says visiting the Pride House in Vancouver gave him the courage to come out and be a role model. —*Andrea Houston*



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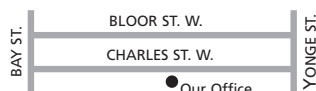
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The politics of hate



COMMENT
ANDREA
HOUSTON

On the same weekend Torontonians took part in a glorious 2013 Pride parade, gays in Saint Petersburg were also marching — except their demonstration ended with beatings and arrests.

The group was protesting the unanimous passage of a new anti-gay law in Russia that bans “gay propaganda” in order to “protect minors.”

But anyone following news out of Russia can see it's not minors who need protecting. Over the last month a steady stream of anti-gay horror stories have filled my Facebook wall: Russian neo-Nazi sociopaths using the internet to lure gay youth so they can torture them; gangs of skinheads forcing gays to pose for humiliating pictures or drink urine. In May, a gay man died after thugs raped him with broken bottles and bashed his head in with a rock.

Russia denies gay and lesbian people their right to speak and love freely, their right to protest and their right to exist. Even showing a rainbow flag in public is a criminal offence.

There is no mistaking what is happening in Russia; the world has seen it before.

Russian lawmakers have made gay people scapegoats for some of the country's problems — not unlike the way leaders in Nazi Germany blamed the Jews for Weimar Germany's economic difficulties. (President Vladimir Putin has even blamed gays for Russia's declining birthrate.)

Next year Russia will become the centre of the world's attention for more than two weeks when it plays host to the Winter Olympics. Russian gays and their international allies must take advantage of the Olympic spotlight and use every tactic to fight back against the country's increasingly anti-gay culture. And if the perfect pageantry of the Games is tainted in the process, so be it.

There is a long history of politics merging with the Olympics. Organizers cancelled the Games altogether during the Second World War. When Moscow hosted in 1980, the United States, West Germany, China, the Philippines, Argentina and Canada all boycotted. When Los Angeles hosted in 1984, the Soviet Union and 14 of its allies boycotted.

The Games have also been used as a propaganda tool. In 1936, Hitler opened the Berlin Games with a Nazi salute. For two weeks, the Olympics camouflaged



SEEING RED About 300 community members marched from the Church-Wellesley intersection to the Russian consulate at Church and Bloor streets Aug 3 to send a message of solidarity to queer people in Russia. The event was part of an international day of protest against the country's anti-gay laws. See more photos and our video coverage at dailyxtra.com.
N MAXWELL LANDER

his racist, militaristic dictatorship. The world was silent.

Two black Olympic champions used their golden moment in 1968 in Mexico City to hold their fists high in the air — a nod to the Black Panthers, who were fighting for civil rights.

Olympians going to Sochi from privileged, Western democracies have a responsibility to speak up, carry rainbow flags and talk about gay rights every chance they get. To say nothing is to be complicit in the hatred.

American figure skater Johnny Weir, whose husband is Russian, recently told CNN that he's not a political leader and “just being there” as an openly gay man is enough. “For me to go and wave a rainbow flag goes against my own personal principles,” he said, adding, “I am not a propagandist.”

In Canada, straight Olympic athletes have spent the summer crisscrossing the country to march in various Pride parades — a first for the Canadian Olympic Committee. But the reality is that visibility is simply not enough. It's not enough to go to Sochi and compete as if everything is normal. It's not enough



just to wear a little rainbow pin on a lapel, and it's insulting for athletes (gay or straight) to dismiss demands for further activism and claim that “the Olympics aren't political.”

At the very least, the International Olympic Committee should encourage gay-friendly countries like Canada to host Pride Houses in Sochi. It should also urge athletes to carry rainbow flags at the opening ceremonies alongside their national flags, Putin's laws be damned.

The IOC barred South Africa from 1964 to 1991 because of its apartheid policies, yet it won't weigh in now. Former NBA player John Amaechi told the *National Post's* Bruce Arthur that the IOC refuses to stand up for human rights. “They have no backbone. Look, [South Africa] was perhaps the only notable, noble thing that the IOC has ever done. It's the only outspoken, outstanding, political move that made them, for just a brief moment, worth their existence ... They're explicitly saying that

Olympians going to Sochi from privileged, Western democracies have a responsibility to speak up, carry rainbow flags and talk about gay rights every chance they get.

[not] being racist is important, we won't allow it, but being homophobic is okay.”

Vodka boycotts should be only the first step to get people talking. We have their attention — let's use it to make demands. All organizations and individuals attending the Olympic Games must exercise their freedom of expression and stand with Russian LGBT activists demonstrating in Sochi. Corporate sponsors also need to start raising hell about the fact that their brands are being used to support bigotry.

Berlin 1936 is now known as “the Nazi Olympics.” Let's not let this moment pass us by. Sochi 2014 should be remembered as the “Gay Rights Games.”

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird finally let loose with harsh words for Russia on Aug 1. Canadian leaders should follow his example next month at the G20 summit in Putin's hometown of Saint Petersburg.

Staying politically neutral is no longer an option. X



For more on this story, go to dailyxtra.com.

Crossing the boundaries of c

While the 19th-century law used against the Magnotta snuff-video website owner is rarely seen in the courts, it is often wielded at the Canadian border

CENSORSHIP JUSTIN LING

Dudley Do-Right has once again stepped in to save the precious fragile Canadian morality.

Mark Marek, proprietor of all things gruesome, by way of his website Best Gore, has long clung to the fringes of the internet, purveying images of horrible car accidents, suicide and mutilation. But last year he found the gore jackpot: the alleged Luka Magnotta snuff film. The video went up and the response was a mix of horror, disgust and morbid fascination.

It didn't take long for the Mounties to get their morally depraved man. Problem is, they didn't appear to have any laws to charge him with. Hosting a link to a violent film isn't exactly a crime.

But on July 16, Marek appeared be-

century laws being used against a murder video on a website?"

Cossman says the history of the law is pretty sordid. Its modern lineage comes out of a case in the late 1980s against Winnipeg porn proprietor Donald Butler. Police charged him with dozens of counts of distributing obscene material. The case made its way through the court system before coming before the top judges in the land. They decided on a harm test: pornography could be considered criminally obscene if it involved violence or undue degradation or dehumanization, but porn that did not fall under those characteristics, generally, was a rather inane type of obscene.

That definition of harm, Cossman notes, is still very "amorphous."

From then on, the law was used infrequently, usually on "weird and stupid things," she says. That's because the

On his blog, Marek makes the case that his website warns viewers against violence. What he shows his readership, he argued on a now-deleted blog post, is akin to what the Government of Canada does in designing cigarette packages to curb smoking. The difference, he argues, is that Ottawa targets children specifically, whereas his site has two levels of disclaimers to warn users of the site's gruesome content.

That test of harm seems more designed for Québécois artist Rémy Couture, a filmographer renowned for his hyper-realistic special effects and makeup that has tricked more than one casual internet-goer into thinking that his home movies are real snuff films. Couture was brought up on charges of contributing to the corruption of morals, as the Crown alleged his work was not a professional trade, but rather a sick sexual fetish. A Montreal jury acquitted him in December.

Legal experts expect Marek to get off as well, as there is little physical evidence tying him to the posting of the video — only that he owns the site.

But while Marek and Couture provide two rare examples of this provision being used through the Criminal Code, it is often wielded at the Canadian border.

The prohibited-importations unit, a section of the CBSA, is the body responsible for determining whether titles — be they shipped or in personal possession — are a hazard to the sensibilities of Canada. Its responsibility is to determine if the imported titles contravene the Criminal Code — whether they fall under the guise of hate speech or if they're inadmissible under Tariff 9899.

The Orwellian-sounding tariff is a ban on any material that, under Section 163(8) of the Criminal Code, tends to "corrupt morals." Specifically, "any publication a dominant characteristic of which is the undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and any one or more of the following subjects, namely, crime, horror, cruelty and violence, shall be deemed to be obscene."

The Canadian government has taken that to mean most things involving urine, scat, simulated violence, role-play incest and a whole host of illustrated content.

“Officers apply the guidelines more or less liberally depending on their perspective.” **FORMER CBSA EMPLOYEE**

fore an Edmonton judge under Section 163 of the Criminal Code: Offences Tending to Corrupt Morals. It is the second time the otherwise-forgotten law has been used in the past two years, sparking a flashpoint in the debate on the limits of freedom of expression.

Brenda Cossman has long followed the legality of obscenity, smut and corrupt morals in Canada. She is an *Xtra* contributor and a University of Toronto professor, as well as the director of the Mark S Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies. She tells *Xtra* that use of that section of the Criminal Code essentially stopped in the past decade as the legal system moved on to other, more serious, issues of exploitation, such as child pornography.

So when the news came out, Cossman's first reaction was, "Oh my god, I have to put my obscenity hat back on?"

She then penned an editorial for *The Globe and Mail* asking, "Why are 19th-

Supreme Court had failed to base the so-called harm test on anything more than the judge's inclination or feeling. That was remedied later, in the early 2000s, when they set out a need to furnish the court with evidence of societal or direct harm. The test was properly set out in the Labaye case, in which the Quebec government tried to charge a group of swingers for indecency and operating a brothel. The court decided that the government had an onus to prove that obscene material infringes on a person's freedom ("blasting porn on Yonge and Dundas," as Cossman puts it), contributes to anti-social or sexist behaviour in the public, or physically harms the person depicted in the material.

Marek's case, evidently, falls under the latter provision.

But the tape that Marek posted to Best Gore wasn't exactly pornography — it was, allegedly, real. That makes this case "new and cutting edge," Cossman says.



TOP: **Best Gore owner Mark Marek recently appeared before an Edmonton judge under Section 163 of the Criminal Code.**

ABOVE: **In 2009, officials at the Canada Border Services Agency banned Raging Stallion Studios' fetish flick *Piss Off*.**

The CBSA releases quarterly lists of all those titles confiscated at the border — virtually all of them pornography, and many of them gay. Once confiscated, they're sent to Ottawa, where bureaucrats determine whether they're an acceptable import or contributing to the moral decline of Canada.

As *Xtra* reported in 2009 when the CBSA banned Raging Stallion Studios' fetish flick *Piss Off*, CBSA has been turning off porn producers and fans alike with its censorship of their raunchy films.

But it's not always hardcore porn that gets caught in this dragnet — in two cases CBSA officials held entrants to Canadian queer film festivals.

A spokesperson told *Xtra* that "CBSA officers have the legal authority under Section 99 of the Customs Act to examine personal baggage, conveyances and goods upon arrival into and on departure from Canada. This could include the examination of electronic storage devices that may contain obscene material, hate propaganda or child pornography."

For example, if you plan on coming across the border with a DVD copy of *Urine Fist Fest*, you'd better think again. Though if you have *Bound, Bagged and Gagged*, you'll probably be all right.

ensorship



But it's not quite as clear-cut as it sounds. *Mommy & Me 2*, for example, is permitted. *Seduced By Mommy 3*, on the other hand, is a non-starter and will be confiscated at the border. *Bizarro Sex Loops Volume 26* is banned, but *Volume 25* is allowed.

Most of the titles on the list are DVDs, but CBSA regularly confiscates literature — romantic novels detailing incest, comics that appear to feature some man-on-monkey action, and one comic entitled *After School Slave Club*. All were deemed inadmissible. Two magazines — editions of *Stroke* and *Studflix* — are generally allowed in, although one edition of *Stroke* has been banned.

“CBSA officers are trained in investigative, examination and questioning techniques,” the spokesperson told *Xtra*. “A number of risk-based indicators guide officers in making the decision to refer goods and individuals for further examination or investigation.” No clarification of exactly what those indicators are was provided.

When material is confiscated, the importer will receive a written reason as well as the option to appeal.

One former CBSA employee, who chose to remain anonymous because former employees are not at liberty

to discuss department guidelines, told *Xtra* via email that “there’s a long list [of prohibited titles] that gets updated.” She says those titles are “seized and destroyed, no questions asked.”

She went on to say that guidelines are vague, yet the guards are told that things like spitting or urination are strictly off-limits. But, she says, there is plenty of “grey area.”

“Officers apply the guidelines more or less liberally, depending on their perspective,” she says.


The former CBSA employee says that some Canadians are flagged for having “questionable materials.” She remembers the case of one professor whose work led him to being flagged, where the other agents “were at the ready to arrest this man as a pedophile before he arrived,” she says. He was prepared: he had letters from the university and the conference he was presenting at, confirming that he was not a pervert. He was released, “to the disappointment of many.”

One of the more famous cases of Canada’s obscenity laws being used at the border is that of the Little Sister’s bookstore in Vancouver. The store brought a constitutional challenge after numerous shipments of queer erotica were stopped at the border, spanning a decade. That case would go on to the Supreme Court in 2005 and help redefine how the laws on corrupting morals would be defined in Canada.

The majority of the justices found that “it is fundamentally unacceptable that expression which is free within the country can become stigmatized and harassed by government officials simply because it crosses an international boundary, and is thereby brought within the bailiwick of the Customs department... Their freedom of expression does not stop at the border.”

In the end, the justices agreed that the obscenity tariff should be upheld but that the onus should be on the government to prove that the goods are obscene. Previously, it was up to those with the goods to prove that their material was fit for Canada’s delicate sensibilities.

So if you’re driving across the border, clutching your original 1999 first press of *Dad Does It Best*, you’d better have a good hiding spot. X

 Read two more stories in *Xtra*’s series on border issues at dailyxtra.com.

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STEVEN BEREZNAI

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Going for gold

Athletes from more than 100 countries marked the opening of the 2013 World Outgames in Antwerp, Belgium, Aug 3. Go to dailyxtra.com to see more photos from the opening ceremony as well as four profiles of some Canadian athletes to watch.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Gay teacher fired after wedding photos published

A gay teacher at a Catholic high school in Glendora, California, was fired because photos of his wedding appeared in a local newspaper, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

Ken Bencomo and his partner were one of the first same-sex California couples married after the US Supreme Court struck down Proposition 8 in June.

School administrators had known that Bencomo was gay for about a decade but decided last month not to renew his contract because of the publicity generated by his wedding.

"Ken was one of the school's star educators and the decision to terminate him because he lawfully married a man is just heartbreaking to him — it's crushing," said Bencomo's attorney, Patrick McGarrigle. "It shows a terrible error of judgment and complete disregard of Ken and what he has brought to the school."

School administrators issued a statement saying that "while the school does not discriminate against teachers or other school employees based on their private lifestyle choices, public displays of behavior that are directly contrary to church teachings are inconsistent with [our] values." —*Niko Bell*

Dozens of gay couples wed in Minnesota as 13th state legalizes marriage

Margaret Miles and Cathy ten Broeke were married just seconds after midnight Aug 1 on the marble steps of Min-

neapolis City Hall, the first gay couple married in Minnesota.

Mayor RT Rybak officiated the ceremony, the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* reports.

Dozens of other Minnesota couples were married Aug 1 as the state became the 13th in the United States to legalize gay marriage.

Governor Mark Dayton signed the legalization bill in May, only months after Republicans barely failed to write a ban on gay marriage into the state constitution.

"You and all the LGBT community throughout Minnesota... had the courage to stand up and say we want the same rights as every other American," Dayton told a gathered crowd in Minneapolis on Aug 1. "It's a constitutional right, a moral right."

State officials expect 5,000 gay couples to marry in Minnesota this year.

—*Niko Bell*

NATIONAL NEWS

Montreal study finds non-traditional relationships on the rise

In contrast to the images of dyadic monogamy successfully mobilized in recent legal victories for gay marriage in the United States, non-traditional relationships — a category encompassing everything from couples who swing to polyamorous partnerships of three or more — are increasing in proportion to monogamous partnerships, according to research conducted through the Sexuality and Modern Intimate Ties and Networks (SMIT'N) project.

SMIT'N has collected more than 5,500 relationship surveys through its website. Lead researcher Martin Blais, of l'Université du Québec à Montréal's Department of Sexology, says that de-

spite the growth in non-traditional relationships, the mystery surrounding their prevalence and how they function contributes to their stigmatization. "Non-traditional relationships are still seen as second-rate options that people engage in only because they cannot find a monogamous partner — and alarmist reactions in the media to the sexual precocity of youth only contribute to the impression that these relationships are dangerous," he says.

Blais says the historical growth of non-monogamous relationships in Quebec, where participation in the study has been greatest, is a move away from traditional institutions, particularly the Roman Catholic Church. As individuals no longer depended on traditional institutions, including the family, to fulfill basic needs, they began crafting relations that emphasize autonomy and opportunity for self-actualization. Often, this means multiple sexual partners.

Among the groups surveyed, gay men had the highest rate of "open relationships." Just less than one-third of gay men reported being in open relationships, and these men reported the highest rates of relationship satisfaction among all gay men.

Results show that those who seek traditional relationships prioritize security and structure, while those seeking or currently in non-traditional relationships are motivated to create relationships that enhance individual autonomy.

Blais was surprised by the frequency with which self-identifying heterosexuals and homosexuals described being attracted to members of the opposite sex. Instead of affirming the binary of hetero- and homosexual identities, data points to a more complex spectrum of attractions to both sexes among both gay and straight people.

SMIT'N is still recruiting participants, and its survey is available online.

—*Josh Mentanko*



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I just tell him that he can f* off
I enjoy being a Dyke
I've always been an uppity woman
I refuse to run - I stand and strike
Cuz I'm gay and I'm proud and I'm angry
And I enjoy being a Dyke

*to the tune of "I enjoy being a girl" by Rodgers and Hammerstein

I enjoy being a dyke*

To the delight of the audience, on January 5, 1974 four women sang a showtune parody at the Brunswick Tavern for amateur night.

Not everyone shared the delight. Their ensuing harassment, arrests, and brutal treatment sparked the LGBTQ community to stand up and fight back. This reaction became a catalyst for a strong homosexual liberation movement in Canada.

Find out more at clga.ca

Persian poetry lovers

An 11th-century sultan and his beloved slave

HISTORY BOYS
MICHAEL LYONS

Heterosexuality and monogamy are, to put it briefly, fairly recent developments, though love and devotion have been human concerns for eons. Religious leaders pushing “traditional marriage” have continuously failed to acknowledge a long history of non-monogamy and non-normative sexualities.

The famous Islamic leader Mahmud of Ghazni, an early-11th-century conqueror and the first ruler to carry the title “sultan,” had nine wives and relationships with other women, though his polygamy is often overlooked in lieu of his relationship with a man named Ayaz.

Mahmud was born in 971, in the town of Ghazna, Khorasan (what is now Afghanistan). At the age of 23, he joined his father, a Turkic slave-soldier turned nation-founder, in military campaigns in the region. He eventually took over from his father and in the name of Islam continued to expand the Ghaznavid Empire into what is now eastern Iran and the northwest Indian subcontinent.

Less is known about Ayaz’s early life. Likely born closer to the end of the 10th century, Ayaz was a Georgian-Turkish slave who ended up in Mahmud’s court and became the sultan’s favourite. In 1021, the sultan raised Ayaz to kingship, installing him on the throne of Lahore, a city in what is now Pakistan. Mahmud had burned the city to the ground and scattered most of the inhabitants because of a betrayal by the local government, so the freshly instated Malik (“King”) Ayaz reconstructed Lahore from the ground up, creating what survives as the Walled City.

The relationship between Mahmud and Ayaz is highly celebrated in Persian poetry and literature. Sa’di, a 13th-century poet, includes two stories about the lovers in his best-known work, *Bustan*, a collection of reflections on human nature. The chapter “Concerning Love” describes someone complaining that Mahmud’s favourite slave “possesses no beauty.” Upon hearing this, Mahmud responds, “My love, O sir, is for virtue, not for form or stature.” The second story depicts the king travelling with some of his men when an overturned chest of pearls is



ERIC WILLIAMS

Mahmud and Ayaz’s relationship came to be an allegory of the highest ideal of (spiritual) love, devotion and fealty, be they to a god, king or lover.

discovered; all except Ayaz go after the pearls. Questioned by Mahmud about the possibility of gaining riches, Ayaz explains he wants nothing. “I walked in haste behind thee, I do not occupy myself with riches away from thy service.”

Mahmud and Ayaz’s relationship came to be an allegory of the highest ideal of (spiritual) love, devotion and fealty, be they to a god, king or lover. Chief among these virtues is restraint, as expressed in a story by Nidhami-I-Arudi, a 12th-century Ghaznavid court poet from Samarkand (what is now Uzbekistan). His story in the *Chahar Maqala* describes the “well known and famous” love of Mahmud for Ayaz, though he explains that Mahmud, being a “pious and God-fearing man,” wrestled with this love. One night after drinking a lot of wine, Mahmud couldn’t

ignore Ayaz’s beauty: “Thereupon love plucked the reins of self-restraint from the hands of his endurance, and lover-like he drew him to himself.”

A manifestation of his morals appears, warning Mahmud against acting on his love. Instead, the sultan takes a knife and orders Ayaz to cut off his beautiful hair. Mahmud wakes up the next morning, hung over and depressed by what he’s done. A court poet is called, who comes up with this pithy verse: “Though shame it be a fair one’s curls to shear/Why rise in wrath or sit in sorrow here?/Rather rejoice, make merry, call for wine/When clipped the cypress doth most trim appear.” Cheered considerably, Mahmud lavishes gold and silver on both the poet and his beloved. Mahmud’s virtues are preserved, Ayaz has a new haircut, everyone wins.

While it’s easy to romanticize chaste devotion in stories, it’s harder to believe that lust didn’t win out with real-life Mahmud and Ayaz. While homosexuality or polygamy might ruin Mahmud’s chance of being a “pious and God-fearing man,” Sa’di advises, “A devoted lover holds not back his hand from the object of his affections though arrows and stones may rain upon his head. Be cautious; if thou goest down to the sea, give thyself up the storm.” Through Mahmud’s love and devotion to Ayaz, in a narrative that would make Sa’di proud, the ruler is ruled by his slave. X

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CHASING RAINBOWS

With WorldPride coming in 2014, how does Toronto fare as a gay destination?

TOURISM ROB SALERNO

Toronto is the economic and cultural hub of Canada and was recently crowned the fourth largest city in North America, but does it have the pull to become the continent's next great travel destination? And can the city's vibrant gay community be on the leading edge of a tourism renaissance?

With the imminent arrival of next year's WorldPride celebrations, there's no better time to ask than now. Toronto has been posting annual tourism growth for much of the last decade, with overnight visits now reaching 9.8 million annually. The hotel occupancy rate is 10th in North America, even as new high-end and boutique hotels, such as the Ritz-Carlton, Trump, Four Seasons and Shangri-La, continue to open in the downtown core.

Tourism Toronto, the agency responsible for marketing the city around the world, has been aggressively courting the gay market since 2007, when it snagged its president and CEO David Whitaker from Miami. The organization hosts pages on its website, seetorontonow.com, dedicated specifically to LGBT travellers and aggressively promotes to gay communities in its target cities.

It's a strategy worth pursuing, according to data published in an Out Now travel market survey. Out Now predicts that the global travel market is worth \$181 billion (US) in 2013, up from \$70 billion in 2007. The same survey ranks Canada just 13th in volume of gay tourists, with an annual market value of \$6



the
TRAVEL
ISSUE

billion (US). That puts Canada behind Poland in the number of gay visitors it receives and just behind Spain's dollar share of the market.

And Toronto is failing in some important ways. Tourism Toronto's LGBT travel-information section has a nightlife page that encourages travellers to check out Zelda's, CiRCA, Slack Alice and Fuzion, all bars that have been closed for some time. But it neglects to mention the burgeoning queer scene in Kensington, Ossington, West Queen West and Parkdale. Meanwhile, despite nightlife being a chief attraction for visitors, city council has been work-

ing hard to limit the growth of the bar, club and restaurant industry in Toronto, with zoning exclusions and development moratoriums passed or proposed in nearly all of Toronto's hippest neighbourhoods.

Tourism Toronto is putting resources behind promoting next year's WorldPride festivities on its website and around the world as well. But how much that will pay off remains an open question. WorldPride has virtually no track record as a successful international event — each of its three previous iterations were marred by controversy and cancellations.

Former Pride Toronto executive director Tracey Sandilands told City News after winning the WorldPride 2014 bid that she expected the event to bring in "five times" Pride's usual one million visitors. But even that number is misleading — when Pride organizers claim that one million people attend, they're counting visits to various Pride events throughout Pride week, not unique visitors from outside Toronto. Pride's own 2009 economic-impact study concludes that of 411,000 people who attended Pride, 303,000 were from the Toronto area.

While new executive director Kevin

Beaulieu is lowering expectations for the event, even his more conservative projections would be an enormous boost to Toronto tourism. "Because it's the first North American and fourth WorldPride ever, the travel patterns aren't established. We're expecting hundreds of thousands more visitors, up to two million visits to Pride," says Beaulieu, reached at Vancouver Pride, where he's promoting next year's party.

Pride Toronto will spend this year working toward ensuring that gay travellers around the world are aware of WorldPride. It's had representatives on the ground at major Pride festivities across North America, as well as São Paulo Pride and EuroPride, sent promotional materials to the smaller Prides, purchased ads in gay media, and is recruiting its volunteers and community members to reach out to their friends in other cities to invite them to the party. And its work is being supplemented by promotional work being done by Tourism Toronto and the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership at their regional offices around the world.

To help promote the city as a whole and boost the profile of WorldPride as an event, Pride is also working with the city's major cultural institutions to offer queer programming during the festival, and the city is working with neighbourhood associations to improve the Village, with its new parklets and the soon-to-launch mural project.

"The quality of the event is the first metric of success," Beaulieu says of expectations for WorldPride. "That means that people who arrived here understood that it was a special event... and the engagement of the community, whether Torontonians feel proud to have hosted it."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GAY TRAVEL DESTINATION?



MAGGIE CASSELLA

Comedian/actor

I think everywhere I am is a gay destination because I'm gay and I'm there. For me, it's kind of like the gay places are more "gay and everyone else" now, too. Having

said that, if I have to pick my favourite place, I'll always love **Provincetown**. Even though it feels less and less gay, it's so beautiful there. And I love **Sitges**, which, again, feels very mixed but is also stunning and relaxing and fun.



MIKE CHALUT

Host of The Mike Chalut Show

My favourite thing about being Canadian is that no matter where we go, people are always so excited to welcome us. I love the

sun, I love beaches, I love **LA** and I love **NYC**. My favourite LGBT destination is **London**, England. I am such a sucker for British accents. The nightlife is beyond fun. The theatre, the shopping, the boys and the energy is a real royal experience!



BOBBY VALEN

Owner of the Henhouse

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accommodations, from high-end to cheap as dirt; great street food; and even queer bars with killer mescal. Tulum is safe, friendly and runs on its own time. No watches necessary.

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NEW YORK

It's a hell of a town — and maybe the world capital of 'gay'

ROB SALERNO

Most gay people, men especially, eventually end up in New York City, and with good reason. As the preeminent global centre of art, culture and commerce, The Big Apple has also emerged as the world capital of gay. Between the dazzle of Broadway, the old-school Hollywood romance of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and Manhattan's star turn as the fifth lady of *Sex and the City*, New York City is virtually welded into every gay man's DNA, no matter where he's from.

In this rapidly changing city of eight million people, the gay visitor can be simply overwhelmed for choice, but here are a few must-dos.

If you're looking for an upscale and unique stay, get a room at **The Out NYC** (510 W 42nd St), New York's swanky "gay urban resort" in the Hell's Kitchen neighbourhood. The Out is designed for the gay or lesbian traveller who wants a sexy and luxurious stay in New York with other queer travellers.

My deluxe suite at The Out came equipped with a lush king-sized bed with floor-to-ceiling mirrored headboard, modern illuminated bedside cubes, big-screen television and a spa-

cious work station. The designer bathroom is similarly swish, with plush towels, fully mirrored shower and a variety of The Out's own brand of luxury bath products on hand.

For those travelling in groups, The Out's unique quad bunk rooms offer the luxury at a fraction of the price. The

beds are full-sized and separated with plush privacy curtains, and each has its own personal television set.

The Out also houses a full gym and spa, including hot tub, steam room and cedar sauna, with a team of trainers, masseurs and beauticians on hand for special sessions at reasonable prices.

During my stay I was invited to a complimentary and invigorating facial and manicure in the hotel's spa atrium, a warm and friendly space with cabanas and a soothing waterfall wall.

When you're ready to explore, take a short walk to Times Square — a mandatory stop on any New York visit. The



ALEX PROIMOS

hustle and bustle of the square — and its incredible array of billboards — is a sight to behold, and the city's decision to close several streets through the square to make more room for performers and seating has really enhanced the experience.

Times Square is the best place to get a sense of what's going on in the Broadway theatre scene. Not only are half the major theatres along the square itself, but the giant TKTS booth offers discount day-of tickets to many of the biggest shows. For even better deals, it's worth going to the theatres directly — many offer rush tickets at steeply discounted prices.

For those with ravenous appetites for the performing arts, get off the main Broadway strip and dig into New York's more adventurous smaller theatres, where artists frequently tackle more daring subjects and styles. Some of my favourite venues in the city include the multidisciplinary **Brooklyn Academy of Music** complex (30 Lafayette Ave), **Theatre Row** (410 W 42nd St) and the **Pershing Square Signature Centre** (480 W 42nd St).

While New York is synonymous with theatre, the city is home to world-class arts of all kinds — from the stars of standup comedy, to live music and opera. Ticket hawkers will attempt to sell you on various comedy clubs as you pass them in Times Square. The discount tickets they offer aren't typically much better than buying at the door, but they're often emerging comedians who are working for the right to perform at the clubs they're promoting — be a sport and help one out. Be warned though: in addition to your ticket price, comedy clubs often have a two-drink minimum.

If you've had enough of the uptown scene, swing down to Greenwich Village



Clockwise from left: the view from the top of the Rockefeller Center; the historic Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village; the New York Pride march; the Broadway strip.

Trip Planner

Bars & Clubs

G Lounge
XL Nightclub

Lodgings

Ace Hotel
Chelsea Hotel

Restaurants & Cafés

The Spotted Pig
HK Kitchen

Saunas & Sex Clubs

East Side Club
West Side Club


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On the web

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 Visit dailyxtratravel.com to see our New York map and listings for more than 350 places of interest.



SASHA KARGALTSEV



DANIEL CASE

for the classic gay experience. A visit to the **Stonewall Inn** (51 Christopher St) is mandatory for the first-time visitor to New York. It was here that the modern gay rights movement was born on June 28, 1969, when a large group of gays, drag queens, trans people and hustlers spontaneously rioted to protest a police raid on the bar. The Stonewall still remains as a low-key joint with cheap drinks, drag queens and a charming community feel.

Up the street, the similarly long-lived **Duplex** (61 Christopher St) is a piano bar and cabaret with a bit more of a rollicking feel. Its cabaret performers are among the city's best and in the past have included such stars as Barbra Streisand and Woody Allen.

From here, you can't help but be tempted to stop in to **Big Gay Ice Cream** (61 Grove St). This kooky little shop started out as the Big Gay Ice Cream

Truck before expanding to two brick-and-mortar locations (the other is in the East Village at 125 E 7th St). BGIC specializes in scrumptious soft-serve with wicked toppings and flavours, like ginger curry, curried coconut, cayenne chocolate or apple butter with bourbon butterscotch.

While you're indulging in naughty desserts, pay a visit to **Big Booty Bread Co** (261 W 23rd St) in Chelsea. The little bakery with the cheeky logo blends American standards with Latin American treats — the chocolate chip cookies are to die for, but try their specialty guava turnovers.

When it comes time to dance those extra calories away, you've no shortage of choices, with whole neighbourhoods like the West Village, Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen virtually synonymous with gay partying. But with a few exceptions —

The Monster (80 Grove St), **XL** (512 W 42nd St), **Boxers** (742 9th Ave), the soon-to-close **Splash** (50 W 17th St; for more on its Aug 10 closing, see page 23) — Manhattan's bars are more of the stand, drink and cruise variety. Luckily, gay bars and clubs are springing up in the other boroughs. There's **Sugarland** (221 North 9th St) in Brooklyn's Williamsburg, while Roosevelt Avenue in Queens' Jackson

Heights has a string of gay clubs, including **True Colors** (7915 Roosevelt Ave), **Club Evolution** (7619 Roosevelt Ave) and the **Music Box** (40-08 74th St).

Looking for a more low-key night? Chelsea's **Gym Sportsbar** (167 8th Ave) attracts a blue-collar crowd of true sports fans, while **G Lounge** (225 W 19th St) and **Barracuda** (275 W 22nd St) have a friendly, low-key vibe, even

when G-Lounge is packed with hot muscular go-go boys grinding to pop and house beats.

The hip kids party in the East Village at **Eastern Bloc** (505 E 6th St) or **The Boiler Room** (86 E 4th St), but I found the alpha hipsters at **Metropolitan** (559 Lorimer St) in Williamsburg, a cozy little bar with live music and lots of tattooed, bearded and flannelled boys. But the coolest gay parties in New York will usually be the irregular ones thrown in mixed venues scattered around the city. If you're feeling adventurous, consult the local listings and get your butt out to that drag-performance party at a dive in Bushwick or the pop-up underwear party on Staten Island.

We've only scratched the surface of this incredible city — but that's another one of its joys. It's impossible to distill all of the great New York experiences into a single visit, so plan on coming back again and again. ■

♥ WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GAY TRAVEL DESTINATION?



ASHLEY MACISAAC Fiddler

When I was young, I explored many gay places, but now I'm old and married, so I'm not allowed. However, my favourite destination is **New York**. There you can find anything you desire.

For more gay travel destinations, go to dailyxtratravel.com.

MEMPHIS

Tennessee's lesser-known music town

AEFA MULHOLLAND

While country capital Nashville offers a bold, brash take on Tennessee, Memphis, 212 miles to the southwest, strikes a more soulful chord. Music isn't the only thing to sing about round these parts; Tennessee also offers stunning mountain scenery, legendary barbecue, Southern comfort food and soul food. This is a state where you'll want to clock off the calorie count and tuck in.

Compared to the hundreds of kings buried in Memphis, Egypt, Tennessee's version has just one historic king interred — but one who wore jumpsuits far better than King Tut and his kin. Elvis's palatial pad **Graceland** (elvis.com/graceland) gives a dose of king and kitsch, plus décor tips you'll never forget — even if you try. If you're staying locally, Marlowe's Ribs (marlowesmemphis.com) will send a pink limo for you. The foyer contains a trove of barbecue trophies and a 2D cardboard Elvis in his gold-lamé stage.

Downtown Memphis is ramshackle, with a select few buildings slicked up for the tourists. A sign outside **Flying Fish** (flyingfishinthe.net) demands you "Get Your Tails in Here" for all-you-can-eat catfish specials. If you're not a fish fan, next door **Automatic Slim's Tonga Club** (automaticslimsmemphis.com) presents towering platters of onion fritters as tasty table centrepieces and dishes such as gumbo and pork chops with Delta Grind grits. Round the corner on famed Beale Street, birthplace of the blues, neon signs vie for attention along a couple of brightly lit blocks. BB King's **Company Store** (bbkingsclubs.com) blares blues. **The Handy Bar** (eatdrink-boogie.sitewrench.com/handypark), named for blues legend WC Handy, offers "Big Ass Beers to go." The bar next door promises "Biggest Ass Beers." On the same block sits Schwab's General Store. The stock is indeed general and lacks even a vaguely cohesive theme. Chipped ceramic kittens, cowboy hats and love potions jostle alongside sou-



Clockwise from above: MidSouth Pride will take place Saturday, Oct 12; Beale Street is famous for blues and rock 'n' roll; Elvis Presley's gravesite.

venir mugs and eclectic knickknacks.

More genteel Southern society can be glimpsed at the venerable **Peabody** (peabodymemphis.com). However, at 11am or 5pm, things are a little different. At five, a liveried gentleman marches into the lobby and taps sharply on the marble fountain. Its inhabitants, five North American mallard ducks, hop out and march down an awaiting red carpet to the elevator. They reverse their journey in the morning. The tradition started in 1933 when the inebriated hotel manager returned from a hunting trip and filled the fountain with leftover live duck decoys.

For a more contemporary take on this Mississippi-side city, head for Midtown. You'll find a burgeoning arts scene around the 342-acre **Overton Park** (overtonpark.org) and worthwhile stops within, such as **Rainbow Lake, Brooks Museum of Art** (brooksmuseum.org) and **Memphis Zoo** (memphiszoo.org). Although the vivacious **MidSouth Pride** (midsouthpride.wordpress.com) will happen downtown on Saturday, Oct 15, in Robert Church Park and the Beale Street Entertainment District, it's Midtown that is Memphis's queer epicentre, home to the **Gay and Lesbian Community Center** (mglcc.org). In hip Cooper-Young, you'll find happening bars, record stores, bookshops and funky restaurants such as **Soul Fish** (soulfishcafe.com)

and **Beauty Shop** (thebeautyshoprestaurant.com) — housed in a 1960s salon with refurbished hair-dryer chairs. Each September, the **Cooper-Young Festival** (cooperyoungfestival.com), with its 400 artisans, attracts thousands.

Accommodations

Don't be fooled by the Graceland neighbourhood's sweet-sounding street names, such as Bluebird Road, Singing Trees Drive or Twinkletown Road: this is a purely functional part of town if Elvis stars on your itinerary and you're on wheels. Go all out and stay in the **Heart-break Hotel** (elvis.com/graceland/heart-break_hotel.aspx), where the desk clerks are, indeed, dressed in black. Downtown, **The Peabody** (peabodymemphis.com) is the perfect place to soak up the Old South. Across the river, the historic-meets-hip, super-basic **Shack Up Inn** (shackupinn.com) is a unique cluster of once-abandoned shotgun shacks and a cotton gin set on an old plantation.

Bars

Head to Midtown to measure up Memphis. The main venues include ram-bunctious sports bar **The Pumping Station** (thepumpingstationmemphis.com) and laid-back lesbian beer bar **Dru's Place** (drusplace.com). ■




AIRTUNA08



On the web

Memphis tourism
memphistravel.com

 This spotlight on Memphis is excerpted from a Tennessee travel feature that covers Nashville, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Pigeon Forge (home to Dolly Parton's Dollywood!) and Gatlinburg. Read our complete Tennessee coverage online at dailyxtra.com.

♥ WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GAY TRAVEL DESTINATION?



TREY ANTHONY

Comedian/playwright

I love **Olivia** holidays and cruises. I went on my first Olivia trip in 2012 and it was the best holiday I ever had. I do prefer the hotel destinations over the cruises, but 2,800 dykes on a trip is either an amazing holiday or you have died and gone to heaven!

For more gay travel destinations, go to dailyxtratravel.com.



CAMPUS

Montreal is rightly famous the world over for its bawdy strip joints. And the boys here take everything off. Some of them even have hard-ons! My fave peeler bar is Campus in the Gay Village. Over the years Campus has also been a favourite of Calvin Klein, former NFLer David Kopay, Armistead Maupin, Nathan Lane, David Hyde

Pierce and Jean Paul Gaultier, who once told me, laughing, "It must be my twin brother you saw!" Porn director Chi Chi LaRue — dressed in full drag — was even kicked out of there once. They wouldn't let her in because she's a drag queen, Chi Chi told me. They were even playing one of her films on the TV monitors at the

Campus features a large cast of dancers. [CAMPUSMTL.COM](http://campusmtl.com)

time! Campus quickly apologized, and today the joint remains a favourite of locals and celebrities alike, if you enjoy cold beers and hot cocks! —Richard "Bugs" Burnett, journalist

Info: campusmtl.com

From favourite events to hidden gems off the beaten path, My Montreal gets the inside scoop from local residents about what not to miss when visiting the city.

NYC'S INFAMOUS SPLASH TO CLOSE

After more than 20 years, New York's renowned Splash dance club will close its doors Aug 10. The 17th Street landmark is legendary for its go-go-boy showers.

Splash owner Brian Lanchache made the announcement in a short public letter posted on Facebook:

To our loyal customers — For 22 years, it's been a privilege providing you with New York City's most exciting, safe and spectacular gay revue. Splash will permanently close at our location, 50 W 17 Street, on August 10, 2013. Please join us in our final countdown as we dismantle the disco ball with 10 magical farewell celebrations beginning August 1st. Thank you for the memories! Fondly, Brian and The Staff

"Once home to the city's only go-go boy showers, Splash weathered draconian anti-nightlife laws that shuttered other mega clubs, but has suffered now that the gays use hookup apps to connect rather than eye-to-eye bar room contact. The

Dougie is a bartender at Splash, which will close Aug 10. MICHAEL BERNAL



opening of XL in Hell's Kitchen last year also drew away the twentysomething and tourist crowds essential to the club's lifeblood," Dan Avery writes, in his NewNowNext blog.

IBIZA'S MUSIC & CIRCUIT-PARTY SCENE

Like Mykonos in Greece, Ibiza is a summer gay resort that has risen to almost mythical status. Located about 80 kilometres from Valencia off the Spanish coast, Ibiza is one of the larger Balearic Islands.

"La Isla Blanca" is an incredibly beautiful place where visitors' days are usually spent frolicking on the beaches, and the nights are for legendary clubbing that lasts well past sunrise.

A healthy gay scene of bars, restaurants and cafés can be found in the town of Ibiza, around Carrer de la Verge, in the portside Sa Penya area, and in the old town, Dalt Vila (literally "upper town"), a UNESCO World Heritage Site that retains the medieval city walls. Large parts of the island are protected from development, so if you need to get away from the crowds, there are always places to enjoy eye-popping vistas in solitude.

Ibiza is world-renowned for its music scene. DJs come from around the globe to spin house and trance tunes for appreciative crowds. A large expat community from other EU countries



A spectacular Ibiza sunset. STAVROSI

makes its home here, along with Latin Americans and Moroccans, giving the scene a very cosmopolitan feel.

They say that on summer weekends the parties are so perfectly spaced that one is always starting when the last is breaking up. Circuit party promoters follow people as they leave the big cities' heat to relax at coastal resorts, and the scene blazes through-

out July and August to wrap up in September. While July and August are the busiest months, many places are open in May, June and September, for those who prefer a quieter scene.

For more information on Ibiza, including maps and listings for more than 75 places of interest, visit the gay Ibiza guide at dailyxtratravel.com.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GAY TRAVEL DESTINATION?



REX HARRINGTON

Ballet dancer

One of my favourite places for fun and sun and all things gay is **South Beach** in Miami. The deco hotels on the strip and nightlife are fantastic, and there is always the perfect amount of eye-candy on the beach. The Delano is the place to stay. Second choice is **Santorini**, in Greece.

ANN-MARIE MACDONALD

Playwright/novelist/actor/journalist

Iceland. It's hot. There is no finer place to straddle the continental rift. Mother Earth without makeup.



MOYNAN KING

Theatre artist and scholar

I am originally from southern Quebec, so I have an enduring attraction to the beautiful city of **Montreal**. In the summertime, a huge portion of Sainte-Catherine Street, including the gay village, is closed to vehicles, so you can just walk and people-watch for blocks and blocks. I like to people-watch.

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FRASER'S EDGE
BRAD FRASER

I travelled a lot as a kid. It was not unusual to come home from school to find that my "no impulse control" parents had packed our meagre belongs into a trailer and were waiting with the car running. We'd drive off to another town, move into another house and start at a new school without really missing a beat.

We spent family holidays on endless drives between BC and Alberta in a tiny vehicle containing two adults, four kids and at least two dogs. We sped through the truly horrifying two-lane highways that wound through the mountain roads — a steep cliff down one side and a steep cliff up the other — that connected the two provinces in the first half of the 1960s. Both parents smoked with the windows rolled up, and my father drank beer after beer, sticking his arm through the driver's window and heaving the empties across the roof of the car into the ditch on the other side of the road. We kids read comic books, played "eye spy" indifferently and mostly fought. I would curse my parents for being too cheap to buy the Gravel that other parents stuffed into their children to render them unconscious for such journeys.

When I was a teen, my fractured family finally settled in Edmonton, and there were a number of years with no travel at all as we were too broke to take anything like a holiday. The few times I returned to BC for a visit, it was on the Greyhound. Buses have never been the carriers of society's most cultured classes, and while I was sometimes titillated by the frisson of danger such a ride could involve, I remember most of it as nothing but endless boredom and stinky people.

There was a period when I was 20, after living in Edmonton for seven years, when I felt like I was trapped on a small island surrounded by a sea of farmland from which I'd never escape. Luckily, the theatre came to my rescue and, over the next 35 years, my travels would range across the country and around the world. While these trips were often business related, I usually found some time for recreation. I'm still of the mind that the best way to experience a new place is to live, work and play with the locals. I've done a few of the "nice hotel/package resort" things, and they all remind me of being at home but with better weather. I don't travel for weather; I travel for stimulation.

It does get tiring, though. There was a point in the last season of *Queer as Folk* when I was flying weekly between LA and Toronto, as well as whatever supplemental travel was required for the other things I was working on at the time. Playing with the locals isn't nearly as interesting when they all share the same bland, North American culture. A hotel of a certain price is the same no matter where you are. The gay bars and clubs I once loved to party at all started to feel the same no matter where I went. After the show wrapped, I started to turn down as many offers to work elsewhere as I could afford. When you're always working somewhere else, it can be very hard to become a part of the city where you actually live and the lives of your friends.

Over the last seven years, I've managed to reclaim my life in Toronto and establish a home again. It's been a welcome respite. But, like everything, that is now changing. If the career I've chosen for myself didn't already demand frequent change, life would anyway. The travelling, literally and metaphorically, is about to start again. My new play, *Kill Me Now*, is opening in Edmonton in

early September, and I'm directing it. Despite my history in the city where I was born, this is my first professional premiere there. I find a sort of lovely symmetry about this, knowing I left Edmonton on my first commercial air flight to work on my first professional play in Toronto way back in 1981.

I've also been accepted to do a master's degree at the University of Toronto in the coming year and am in the process of signing my first publishing deal for a series of four novels. It's for these reasons, as well as a number of other professional obligations, that this will be my last column for a while. However, I will be back in the pages when something moves me to write and when I have the time, so it's not goodbye, it's just adieu.

If you want to keep abreast of these upcoming travels, "friend" me on Facebook or follow me on Twitter @fraser_brad.

Thanks for your part in the journey.

Brad Fraser is a Toronto playwright. This will be his last regular column, for now.

♥ WHAT IS YOUR
FAVOURITE GAY
TRAVEL DESTINATION?



SARAH STANLEY

Associate artistic
director, English Theatre,
National Arts Centre

Armistead Maupin's San Francisco. Been there once, just after Maupin released *Michael Tolliver Lives*, a return to *Tales of the City* after 20 years. Flying in, I was buzzing with anticipation of hooking up with San Francisco, my long-lost lover. Ferlinghetti's City Lights Books was the first date. Dazzling.

For more gay travel destinations, go to dailyxtratravel.com.



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QUEENSTON STREET, ST. CATHARINES

CANADA: DIVERSITY AT ITS BEST

SOMERSET STREET, OTTAWA

With such a vast country of varied cultures and landscapes comes huge opportunities. There are countless unique travel experiences waiting to be discovered. **Travel Gay Canada** is here to help you create those memories.

BANK STREET, OTTAWA

CHURCH STREET, TORONTO

WELLESLEY STREET, TORONTO

Ontario

Canada is one of the most progressive countries in the world and Ontario is proud to be a leading province in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and two-spirited civil rights and equalities. Ontario provides top-class urban experiences, outdoor adventures and everything in between.

Nothing beats a comfortable, stylish, hassle-free haven to rest up and relax while on the road. Ontario's many gay friendly bed & breakfasts, inns and hotels will roll out the welcome mat for you. Ontario loves to celebrate sexual and gender diversity! We are host to numerous Pride festivals and events, gay and lesbian film festivals, as well as an array of other queer-positive celebrations. Make sure you experience our great wine and culinary, theatre, spa and golf offerings. And your visit to Ontario isn't complete without a taste of the great outdoors, where invigorating **adventures abound**. Come to LGBT-positive Ontario where there truly is more to discover!

For more ideas of things to do in Ontario, visit www.ontariotravel.net/lgbt

1 TORONTO

An inspiring place that brings the Canadian big city experience to life, Toronto is a major international centre for culture and business. It has a unique human quality that citizens and visitors alike appreciate and treasure. All cultures, lifestyles and choices are embraced in Toronto.

A colourful tapestry of lifestyles and communities enhance the social, artistic, political and economic dimensions of Toronto, including a vibrant, thriving and integral LGBTQ culture and community of over 650,000 people. As host to one of the world's largest annual Pride festivals and **WorldPride 2014**, Toronto's lively cultural scene and animated neighbourhoods as well as some of the world's greatest attractions welcome Pridegoers from around the world. From the moment you arrive, you'll discover that Toronto is a dynamic, energetic and creative place, one of the world's most vibrant and welcoming cities.

Visit www.seetorontonow.com

2 NIAGARA

The Niagara Region, only an hour drive from Toronto, has over 70 of the world's finest, award-winning wineries. Touring the famous **Niagara Wine Trail** is without a doubt one of the most enjoyable of the many Niagara experiences.

A visit to **Niagara-on-the-Lake** is like a stroll back through history. Enjoy world-class theatre, shopping, and historical sites, while discovering why the town has become a world-class culinary destination.

Niagara Falls is a destination unlike any other. From the top of *Skylon Tower* to the base of Horseshoe Falls, Niagara Falls is an awe-inspiring vacation destination. The Falls give off a round-the-clock roar, a refreshing, and surprisingly far-reaching mist and a reminder of just how wondrous our natural world is. From the marvel of gazing at the Falls from innumerable look-out points to adrenaline-fueled activities like whitewater jet boats, there are many ways for all ages to experience an array of attractions.

Visit www.niagarafallstourism.com

3 ST. CATHARINES

Whether your destination of choice or the home base for a Niagara getaway, St. Catharines is right where you want to be. You can explore the city at your leisure or take a short country drive to one of the surrounding cities. As well, we're only an hour from Toronto and 45 minutes from Buffalo, New York. St. Catharines is a culinary hot spot where the bounty of our locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables are transformed into delicacies in any one of our restaurants and wineries. Take a leisurely drive or cycle through the wine route, sample our internationally renowned **VQA wines** and stop for a bite to eat. Whether you are in the mood for organic creations, ethnic delights, waterfront dining, a relaxing café or a pub lunch, we have it all in St. Catharines.

For more information we invite you to visit www.tourismstcatharines.ca or www.thisiswinecountry.ca

4 WINDSOR

A sea of greenery...a waterway of immense pleasure and opportunity... trails on the forefront of outdoor captivation and retreat... a cultural tapestry bound by a rich storied past...

These are just some of the "snapshots of life" which can be easily created in Windsor Essex Pelee Island. The region, being the southernmost in Canada, is bursting with an exotic and unique balminess during the summer and an exceptional mildness in winter. The terroir accentuates the complexity and diversity of the local ecology, providing opportunities for world-class bird-watching, sampling close to 20 award-winning wineries, a plethora of unique dining delights, and off-the-beaten path bed and breakfasts. Nightlife can be scintillating in ambience, eclectic music notes and social exchanges. From the quaint and authentic local pub to the more upscale lounge, from the intimate café to the alluring nightclub, there are many ways to be entertained and left stimulated within the region. **Caesars Windsor** brings Las Vegas to the region with spectacular concerts, restaurants, high-end luxury accommodations and a 24/7 casino.

For more information, go to www.visitwindsoressessex.com

5 WATERLOO

Waterloo Region is welcoming and diverse, with access to major highways, rail and an international airport with daily flights to Calgary, twice daily to Chicago and five times daily to Ottawa. Home to St. Jacobs, Woolwich Township where tourists from around the world visit to learn about the Mennonite heritage of the area and enjoy dining and **artisan** experiences. Located just west of Toronto and a world away from the everyday, Waterloo is the creative heart of Canada's technology triangle. Waterloo Region is comprised of three cities, Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge, and the four Townships of Woolwich, Wellesley, Wilmot and North Dumfries, with a total population of over 500,000. In this unique area you'll find a balance between unspoiled, natural beauty and vibrant urban life. Explore the great arts, culture and great music festivals - Blues, Jazz and Folk are featured over the summer and fall months. Contemporary and energetic, Waterloo Region has lots to offer for a weekend away - unwind in luxury heritage accommodations and spas, immerse yourself in the great outdoors - paddle, fish, hike or bike along the Grand River or our many trails. Enjoy regional culinary delights and one-of-a-kind festivals. Unwind, Explore and Engage in Waterloo Region, Ontario!

Visit www.explorewaterlooregion.ca to book your visit!

6 OTTAWA

Unique among Canadian cities and G8 capitals, Ottawa is a place of extraordinary experiences. Enjoy landmark capital sites, stunning cultural attractions, and a beautiful natural setting, all wrapped up in a relaxed urban vibe. Easily accessible, Ottawa is a two-hour drive from Montreal, and about a one-hour flight from Toronto or New York. Ottawa is a welcoming destination for lesbian and gay travelers, with an LGBT pedigree that extends back to the first-ever gay and lesbian public demonstration in Canada (1971). Visit the Supreme Court of Canada and Parliament Hill, where same-sex marriage was debated, and see the infamous "Fruit Machine"—used during the Cold War to "test" civil servants for homosexuality—at the Canadian War Museum. Today, Ottawa is home to very active gay and lesbian communities with an ever-expanding variety

of organizations and events—including a boisterous annual **Pride Week** in August. Downtown, the Bank Street/Somerset Street area is Ottawa's premier gaybourhood, while the eclectic ByWard Market neighbourhood is another visitor favourite: a local farmers' market and shopping district by day, with chic dining and lively clubs by night. Look for the Savour Ottawa program that's all about locally grown foods.

Visit www.ottawatourism.ca

7 GREAT WATERWAY

The Great Waterway in South Eastern Ontario hosts an abundance of natural, cultural and heritage riches that are a source of pride for the people who call it home. With pristine lakes, rivers, beaches and vibrant towns and cities, the curious day-tripper or couples and families looking for a special place to spend their vacation will have plenty to explore. The Great Waterway offers countless boat cruise opportunities and none more famous or remarkable than a 1000 Islands cruise. Tours of the 1000 Islands weave slowly among tree-topped islets and larger islands with cottages, private mansions and castles, some dating to the 19th century. You can explore small islands and **private beaches** while kayaking or boating, explore the islands or the imposing dunes that rise behind a sun-lover's beach of fine sand at Sandbanks Provincial Park in Prince Edward County.

Whatever your passion or interest, you can experience the land, water and people of The Great Waterway and let the local history come alive with your memorable journey.

For more information visit www.thegreatwaterway.com.

8 1000 ISLANDS

Welcome to the world famous 1000 Islands region which is home to 1864 individual islands, UNESCO Heritage site and a **UNESCO BIOSPHERE**. Gananoque is a storybook small town perched on the banks of the St. Lawrence River, in the heart of the 1000 islands, boasting 18th century buildings, aboriginal adventures, cycling, kayaking, trails and the acclaimed Thousand Islands Playhouse and several of Canada's top Signature Experiences including the Lost Ships Cruise on the Gananoque Boat Line. Events in the area include; a major Pride event featuring a 1000 Islands Pride Flotilla in June; Aboriginal Adventures! from June until October, focusing on aboriginal cultural offerings such as drumming, singing, dancing and camp fire storytelling inside an 18' tiipii perched on the banks of the mighty St. Lawrence River. Add a Pirate Festival featuring Johnny Depp's stand in for the Pirates movies, our Big Bass fishing challenge, music and heritage festivals, a spectacular show of fall colours, luxury kayaking, funky downtown shops and restaurants and every weekend is an excuse for even more family fun!

For further information please see www.1000islandstourism.com



WINE TOUR, NIAGARA



WATERLOO



TORONTO



OTTAWA



WINDSOR



1000 ISLANDS

Québec

Québec is truly a unique land in North America and Canada's French-speaking center. Unique for its geography, its history and its culture, which together have forged its bold and exuberant identity.

Montréal is an island city that's open to the world. **European influences** flavour the food, the fashion and the city's architecture. Dance in the streets at the *Festival International de Jazz de Montréal*. Or party like never before at the world famous *Black & Blue Festival*. Step back four centuries and experience a sense of old-world romance as you stroll the cobblestone streets of picturesque Québec City. You can sense history's battles at the rampart—the last standing fortified city walls in North America. Laugh at the procession of colourful "Giants" during *Les Fêtes de la Nouvelle-France*. Watch ice sculpting and visit the gleaming ice palace at *Carnaval de Québec*, the largest winter carnival in the world.

Food defines much of what is extraordinary about Québec's French-Canadian culture. Taste maple taffy on snow, or dine on traditional pea soup, tourtière and sugar pie at a romantic sugar shack. Blaze a culinary trail through the countryside on the famed *La Route des Saveurs de Charlevoix*.

Québec is warmth, absolute authenticity and intensity, all within easy reach!

For more information visit www.bonjourquebec.com

9 MONTRÉAL

Montréal, a city with boundless creativity, a storied history, and all the thrills of a trend-setting metropolis, offers an irresistible mix of North American savoir-faire and European flair. Regularly shortlisted on the top destination lists of LGBT media, Montréal is renowned for the world-class welcome it reserves for visitors, no matter what their sexual orientation. With a population of 3.7 million comprising 80 different cultural groups who speak French, English and many other languages, Montréal is a veritable mosaic of different people and neighbourhoods, including the vibrant Gay Village. An international entertainment capital year-round, Montréal is host to major **LGBT events** such as Divers/Cité, Montréal Pride Celebrations, the Black & Blue Festival and the image + nation International LGBT Film Festival, just to name a few. The many dimensions of language, culture, art, and sexuality fuel a passion and sophistication that is unparalleled anywhere on the continent. This is what visitors enjoy about our city. The freedom to explore. The freedom to be themselves. This is the quintessential Montréal.

Visit www.tourisme-montreal.org

Eastern Canada

Canada's East Coast has more than its fair share of wonders. See the world's highest tides, catch a lobster, tour the *Anne of Green Gables* house, tap to Maritime tunes. Almost every driving route and trail on Canada's East Coast hugs magnificent beaches, coves, parks and bays. Visit tiny fishing villages along the breathtaking *Acadian Coastal Drive*. Discover lively Celtic hospitality while feasting on fresh seafood along the 185-mile *Cabot Trail*. Follow the *Viking Trail* to a 1,000-year-old Norse settlement and two *UNESCO World Heritage* sites. Stand on *Cape Spear*: scan the horizon for icebergs, whales and the phantom wrecks of ships lost at sea. Welcome to the East Coast.

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GOVERNMENT STREET, **VICTORIA**

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BEAUDRY STREET, **MONTREAL**

ST. CATHERINE STREET, **MONTREAL**

10 HALIFAX

Situated on the second largest harbour in the world, Halifax, Nova Scotia has been welcoming visitors for over 260 years. Offering a unique combination of history, natural beauty and a **vibrant** city centre, this safe and inviting destination for gay travel is a must see year-round. Halifax's lively LGBT community throws the largest Pride festival in Atlantic Canada. This weeklong celebration occurs every July and boasts an array of events including theatre, music, art exhibits and the iconic *Pride Parade* that brings approximately 60,000 people into Halifax's downtown core. Halifax's downtown and the trendy *North End* neighbourhood are also home to several gay-owned cafés, bars and specialty shops where patrons are always welcomed by the friendly nature of Haligonians.

There are numerous ways to get to Halifax. By air, the *Halifax Stanfield International Airport* offers direct flights from many Canadian, US, European, and Caribbean destinations. By sea, over 20 cruise lines include Halifax as a marquee port-of-call on their Canada-New England or Trans-atlantic itineraries.

For more Halifax LGBT travel information visit www.rainbowhalifax.com or our new mobile site www.halifaxrainbowmobile.com.

British Columbia

British Columbia is a land of contrasts where the **Rocky Mountains**, Canada's only desert, and the Pacific Ocean come together. People from around the world coexist in British Columbia: from metropolis Vancouver influenced by the Pacific Rim, to its charming capital city Victoria, steeped in British charm and tradition.

Renowned for unmatched natural beauty, British Columbia stretches from the Pacific Ocean to the Canadian Rockies and from the Canada/US border to Alaska and the Yukon Territory. The province offers cosmopolitan cities and spectacular resorts, unspoiled national and provincial parks, and outstanding hotels and attractions.

11 VICTORIA

As an **island destination**, Victoria offers visitors an escape from the hurried world and beams with ambience. Boasting the mildest climate in Canada we are green and beautiful year-round. In fact, Vancouver Island, where Victoria is located, is rated the TOP ISLAND in the Continental US and Canada and one of the TOP TEN ISLANDS IN THE WORLD by the 2012 Travel+Leisure World's Best Awards.

In Victoria, heritage architecture, colourful gardens and traditions like afternoon tea mix with a plethora of outdoor adventure, world-class culinary experiences and a vibrant arts and culture scene. This combined with the wild beauty of the Pacific Ocean and old-growth rainforests set against a backdrop of the Olympic Mountains makes Victoria the perfect getaway. We were even rated as the #1 DESTINATION TO VISIT IN CANADA by the 2010 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards. You should really come here.

Visit www.tourismvictoria.com

Manitoba

Nestled in the heart of the great Canadian landscape, Manitoba is an engaging place to visit—a province full of untouched wildlife, fresh air and vibrant communities waiting to be discovered. Manitoba is unrivalled in arts and culture, the heart of the province's diverse and creative communities. Manitoba's **polar bears**, beluga whales, and northern lights are second to none. Hearts beat faster when polar bears and beluga whales are observed in their natural habitat. Whether travellers are looking for wide-open spaces, an arctic adventure, serene lake life or a night out in the city, Manitoba offers an unforgettable experience.

12 WINNIPEG

The capital of Manitoba, Winnipeg is a diverse, creative and cosmopolitan city boasting international flair. The city's LGBT celebration, Winnipeg Pride has been held since 1987, evolving from a one-day event into a 10-day festival of fun, colour, music and activism.

Winnipeg is a four-season destination offering a year-round slate of festivals and activities. In summer, celebrate multiculturalism during **Folklorama**, as well as kilometers of biking and running trails. Explore Winnipeg's past in winter during Festival Voyageur, and experience numerous skating and skiing trails—including the world's longest naturally frozen skating trail at The Forks. Renowned as the cultural cradle of Canada, Winnipeg is home to a thriving arts community including the world-class Winnipeg Art Gallery, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and Manitoba Theatre Centre. The city boasts more than 1,100 diverse restaurants, and great shopping including big box stores, shopping malls and boutiques in unique neighbourhoods.

Coming 2014, The Canadian Museum for Human Rights opens its doors to promote and honour human rights, including those of the LGBT community.



VICTORIA



CHURCHILL, MANITOBA



HALIFAX



CMHR, WINNIPEG



NISTOWIAK FALLS, SASKATCHEWAN



SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan

Imagine 100,000 lakes and rivers, unspoiled wilderness and spectacular parks with countless opportunities to fish, canoe, camp, hike and cycle. Fill your lungs with clean, crisp air, view wildlife in this pristine environment and simply breathe as you relax and unwind. Whether you prefer to stay in cozy bed and breakfasts or luxurious all-season **lakeside resorts**, you will find accommodation to suit your taste and comfort level. Or enjoy horseback riding and a stay at an authentic working ranch.

Saskatchewan's urban scene delivers on a diversity of world class annual music festivals, such as the SaskTel International Jazz Festival in Saskatoon or the Regina Folk Festival. In Regina and Saskatoon, our two largest cities, enjoy lively nightlife, world-class museums and galleries, historical attractions and fabulous retail therapy. Treat your palate to distinctive local cuisine and internationally-recognized locally brewed lagers and ales, or take in one of the many annual culinary festivals, such as Taste of Saskatchewan or the Great Saskatchewan Mustard Festival.

Discover Saskatchewan: www.tourismsaskatchewan.com
Direct flights to Regina and Saskatoon are available from Vancouver, Toronto, Chicago, Minneapolis and Denver.

13 SASKATOON

Experience a place of surprise and discovery. Saskatoon provides visitors from near and far with the opportunity to experience the unforgettable. Our vibrant city is host to unique and captivating events, attractions, and natural treasures, just waiting to be explored. Somewhere amongst the magical **prairie skies** and the urban parkland river valley of the South Saskatchewan River, lies an eclectic collection of hidden gems, just begging to be rediscovered each waking day, creating new and unique moments of wonderful surprise for each and every visitor to Saskatoon. Our willingness to share our home and our stories is matched only by our zest and energy in creating new memories with our guests.

Saskatoon has been showing our PRIDE and celebrating with the Saskatoon Diversity Network for more than 20 years. Join us in June for our celebrations.

Fly into the Saskatoon's John G. Diefenbaker International Airport, with non-stop service to and from all major hubs in Canada, Denver, Minneapolis, and Chicago in the United States.

Visit www.tourismsaskatoon.com for more travel information, and follow us on Twitter @VisitSasktoon.

TRAVEL GAY CANADA NATIONAL MEMBERS

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THE MUSEUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS www.museumforhumanrights.ca



An amazing architectural icon has sprouted from the Prairie soil at the heart of North America. A glowing symbol of hope for human rights, Canada's brand-new national museum will take you on a multi-sensory journey through darkness and light. You'll find the struggle for LGBTTQ rights reflected in powerful ways throughout its galleries, including a celebratory treatment of legalized same-sex marriage. Gender-neutral washrooms reflect a commitment to inclusion. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg will be the first museum in the world devoted exclusively to human-rights concepts, with a mission to inspire global citizens who care for humanity. Opening in 2014.

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Contact us at 1 866 300 7556 or office@travelgaycanada.com, or visit TravelGayCanada.com for ideas and sample itineraries to assist you in planning the ultimate Canadian adventure.

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Choreographed courtship

Though Michael Caldwell and Louis Laberge-Côté had been acquaintances for four years, it took an administrative mix-up to unite the dancer/choreographer couple. While on tour in 2007, their rooming assignments were switched mid-trip, and they found themselves bunking together for the final three weeks.

“I was so angry,” Laberge-Côté says. “I didn’t want to room with somebody I barely knew. But obviously, things turned out quite well in the end.”

“Every night we would stay up, talking and getting to know each other,” Caldwell adds. “When the tour was finished and we were back in Toronto, we decided a proper date would be prudent. A month later, it was clear we were together.”

Less than a year later, they tied the knot in a backyard wedding but had no intentions of a conventional relationship. Extensive touring often kept them apart for long stretches, at one point for two years while Laberge-Côté worked with the Mannheim Ballet.

“This is the life of a dancer,” Caldwell says. “You go where the work is. We’re both loners by nature, so the idea of spending time apart was not as daunting as you might think.”

Separation became a creative seed; their current work, *et même après* (and even after), explores their long-distance love affair. Created originally by Laberge-Côté with two dancers in Mannheim, the piece has been reimagined as a duet for its Toronto incarnation.

Living apart for long periods seems to have ben-



Michael Caldwell and Louis Laberge-Côté. CYLLA VON TIEDEMANN

efited their relationship. But what about spending countless hours together in the studio?

“I’ve laughed a lot, I’ve cried a lot, and it’s been exhausting,” Caldwell says. “But an exhausting creative process is the best sign you’re creating

something special.” — Chris Dupuis

et même après, part of *Dance: Made in Canada*, runs Thurs, Aug 15–Sat, Aug 17, at the Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis St. princessproductions.ca

THE ANTI-SPA

“Screw relaxation.” That’s the mantra of The Ten Spot, which is not your everyday spa. There are no whale calls whispering from the speakers or dimly lit, silent rooms. The sleek, bright and friendly shop provides a lively atmosphere, with fun conversations, movies playing on flat screens, fridges stocked with iced tea and a healthy variety of magazines. Because let’s face it, even gay men and women have a hard time finding anything worth reading in *Chatelaine*.

“We try and customize as much as we can,” says Angie Cummings, social media manager and woman in charge at the Leslieville location. “We have TV in our waxing rooms, so if you like to watch *The Office* as you get waxed, we try and make that happen.”

The Ten Spot has grown to six beauty bars across Toronto and one in Hamilton. The team members pride themselves on their attention to cleanliness, safety and quality, but it’s really the laid-back vibe that sets this salon apart — and that attracts a male crowd.

“We have men come in to have body waxing done, but we also have quite a few guys for the gents’ facial or nail services,” Cummings says. “We’re now seeing gay guys coming in as a group or a lot of men who are definitely being booked in by their wife.”

The Ten Spot’s menu includes a “gent grooming” section that focuses less on polish and more on scrubbing, exfoliation and cleaning (the Get Nailed foaming body buffer created in-house and made in Toronto does this quite nicely).



A couple of gents enjoy a spa day at The Ten Spot.

“This isn’t such a hyper-feminine space that a man is going to feel uncomfortable,” Cummings says. “We find that men like having a separate menu and seeing that services are tailored to them. They don’t have to worry about

potentially having a glossy polish put on their nails . . . unless, of course, they want it.” — Phil Villeneuve

More info at the10spot.com and getnailed.myshopify.com.

SHARRON MATTHEWS ISN'T AFRAID OF THE DARK

Cabaret sensation Sharron Matthews presents dark, sexy and honest stories in *Full Dark: Part Deux*. Earlier this year, Matthews became Buddies in Bad Times’ first-ever cabaret artist-in-residence as part of the theatre’s artist-residency program. It promotes queer performance by providing “space and time in the theatre along with dramatic, technical, production and administrative support,” Matthews says, noting this effectively means she has a “space to put on new stuff in front of people without the stress of solo producing.”

She took full advantage of her new position in the March workshop *Full Dark*, which focused on serious, edgy stories (akin to Grimms’ *Fairy Tales*) about topics such as bullying, dangerous sex and growing up fatherless. Matthews used a method she calls “songalogues”: like monologues but told with the aid of music from artists like Florence and the Machine, Beyoncé and the Righteous Brothers.

Full Dark’s material was only partially rehearsed, left somewhat raw so audiences could see firsthand how a performance becomes polished. Matthews presented one piece about what happens after death without knowing how it would finish, creating an ending onstage. She says she thought, “Oh my god, this is how it ends!” just before “the audience went wild!” The second installment of the show, *Full Dark: Part Deux*, employs the same methods but features all new material. Matthews provides an example of a piece she might do: “I think I’ll do a dark, kinky version of Little Red Riding Hood that explores the premise ‘What if she knew what she was going into the forest for?’” — Jeremy Willard

Full Dark: Part Deux is Sat, Aug 17, and Sun, Aug 18, at Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Doin' it for themselves

A six-pack of artsy, sexy, web-savvy boys

VISUAL ARTS SISSYDUDE

*Nobody can tell ya,
There's only one song worth singing,
They may try and sell ya,
'Cause it hangs them up,
To see someone like you,
But you gotta make your
own kind of music.
Sing your own special song,
Make your own kind of music,
Even if nobody else sings along*

Those perfectly inspiring words (from the 1969 pop classic sung by Mama Cass) still hold true for many 20-something art boys. In the last few years, with the help of Tumblr blogs, Facebook groups, YouTube, SoundCloud, workouts at the gym or just a fierce stance in six-inch heels, a few fellows have captured the hearts and imaginations of many but

have yet to hit the mainstream. They're not going away anytime soon because you don't know them yet.

A different breed of superstar, these gay boys are not packing auditoriums and rolling in dough. They're accumulating "likes" on Facebook, giving away their music, posing naked for photographer friends and selling their creations on Etsy. It's as if there are mini explosions, tiny little Warhol Factory-type environments, popping up in forever-queer havens like Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. Boys moving back and forth through these cities with songs and art in their hearts and hard dicks in their brightly coloured American Apparel undies.

Most importantly, they have lots of talent to throw around.

I've had my Sissydude blog for al-

most five years and have seen (through trolling Tumblr, mostly) some of these boys evolve from photographers' muses to interesting artists.

I distinctly remember a few years back, when browsing through New York photographer Walt Cessna's extensive Tumblr archive, being totally smitten by two of the models, Rica Shay and Kyle Kupres.

Shay is a cute, thin boy with sad, lovely eyes and a very, very nice bum. He pops up here and there looking fresh and young with a jaunty baseball cap on his head. In the last few years, he's become quite the hip-hop performer. He has a lot of attitude but always with a friendly wink. His newest tune is called "Damn You Nasty," and it's his best to date. Check it out on SoundCloud. It's *really, really good*.

Kupres is a classical violinist who is known for his performance-artist gender-fucks, avant-garde costumes and beautiful icy-blue eyes. He's pretty stunning but also a whole bunch of fun. Have you ever heard his violin versions of Donna Summer's "I Feel Love" or "Love To Love You Baby"? Pretty fucking amazing (look for them on his

SoundCloud).

He recently moved from New York to LA. How Patsy Gallant is that!

LA seems to have sparked the designer in him, and he's just started a company called Slämenskräm; the Voltaar Swim Brief is described as a bathing suit that "will make you burp rainbows it's so fucking cool. Shit is *radioactive*." (Check it out on Etsy.)

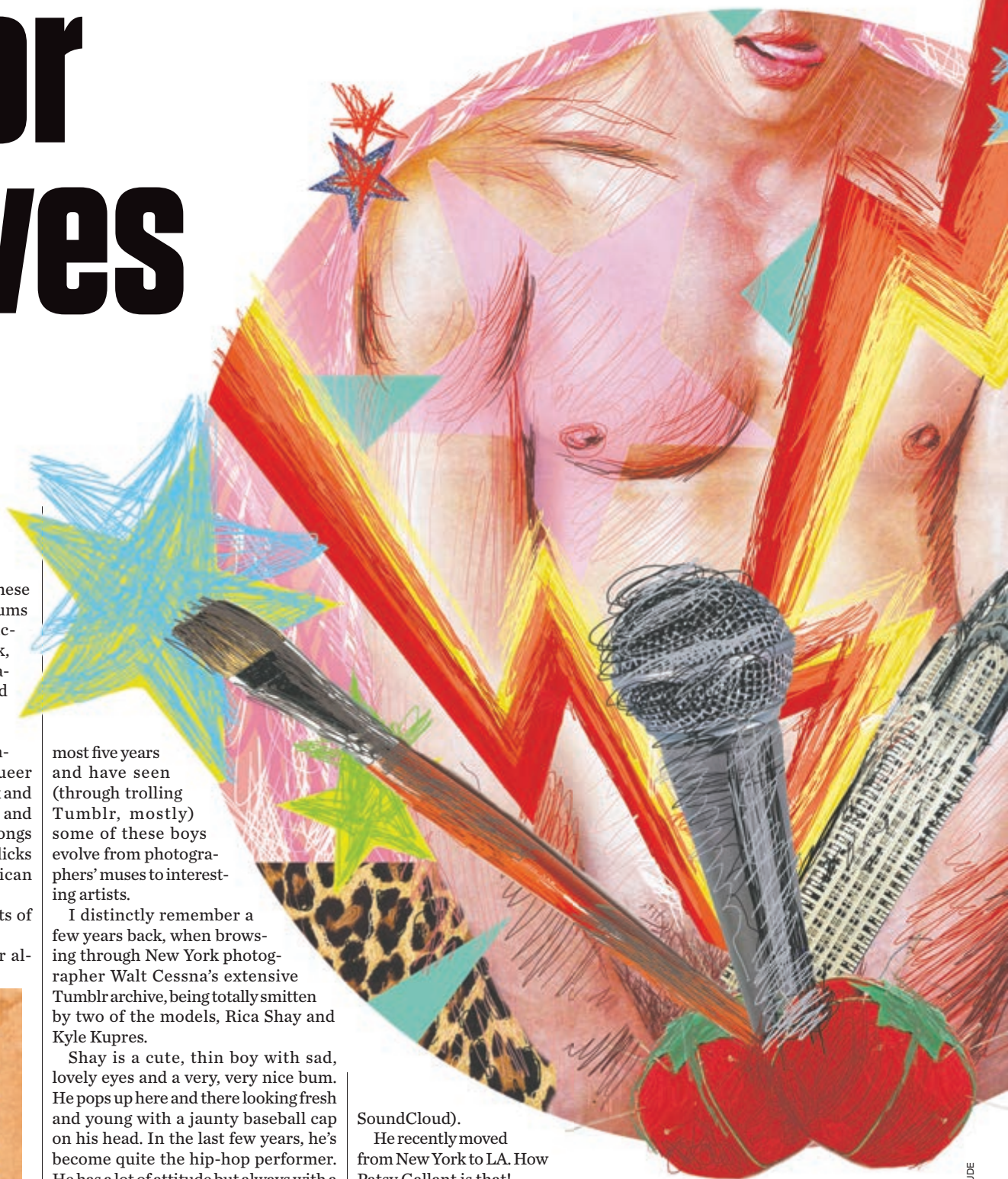
Ab Soto also inhabits a world all his own. It's a world full of colour and zany pattern mixing with zillions of pop-culture references so lovingly thrown your way it never hurts. Super-sexy Soto is always clad in gigantic T-shirts,

his eyebrows painted bright 1980s blue, the look topped off with a yellow construction-paper crown. What's not to love?

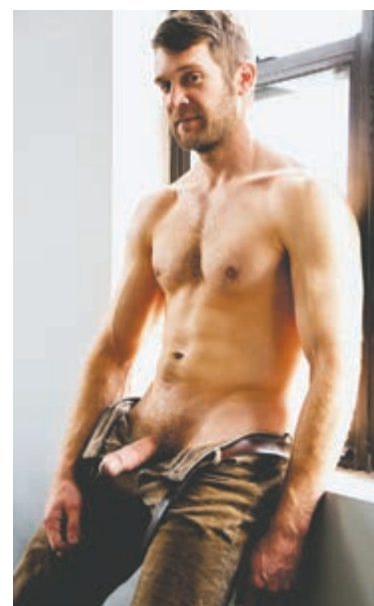
His songs and videos are a joy to behold, but my favourite has to be "Keep It Movin'." Soto always has a mix of stylin' friends at his side dancing and poppin' like nobody's business, and this video shows off this magic the best. All shapes, colours, sexes and sizes... the true world. "Banjee Power" indeed!



Artwork by Felix d'Eon.



SISSYDUDE



Clockwise from top left: Dale Cooper, Kyle Kupres, Colby Keller, Rica Shay, Ab Soto.

For a few art boys, jerking off on camera — or actually starring in major studio porn videos — is also an expression of who they are. Showing off your hairy asshole or getting gangbanged by a bunch of spray-tanned twinks is no longer something to be kept a secret. It's a celebration, an exploration, part of the journey. Like Madonna's *Sex* book, it's a total "Fuck yeah!" And it pays for art supplies.

There are also a few pornstars who are doing things a tad more quirky and artistic than most. Like the adorable and sexy Colby Keller and Dale Cooper.

These two pals defy the artsy-boy ethic and live in the city of Baltimore. Maybe John Waters's beloved home has rubbed off on them because they really are interesting creatures.

Cooper kills me. First off, on his website Dale Does Porn, he shares the smart writing he has done for *Huffington*

Post; his goofy, childlike drawings; and the origin of his tattoos (hint: *Ultima IV: Quest of the Avatar*). When he's on Randy Blue live chat he can be seen naked, knitting a scarf or munching on a cupcake that looks like a rosebud (the fisted kind). To me, it's more clever and revealing than anything Marina Abramović has ever done.

Okay, seriously... the picture of him lying naked on his bed, erect dick in hand, reading Roland Barthes — I don't see Pierre Fitch or Cody Cummings doing that kinda shit.

Now Keller is a total sweetheart. He (with help from partner Karl Marxxx) has an awesome blog called Big Shoe Diaries where he shares his love of art, road-trip photos and his video readings of *Eight Days a Week*, a novel by Larry Duplechan (he's on chapter 63).

I had a chance to meet Keller when he visited Toronto during Pride. I'd call him a gentle giant, but I'm taller than him, so I don't think I can. He really does have a magic presence — good vibes all around. So what did he

do in our fair city, besides manning his spanking booth at Fit Primpin'? He went gallery hopping! How cute is that? He looked at art.

He also went to Hanlan's, where I did a total Sandra Dee/Gidget to his Big Kahuna and like a fool — in a vintage straw sun hat, no less — ran after him in the sand. "Colby, Colby," I yelled. I invited him to join a group of my drunken, MDMA-happy friends. After offering him a tequila raspberry (don't ask) and a warm canned cider, he ventured off to a picnic table to be alone with a good book. That's how he rolls.

My last artist harks back to the days of Cecil Beaton or, say, Guglielmo Plüschow. Felix d'Eon is such a beautiful painter. His romantic images of boys embracing, fucking and kissing are extraordinarily rich. He lives in Mexico City and seems to have an endless parade of boys coming to visit his space, taking off their clothes and casually having sex so he can either photograph them for future paintings or paint them on the spot.

His subjects may be here and now, but in the paintings they turn into Boy Scouts, mermen, 1920s schoolboys, Thai princes, Victorian dandies or even World War One soldiers — soft, dreamy ink-and-watercolour works that are never twee. In a way they're just as explicit as Tom of Finland. His subjects embrace the world one kiss at a time, and breathtakingly so.

This is just a sample of the young art boys that I find the most out of the ordinary, the ones who have been on my radar for a few years now. I'll have to leave Big Dipper, Nicky Da B and the exotic perfection that is Lelf for another time. Check them out if you have a chance. I leave you with this from another Mama Cass ditty, called "Different":

*I had the power that set me apart,
I learnt to take it and use it to make it,
It's not so bad to be different,
To do your own thing and do it with heart,
I'd rather be different than be the same.*

Fuck yeah, Mama Cass!

♥ WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GAY TRAVEL DESTINATION?



ROBERT MILLER

Mr Leatherman
Toronto 2013

An Atlantis cruise. Travelling to different locations, high-quality service and amenities on board, as well as amazing food, is more than anyone can ask for. Plus, with their daily excursions when in port and activities on board, there is never a dull moment... not to mention the nightly parties and the men!



KEATON TAYLOR

Co-owner of The
Steady Café & Bar

Thailand is my favourite travel destination. You can spoil yourself with luxury at a modest cost and the opportunity for adventure is limitless. Re: gay travel, I elect Come As You Are, because nothing ruins the hot, spontaneous blowjob from your vacation surfing instructor more than realizing that the closest condom or packet of lube is a tuk-tuk and boat ride away.

For more gay travel destinations, go to dailyxtratravel.com.

Pornterest

Pingay is a one-stop site for keeping track of your favourite online porn

PORN
SERAFIN LARIVIERE

About a year ago, I made the mistake of letting a tech-support guy remotely control my laptop while trouble-shooting a problem. Don't get me wrong: it's not like he loaded it with a virus or accidentally wiped my hard drive. Sadly, it was something far, far worse.

He stumbled onto my bookmarked porn sites.

Now, I don't know about you, but my internet browser is just chock-full of naughty website addresses. I figure God wouldn't have filled the web with such a bounty of porn if she didn't know we need an occasional diversion from cats dressed as pirates or Justin Bieber peeing into a bucket. So there it all was,

my illicit browsing history, laid out for poor Ahmed to see as he innocently opened up Google Chrome to check my settings.

Granted, the soft-spoken techie did seem a little more enthusiastic after this mortifying disclosure, but it was the startling largesse of bookmarked sites that made me feel downright filthy. If only I'd known about Pingay.

Think of it as the slutty cousin of Pinterest, the site where users can collect and share things they find interesting on the internet. But instead of brownie recipes or designs for the perfect macra-



Above: Your Pingay home page could look something like this.

mé plant holder, Pingay users share their favourite videos and pictures under category headings like Big Cocks or Deep Anal. This is quite the time-saver for those of us visiting the numerous free porn sites in search of a quick fap.

"It's a simple, straightforward way of organizing your online porn," says

Giles Hirst, product manager for Pingay. "Instead of trolling all the gay sites, you can build up a collection of video and images from all of them and catalogue them here."

Given that microblogging sites like Tumblr and Facebook make efforts to curtail explicit content (Tumblr's owner Yahoo now censors tags like #gay,

#lesbian and bisexual), it makes sense that some savvy homos found a way to apply social networking to jerking off.

I gave the Pingay interface a test run — strictly for professional purposes, of course. One hour later (I'm very thorough), I was completely satisfied with the site's easy navigation and already-impressive content. Just one month after launch, there are more than 500 users who have weeded out those annoying teaser clips you find on Xtube or Pornhub in favour of fully realized videos. It's hard to imagine that nobody thought of this sooner.

"There actually is a straight version called Pinsex," Hirst points out. "It's owned by the same company, Pin Digital. They saw a real gap in the market, and it seems to be taking off."

Hirst comes by his porn biz honestly, having begun his industry career as marketing director for a straight porn company. "It was like in [TV show] *Little Britain*, with the only gay in the village. I was the only gay in the company!"

"I was doing casting for the movies and even wrote a script for one called *Desperate Househusbands*. I won the Fifa Award for Best Blowjob in a movie. I was so excited, I phoned my parents to tell them. Total silence."

For more information, check out pingay.com.

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Into the Woods

Layer up for chilly cottage nights



STYLE LIFE
DIEGO
ARMAND

Hurry up! There's still another month to get out of the city and plop yourself down on a sandy beach or a cottage dock. And as the temperature can really drop at night, be sure to pack essentials like hoodies, blankets and rubber boots so you're warm and dry at beach bonfires and sunsets.

So beg, borrow or crash a friend's weekend trip if you have to — just do what it takes to make your escape.

I asked aspiring singer/songwriter Julie Alexandra to showcase our version of "country casual."

Blanket up

Rob Roy blanket, \$280, Pendleton, North Standard Trading Post, 1662 Queen St W. **Slip dress and cap**, Julie's own.

Mix it up

Hoodie, price upon request, novology.ca. **Machu Picchu shorts**, \$89, Minkpink, Lavish & Squalor, 253 Queen St W.

Cottage camo

Mountain tee, \$25, North Standard Trading Post. **Phoenix pants**, \$78, Nikita, Lavish & Squalor. **Jacket**, Julie's own.





Wet in the wild

Byron tank, \$95, Gestuz, Lavish & Squalor.
Sweat shorts, \$19.95, H&M. Dark ruby boots,
\$160, Hunter, North Standard Trading Post.

♥ WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GAY TRAVEL DESTINATION?



KRISTJAN HAYDEN

**Creative director,
Aveda Canada**

My favourite recent trip was with my boyfriend to Copenhagen. We loved riding bikes around the city and had a great night at Jolene in the "meatpacking district." For a more local weekend escape, check out Prince Edward County and stay at The Manse in Picton. It's a beautiful new boutique inn with amazing food and a great pool and hot tub.



THOMAS SMYTHE

**Co-host, Sarah 101
(for HGTV)**

I have a very soft spot for Fire Island... and most of the island has seen my soft spots. Just kidding... sort of. For me, this historic summer enclave (especially The Pines and Cherry Grove) has everything I love in one stunningly beautiful seaside community. Based on my stories and descriptions around the office, one of my colleagues keeps asking me, "So when are you going back to Fantasy Island?" I don't need to correct her.

For more gay travel destinations,
go to dailyxtratravel.com.

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- W.C. Fields

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DEEP DISH

ROLYN
CHAMBERS
PHOTOS BY
TONY FONG

Grapefruit

FRI, JULY 26 @ FLY

We thought it was gone forever, lost its juice, dried up, never to quench our thirst again. But with Fly nightclub's newly secured nine-year lease, it seems long-standing retro party Grapefruit has made a return. At least for one night. I almost didn't go, but then I remembered reading a blog post about some cute couple who met there many years ago and decided to try my luck. Like its early beginnings in that far-off, now-closed west-end club, tonight is a sparse affair. I'm not sure how well it was promoted tonight, but if more people had heard about it, earlier, the walls would be rammed and we'd be squeezing the sweat off our balls. Like it was for its farewell party just a few short months ago. With the DJ booth now moved to the second floor, DJ/promoter **Shane Percy** and DJ **Aural** are closer to the action and take turns spinning and mingling. Amidst Kylie Minogue's whining, those in the know who make the pilgrimage to this fruit grove, including **Michael Pihach** (who recently completed the Friends for Life Bike Rally), are treated to a prop-tastic performance by **Donnarama**. Using a huge cardboard sheet, she brings to life various tarot-card characters, morphing from the dark Devil card to the triumphant Queen of Swords. Perhaps the story of our lives?

- 1▷ Gaelen, Andrew & Matt
- 2▷ DJs Shane Percy & Aural
- 3▷ Ben, Matt, Jordi & Patrick

Tighty Whitey Car Wash

SUN, JULY 21 @ THE
STEAMWORKS LANEWAY

We knew it would come back, wetter and tighter than the last time. Summer means many annual events, including Pride, Caribana and the Tighty Whitey Car Wash. I didn't actually attend this year, but I do remember reading some colourful comments posted on a certain Toronto blog about last year's event. For those who don't know, the event is organized and sponsored by Steamworks bathhouse, and the money raised goes to the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation. Seems some woman (go figure) was royally upset that a bathhouse was sponsoring an event in aid of an AIDS organization because, as she said, "they allowed unsafe sex to take place." A bathhouse is only a place; it's people, who spread their legs and open their mouths without care, who allow unsafe sex to happen. In fact, Steamworks, like all Toronto bathhouses, provides free condoms to encourage safer sex. But as they say, you can lead a hung horse to water, but if that horse wants to dip its dick into the murky waters without a condom, then what are you going to do? What you do is get hosts **Peter Rex** (former Mr Steamworks and current Mr Rubber Toronto) and **David Knott** (Mr Steamworks 2013) to wrangle up members of the Muddy York Rugby team and others and convince them to strip to their Calvins, soap up and hose down some cars. Having raised more than \$4,600 this year, their six-year total is an impressive \$37,500. Perhaps enough to buy condoms for everyone?

- 4▷ Tighty Whitey group shot
- 5▷ Cooling down 6▷ Tighty Whitey packages 7▷ Hoser



1



3



4



2



5



6



7

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XPOSED

ANNA
POURNIKOVA
PHOTOS BY
BECCA LEMIRE

1► The Toronto Burlesque Festival was in full form, people. Obviously lots and lots of ladies in head-to-toe old-timey burlesque, but it's not just for the ladies anymore: the boys are all in on the action, too. Check out **Brooklyn Irons** here in this gold diaper-inspired panty and turban, with surly Hitchcockian friend **Dew Lily**.

2► **Roc Fort**. That's his name. Like the cheese, but also Rock Hudson. I love, love, love this name. I want this name. Don't you? And Mr Fort is flanked by his sexy flame-topped burlesque babe **Kita St Cyr**.

3► **Didi Starr** is pressing up what I like to call "perfect burlesque." First of all, she's not a toothpick, but she's still very healthy and sexy and soft looking. She's doing the classic 1940s style with the platinum top and flowers in her hair. I can feel the shimmying in my bones just gazing upon her.

4► In the spirit of Caribana, we tried to get colourful for this column. And **Caramel Low Cummings** provided. I see at least what's in the rainbow here and even a few

I don't know by name. Those green eyelashes and blue contacts are on point with her kaleidoscope tits.

5► **Mojo Saturdays** is killing it, this week with host **Pandora Boxx**. The crowd was a nice mix of queens and boys and girls, the genderless, tall, shorts, thins and hots. **DJ Recklezz** kept everyone moving and boozing and flirting and grinding all nice. And that was sa-weet.

6► The night's namesake, **Pandora Boxx**, is pictured here on the left with **Marsha**. These two have been working together professionally for years. Ever the bestie, Pandora even keeps Marsha's boobs in tiptop shape with on-the-spot mammograms. That's what friends are for.

7► There's always a point in the night when someone wants a blowjob. I mean, come on, who isn't thinking of blowjobs nearly the entire time we're up in the club? I am thinking the word "blowjob" the very second I enter any establishment with booze, even the brunch spots. Even the LCBO. And so were **Roxy** and **Scarlett Bobo**.



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WHAT'S ON



Amusement — Buddies, Sat, Aug 10

FOR MORE EVENT LISTINGS, GO TO DAILYXTRA.COM

ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY

Abstracts and Landscapes

Philip Cairns exhibits some of his vibrant acrylic paintings. Runs until Sun, Aug 11. Arcadia Art Gallery, 680 Queens Quay W. Free. philipcainrs.com

21 Gay Street

Works by artists George Platt Lynes, Karl Blossfeldt and Lori Newdick. Runs until Sat, Aug 17. Corkin Gallery, 7 Tank House Lane, Distillery District. Free. corkingallery.com

Gay Premises: Radical Voices in the Archives, 1973–1983

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives examines how *The Body Politic* became a dominant voice in Canada's queer communities. Runs until Fri, Sept 6. CLGA, 34 Isabella St. Free. clga.ca

Christian Louboutin

Curated by the Design Museum in London in conjunction with Louboutin, this exhibit presents the French designer's high-fashion shoes. Runs until Sun, Sept 15. The Design Exchange, 234 Bay St. \$18–22. dx.org

HEALTH & ISSUES

The 519 Legal Clinic

A free, accessible service for low-income people. Volunteer lawyers

provide legal advice, referrals and help with forms and letters. The confidential and private visits are first-come, first-served. Bring any necessary documents. Every Thursday; registration 6–6:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. the519.org

LEGIT

Legal counsel for same-sex couples immigrating to Canada. Tap into the community and access useful resources. The second Thursday of each month. Thurs, Aug 8, 7–10pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free, donations appreciated. legit.ca

Dykes Planning Tykes Drop-In Session

Facilitator Nila Gupta provides information, resources and support to queer women and trans people considering children. Mon, Aug 12, 6:30–8:30pm. Sherbourne Health Centre, 333 Sherbourne St. Free. lgbtqparentingconnection.ca

Meeting LGBT Seniors' Healthcare Needs

Jillian Watkins talks about issues concerning queer people and Alzheimer's disease. Pre-registration required. Tues, Aug 13, 6–7:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. alzheimermtoronto.org

Positive Routes to Recovery

A peer-led support group for gay men working on substance-abuse issues. Takes place the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Tues, Aug 20, 6–8pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. pr2r.org

LGBT Peer-Support Drop-In Group

Queer people with mood disorders drop in for a sense of community. If the building door is locked, press the button under the intercom, near the wheelchair entrance. Wed, Aug 21, 7–9pm. Mood Disorders Association of Ontario, 36 Eglinton Ave W, Suite 602. Free. mooddisorders.ca

LEISURE & PLEASURE

Derby Debutants vs ORG Pulp Affliction

The GTA Rollergrills roll out their fifth season with some women's flat-track roller derby. Sat, Aug 10, 6pm. Ted Reeve Arena, 175 Main St. \$12 advance, \$15 door, free for children under 12. gtarollergrills.com

Board Games Night

Board-game enthusiasts play Seven Wonders, Settlers of Catan, Jenga and more. There will also be a game of Cards Against Humanity, with prizes. Sat, Aug 10, 7pm. Glad Day Bookshop, 598 Yonge St. \$6. torontogamers.ca

Toronto Leather Pride

A plethora of leather-related events, from the Kinky Women and Trans Munch to the Leather Pride March. Runs until Sun, Aug 11. torontoleatherpride.ca

Wonderland Gay Day

The annual queer day of rides, games and good friends benefits PFLAG Canada. Sat, Aug 17. Buffet dinner, 6–7pm. Canada's Wonderland, 9580 Jane St, Vaughan. \$13.72–44.25. canadaswonderland.com/pflag



Derby Debutantes — Ted Reeve Arena, Sat, Aug 10. NIKKI DEGROOT

Altered States: Comedy Hypnosis by Brandon

Brandon the Hypnotist takes audiences on a hilarious and startling journey into the subconscious. Sun, Aug 18, 7pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. pubaret.com

Out and Out Club New Members' Night

The queer social club introduces potential members to its broad range of activities. Sessions held the third Tuesday of each month. Tues, Aug 20, 7–8pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. outandout.ca

MUSIC & CABARET

Singular Sensation: A Musical-Theatre Open Mic

Jennifer Walls invites amateur crooners to perform their favourite songs accompanied by a live band. Every Monday, 10pm–12:30am. Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover. statlers.ca

Comedy, Cabaret and Coffee Talk

Ryan G Hinds holds court with singing sensations Jennifer Walls and Seth Drabinsky and burlesque babe Belle Jumelles. Fri, Aug 16, 9pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. pubaret.com

Full Dark: Part Deux

Sharron Matthews workshops her musical monologues on dark, sexy and funny subjects. Sat, Aug 17, and Sun, Aug 18, 8pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$20. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Christian Jeffries: Songs from the Couch

Jeffries turns his music and humour on the world of therapy in a way that makes audiences laugh, cry

and want to fix their lives. Wed, Aug 21, 7:30pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$20 advance, \$25 door. pubaret.com

THEATRE & DANCE

SummerWorks

The theatre festival features such queer productions as Sky Gilbert's *To Myself at 28* and Nicki Ward's *Jackie's Not a Real Girl*. Runs Thurs, Aug 8–Sun, Aug 18; various locations. summerworks.ca

Amusement: Special Preview Performance

A dark comedy about two screw-ups who escape Toronto to find their fortune at a certain amusement park in Orlando and discover the truth about the "happiest place on Earth." Sat, Aug 10, 8pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$15. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Dance: Made in Canada

The biennial repertory festival of experimental works features Canadian choreographers and artists and a range of educational activities. Runs Wed, Aug 14–Sat, Aug 17. Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis St. \$10–25. princessproductions.ca

Cats

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical based on TS Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* returns with an all-Canadian cast. Runs until Sun, Sept 1. Panasonic Theatre, 651 Yonge St. \$59.95–109.95. mirvish.com

Avenue Q

The musical coming-of-age story with a cast of puppets features such memorable hits as "If You Were Gay" and "The Internet Is for Porn." Runs until Sun, Oct 6. Lower Ossington Theatre, 100A Ossington Ave. \$49–60. avenueq.ca

♥ WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GAY TRAVEL DESTINATION?



GARY LEVY

Big Brother Canada Season 1 house guest

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I randomly booked a trip there and had an amazing time. They have a great art scene, and the Andy Warhol Museum is right in the middle of the city. I saw Kevin Aviance perform at Cruze Bar — it was everything. One of my best vacations ever.



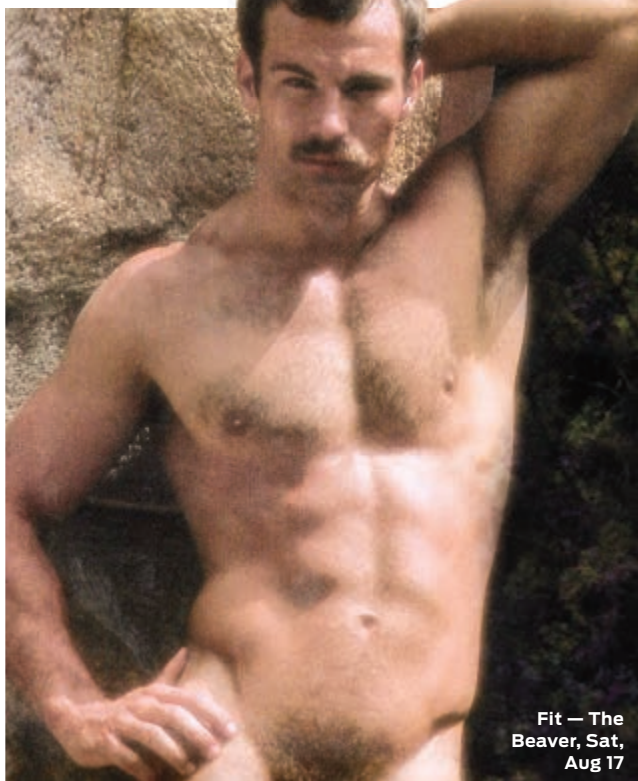
LUCAS SILVEIRA

Vocalist/guitarist of The Clinks

Santa Cruz, California. I went to perform at Santa Cruz Pride and ended up having an incredible time with local queers and trans men. Amazing beaches lined with seals and the famous boardwalk where the movie *The Lost Boys* was filmed made me want to go back again. Loved it!

For more gay travel destinations, go to dailyxtratravel.com.

CLUB SCENE



Fit — The Beaver, Sat, Aug 17

Thurs, Aug 8

Salute! A tribute to the TLP 2013 title team, toasting outgoing titleholders Robert Miller, MLT 2013; Youkali Youkali, MsLT 2013; and Peter Rex, MRT 2013. Hosted by the HOTF board of directors. Included in the TLP 2013 VIP pass. 7pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. Cover TBA. torontoleatherpride.ca

Surge: Kinky Women's and Trans Bar Night Youkali Youkali, MsLT 2013, hosts the ladies' event, with bootblacking services available. Open to everyone except cisgendered men. 9:30pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. torontoleatherpride.ca

Random Play DJ Dwayne Minard and guests spin all '70s and '80s disco, yacht rock, new wave and more. 10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. No cover. waylabar.com

Fri, Aug 9

Toronto Leather Pride Night and Best Men's Ass Contest TLP VIP reception at Sailors, for VIP passholders only, 7pm; Carlotta Carlisle hosts a meet-the-contestants event for the Mr Leather, Ms Leather and Mr Rubber Toronto 2014 competitions at 8:30pm; Georgie Girl hosts Cruiseline's Best Men's Ass Contest, with \$300 in cash prizes and DJ Chris Steinbach on decks at midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Gitch Underwear Party Mandy Goodhandy hosts the boys in briefs, with the Best Body Contest at midnight and DJs Jay & J on decks. 10pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$6 before 11pm, \$8 after; students no cover before 11pm, \$5 after. club120.ca

Were-House DJs Dirty Dale, Mark Falco, Jeff Kirkwood and Aeryn Pfaff spin house beats for the New York-style underground party, hosted by birthday girl April Wozny. 10pm–3am. Mojo Lounge, 1305 Dundas St W. \$5 before midnight, \$10 after. mojolounge.ca

Cruising DJs Moulton Lava (Dwayne Minard and Brian Duval) spin '70s disco and glam beats, with special performance from dancing queen Fay Slift. 10pm–2am.

The Boat, 158 Augusta Ave. \$5. theboatrestaurant.com

Fly Pop DJ Sumation throws down dancefloor faves, with VJ Gary White in the Pop Lounge, live streaming on outtv.ca, hosted by Mc Bride Showz. 10pm–3am. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. flynightclub.com

Full Fetish Party Cruise and party with folk into leather, rubber, boots and jocks. Hosted by TORN, Robert Miller (MLT 2013) and Peter Rex (MRT 2013). TLP 2013 pass-holders enjoy front-of-line entry. 11pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. torontoleatherpride.ca

Cub Camp DJ Scooter spins for beefy guys, bearded dudes, bears in waiting and bear baiters. 11pm–2:30am. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. \$7. beavertoronto.ca

Rockstars DJ Geoff Kelleway spins house beats for the stylin' crowd. Hosted by Karl and Rommel. 11pm–3am. Byzantium, 499 Church St. No cover. byz.ca

Sat, Aug 10

TLP Competition and Ball Deb Pearce hosts the Mr Leatherman Toronto/Ms Leather Toronto/Mr Rubber Toronto 2014 competitions at 7pm; Leather Ball XIX, with DJ Neill MacLeod spinning hard beats for the harder crowd, at 10pm. The Phoenix, 410 Sherbourne St. \$30 advance, \$35 door. torontoleatherpride.ca

Gilles 5.0 Celebrating GM Gilles's birthday, with DJs Amália Leandro, Addy and Baby Joel. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. flynightclub.com

Bump N' Hustle DJs Paul E Lopes and Mike Tull throw down old school, funk, hip hop, afrobeat and house in the west end. Hosted by Carlos Mondesir. 10pm. Rivoli, 334 Queen St W. \$10. rivoli.ca

B.East DJ Cory Activate spins house and dance beats for jocks, muscle bears and their admirers. Hosted by Dale C and Chris Munro. 10pm. WAYLA Bar, 966 Queen St E. \$5. facebook.com/beastatwayla

Trade Kid Vicious and A Bearded Boy host the deliciously smelly/hairy dance and cruising party, featuring go-go boys and a photo booth with Inked Kenny. 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. blackeagletoronto.com

Bad Tuck Igby Lizzard and Judy Virago host the west-end drag-queen event, with live performances at midnight and DJs Boypussy and Aeryn on decks. 11pm–2:30am. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. \$5, no cover in drag. beavertoronto.ca

Best Men's Ass Contest Nikki Chin, with Scarlett Bobo, hosts the Squirrt booty-shaking competition, with \$300 in cash prizes and DJ Chris Steinbach on decks. Midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Sun, Aug 11

BBQ/Cigar Party Burgers, cigars and fun. Open to everyone. TLP 2013 pass-holders get front-of-line entry. 3pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover.

Surge: Kinky Women's and Trans Play Party Hosted by Youkali

Youkali, MsLT 2013, and Fatima, with DJ Melanie on decks. Open to everyone except cisgendered men. 5pm. Oasis Aqualounge, 231 Mutual St. Regular rates. oasisaqualounge.com

Sunday at Woody's The PFLAG Canada fundraiser, with Miss Conception's Hollywoody Broadway Show. 6 pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Mon, Aug 12

The LGBT Sports Leagues Meet athletically inclined gay boys and girls at the info night and social event. 6–9pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Tues, Aug 13

Rock & Retro DJ Chris Steinbach hits the turntables, while Lee turns the Bad Boy Prize Wheel. 8pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Wed, Aug 14

Woody's Got Talent Bunny LeBlanc hosts a competition that features local talents and their fans. A winner is chosen each Wednesday until the grand finale on Sept 18, when judges decide the final winner. 10pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Toronto Drag Kings Tyler Uptight, Cameron, Kenny and Chase Manning perform in this weekly drag-king show. Every Wednesday. 11pm–2am. Zipperz/Cellblock, 72 Carlton St. No cover. facebook.com/zipperz

Thurs, Aug 15

South Beach Thursday DJ Tanner Alpa spins sunny beats for men sipping mojitos, caipirinhas and margaritas. Every

Trade — Black Eagle, Sat, Aug 10. INKED KENNY



Thursday. 8pm. Boutique Bar, 506 Church St. boutiquebar.ca

The Smirnoff Best Chest Contest Miss Conception hosts the shirtless hunks competing for \$300 in cash prizes. DJ Mark Falco on decks. Midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Fri, Aug 16

Madonna's Birthday The Queen turns 55 this year. It's also Friday. Celebrate! All day, everywhere.

Full Frontal DJ B-Tech spins top 40, house and electro beats. 10pm. WAYLA Bar, 996 Queen St E. No cover. waylabar.com

Le Kif Kif DJ Sticky Cuts and guest spin house, hip hop and club beats. Hosted by the Toastr girls. 10pm. WAYLA Bar, 996 Queen St E. \$5. waylabar.com

Bearcode DJs Cory Activate and Alain Plamondon spin dance and top 40 beats for the bears and their admirers. 10pm–3am. Zipperz/Cellblock, 72 Carlton St. No cover. facebook.com/zipperz

DFMO Dancefloor make-out with DJs John Caffery and The Robotic Kid. 10pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$5. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Yes Yes Y'all Whine and Kotch edition of the gay hip-hop, dancehall, trap and reggae bash features Unruly Twin. Expect people twerking on their heads. 10pm. Annex WreckRoom, 794 Bathurst St. \$6. theannexwreckroom.com

Criscotheque The Haus of Delorean throwback edition of the sweaty dance party, featuring Gangbangaz and Igby Lizzard. 10:30pm. The Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover. henhousetoronto.com

It's Hot Out Travis Richel and DJ CBB entertain hip west-end boys. 11pm–2:30am. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. No cover. beavertoronto.ca

Sat, Aug 17

Woodpeckers and Best Ass Woodpeckers softball team fundraiser and party, 4–10pm; squirrt.org Best Men's Ass Contest, hosted by Miss Conception, with \$300 in cash prizes and DJ Chris Steinbach, at midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Go Deep Mighty Real DJs John Caffery and The Robotic Kid spin deep, sexy house music all night long. 10pm. WAYLA Bar, 996 Queen St E. \$5. waylabar.com

Aural Sex DJs Bocock and Singalong spin retro tunes and remixes, presented by House of Filth. Plus a late-night show with Judy Virago and Igby Lizzard. 10pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover. henhousetoronto.com

Splash 2013 DJs Jerome and Mark Falco get the dancefloor wet with sweat. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. flynightclub.com

Fit DJs Kris Steeves and Phil Villeneuve throw down fun beats for guys who drink their milk and like to dance. 11pm–2:30am. The Beaver, 1192 Queen W. \$5. beavertoronto.ca

Sun, Aug 18

Five Smokin' Hot Divas Georgie Girl, Devine Darlin, Amanda Roberts, Brooke Lynn Hytes and Kitanya hit the drag floor, with DJ Blue Peter on decks. 11pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Mon, Aug 19

Singular Sensation A musical-theatre open-mic, hosted by Jennifer Walls. Every Monday. 10pm. Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover.

Tues, Aug 20

Out and Out Club New Members' Night Learn more about the fun activities the membership has to offer. Sessions held the third Tuesday of every month. 7–8pm. The 519, 519 Church St. No cover. outandout.ca

Wed, Aug 21

Meat and Greet Evening social and chat for trans men and their allies. The first and third Wednesday of every month. 6:30–8:30pm. Fabarnak, 519 Church St. No cover. the519.org

Punked Bingo Jenna Syde and Daddy O host this monthly night for punk dabbers. All proceeds go to a queer charity. 8pm–midnight. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover. henhousetoronto.com

Country-Western Line Dancing Toronto Wranglers welcome all levels for line, contra, partner dance, two step, east- and west-coast swing and waltz. 7–10pm. Zipperz/Cellblock, 72 Carlton St. No cover. torontowranglers.com

Submit your event listing to listings@dailyxtra.com. Deadline for the Aug 22 issue is Wed, Aug 14.


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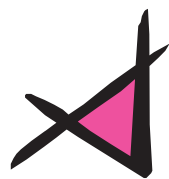
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NAME: KENYA
AGE: 27 SIGN: LEO

"I grew up in Jamaica. I moved to Canada so I can live my life and be who I am, an openly and proud gay man. I love that it's so peaceful and relaxing here," says Kenya, a shy guy who likes to spend his nights out with friends drinking apple martinis and dancing. A great smile and personality are huge turn-ons for him. His favourite place to hang out in the city is Crews & Tangos, the last song he downloaded is Beyoncé's "Dance for You," and he is super passionate about hairstyling and fashion.

Instagram: therealkendoll27 | Facebook: facebook.com/therealkendoll27

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