

Xtra!

TORONTO'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

#749 JULY 11-24, 2013

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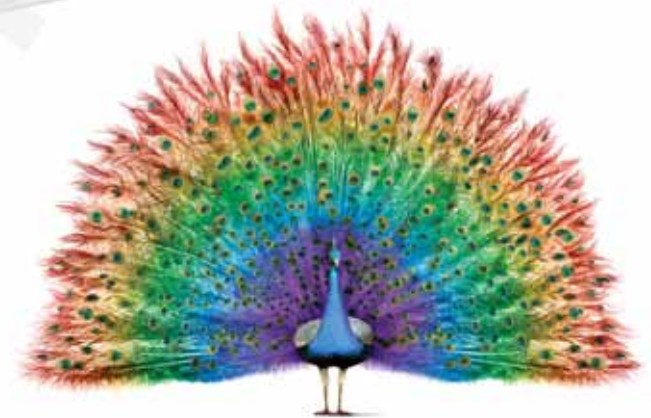
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HEY QUEER & TRANS YOUTH!

THANK YOU FOR A SPECTACULAR 2013 PRIDE!

A great big, enormously proud THANK YOU to all of the incredible people, programs, agencies, sponsors, co-workers, volunteers, and community partners who helped make SOY's Pride activities so successful this year. You are all so amazing: This is what COMMUNITY is all about! Special thanks to the following for all their hard work, generosity, time, energy and dedication:

- **Pride Prom:** Robert Champagne, The Outer Layer, TDSB Gender-Based Violence Prevention Program, Bizzy B's Craft Shop, Cafe Novo, D.J. Quinces, Fushimi Restaurant, HMV, Labour of Love, Nolan Natasha, Out on the Street, Risqué Clothing, Starbucks on Church, The Works Gourmet Burger Bistro, Seven Crowns Tattoo, Tim Hortons, Winners College Park, Woodies, Yogurtys Froyo. Deb Pearce; ASL interpreters Bonnie-Lyn Barker & Mandy MacDonald; our very best buddies at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre; Prom committee volunteers, teachers & all the amazing volunteer chaperones; DJs Quinces and Lauren; Triangle Program; Ely the photographer extraordinaire! You helped make prom sparkle for 250 queer and trans youth and their friends. What a night!
- **Fruit Loopz:** Pride Toronto; AGO Youth Council, Buddies QueerCab, Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS), Delisle Youth Services, Griffin Centre, Native Earth Performing Arts, Queer Asian Youth (QAY), SKETCH, The People Project, T.E.A.C.H., Tities Wicinimintōwak // Bluejays Dancing Together Arts Collective, Trans Youth Toronto (TYT), LGBT Youthline, ACT/PYO; ASL interpreters Wendy Kirk & Tala Jalili; Aqua and Condoms & Candy for your workshops; Buddies In Bad Times Theatre; our fantastic performers and MC's; and all the incredible Youth Council members and volunteers who showed up so early and stayed so late to make Fruit Loopz such a rocking space!

Thanks, everyone, for marching with us, for cheering us on, for making spaces for queer and trans, two-spirit, intersex and questioning youth to be spectacular and proud, and for all your wonderfulness all year round. We love you!

WANT TO KEEP UP WITH SOY?



XTRA

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

Once upon a Pride

Xtra's team took to the streets of Toronto for the 2013 Pride parade, the dress rehearsal for WorldPride 2014, when our city will welcome gays from all over the globe **▶13-15**

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BY DRASKO BOGDANOVIC

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Letting go of our anger



EDITORIAL
DANNY
GLENWRIGHT

At first I thought I'd misheard. Three irate middle-aged gay men stood at *Xtra's* front desk, furious that Pride-goers were being shut out of their Village apartment complex. That's right, these men actually wanted Pride revellers to make use of the leafy gardens and park space surrounding the City Park Co-operative, which stretches along Church Street from Alexander to Wood streets.

In the week leading up to Pride, City Park staff had attempted to secure the perimeter of the complex, absurdly posting as many as 100 signs warning any would-be "trespassers" to stay away. "If people want to sit on our lawn, let them sit on our lawn. What's the big problem?" asked Dennis Darnley, a City Park resident.

And he's right — City Park administrators were not being very neighbourly. But they weren't the only ones. For some reason, Pride season brings out a lot of anger and exclusion.

Take several comments on our new *Daily Xtra* website bemoaning the hordes of straight people "ruining" Pride. "From the security guard, to the police officer onsite, the servers to event staff drivers, donation drive volunteers to parade entrants, it felt more straight than anything LGBTQ," wrote one commenter. "What a waste of our tax dollars!"

But wait: straight people are taxpayers, too. And they're also our brothers, sisters, friends, colleagues and parents. Who decided Pride is only for gay people? Part of the point of all this gay-rights activism stuff is to find and welcome straight allies, no?

Trans March organizers came up against similar obstinacy when several allies from the Toronto

Police Service (including trans and queer officers) expressed interest in marching to show solidarity. Instead of welcoming these people, trans activists excluded them and asked them not to march.

This type of activism keeps gay and trans people on a hamster wheel of our own creation. I recognize that police have been horrible to trans people, and I know all too well how awful straight people have been to gays. But if we cling to this narrative and insist on maintaining the status quo, what's the point of all this marching and protesting? Police and straight people are not going anywhere; we might as well let the nice ones come and play with us. It just might make the game more fun.

Next year I dare cranky queer Torontonians to pause during Pride Week. Resist sniping about long beer queues, excessive corporate sponsorship and straight people, and take a moment to savour how very special it is that we live in a city where hundreds of thousands of people from every walk of life come out for one weekend to celebrate all things queer.

Pride is something to be shared, which I imagine is one of the reasons Toronto was chosen to host WorldPride. Mayor Rob Ford, his city council cronies, Stephen Harper and Tim Hudak's Conservatives, homophobic and transphobic police officers — we've got enough enemies who don't want anything to do with us.

Next year, when we host the world, let's remember our real adversaries and stop excluding our allies. Let's let go of our anger and practise activism that gets results. Let's be neighbourly and open our spaces to anyone who wants to come celebrate with us. And let's remember just how far we've come.

Danny Glenwright is Xtra's managing editor.

FEEDBACK

WorldPride 2014

We, the co-chairs of the WorldPride Human Rights Conference 2014, are writing to clarify the missions and goals of the conference ["WorldPride Organizers Concerned About 'Pinkwashing,'" *xtra.ca*, June 27]. The conference, to be hosted at the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, at the University of Toronto, in June 2014, is intended to provide a unique, global and democratic dialogue on LGBT human rights. To date, the WorldPride Human Rights Conference has received over 240 presenter applications from over 40 countries in Africa, Asia, South America, Europe and North America. The conference is being organized with the assistance of an advisory committee and an organizing committee with representatives from a broad range of LGBT community organizations. We are confident that the Conference will provide an open, democratic dialogue between activists, policymakers, artists, educators, lawyers, academics and journalists on issues facing the global LGBT community. We welcome multiple perspectives from all countries on the full range of global LGBT human rights issues. We regret any confusion resulting from the article.

DOUG KERR AND BRENDA COSSMAN
(CO-CHAIRS, WORLDPRIDE 2014
HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE)
TORONTO, ON

I was horrified that an organizer of Pride has pre-decided what can and can't be said at a WorldPride forum next year. There are LGBT community members being ostracized, terrorized and killed. Simply using gay tourism as an angle to be anti-Israeli perverts our cause and their struggle.

CHAD ROGERS
TORONTO, ON

Maybe it was not part of his agenda, but it surprises me that the number of corporations who pinkwash during Pride season were not critiqued. We need to have a conversation about just how deeply committed these alleged corporate allies are to the community.

DONALD CYR (VIA FACEBOOK)
TORONTO, ON

Daytona Bitch

Entertainers are there to entertain. Artists are not entertainers ["Daytona Bitch Fired as Official TD Pride Drag Queen over 'Blackface,'" *xtra.ca*, June

“The weekend past was not Pride; the name Pride seemingly has been sold as an LGBT marketing channel to marketers, politicians and the like.”

RE: TORONTO PRIDE



27]. What separates the artist from the entertainer is the willingness to "pay the penalty." Drag queens, the very best ones, have always carried things to the extreme. They were and are the avant garde, the front line. Too many think that being in the avant garde means no one attacks us. So when they do get attacked, they cry foul. It goes with the territory. As one who has disturbed audiences and provoked near riots (and sometimes riots), I know a real artist when I meet one. Daytona Bitch and Donnarama are artists, not entertainers. Pride Toronto is suffering from a surfeit of good taste. Kudos to Daytona Bitch.

REG HARTT
TORONTO, ON

If she cared about her job, she should have considered backlash. I'm far from feeling like she should be publicly tried, but if you take risks like that and they fail because people are offended, you can't complain. You put your job on the table and lost.

MATTHEW LANDEEN (VIA FACEBOOK)
TORONTO, ON

Poppers ban

I read this article with remorse and caution because I've been called "Peter Poppers" ["Health Canada Cracks Down on Poppers," *Xtra* #748, June 27]. I'm surprised I'm not brain dead yet from using them ever since I came out. Now that poppers have been banned, I'm concerned about what poppers pro-

duced on the black market will contain and what damage they will do. A lot of gay guys use them, and they certainly help one enjoy sex and ejaculate. I know they're not very good for my asthma, and my respirologist tells me not to use them. I guess we are going to be a lot healthier. Is there going to be an outcry against this edict?

PETER IVESON
TORONTO, ON

Gay man can't train cadets

I want to thank *Xtra* for tackling this story ["Canadian Armed Forces Say Gay Man Can't Train Cadets," *Xtra* #739, July 11]. It's hard to say I don't feel proud to be Canadian after this. I try to be a citizen who makes a difference in the gay community and for more than 10 years have done events in the gay community. Then, when I want, in my opinion, to service my country I am told, "No thank you." It's sad that we live in a society like this. My heart is just broken.

RICK RENAUD (VIA FACEBOOK)
CHATHAM, ON

Toronto Pride

Out of all the Toronto Prides I've experienced, perhaps the most bizarre was the weekend just passed ["Toronto Pride Highlights, with Trevor Boris," *xtra.ca*, June 30]. My out-of-town guests wanted to visit Toronto Pride to experience what I described to them in the past as a weekend when your world turns almost 100-percent gay. Their experience turned out to be something completely different. Upon arrival to the so-called Village, we were greeted by several straight men dressed up as Zorro promoting the upcoming Disney movie. We met more straight women waving rainbow flags kissing their boyfriends. Straight men arm-in-arm making out with their girlfriends, wearing stickers that say "Fag" from Pride Toronto. The weekend past was not Pride; the name Pride seemingly has been sold as an LGBT marketing channel to marketers, politicians and the like.

JAMES ANTHONY
TORONTO, ON

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

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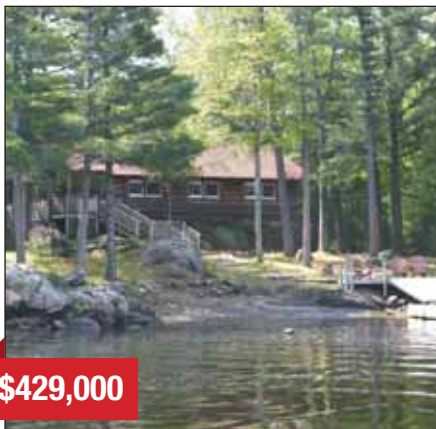
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'I'm gonna wrestle you out of them clothes/leave that beautiful body exposed'

Lyrics from gay country singer **Steve Grand's** new song "All-American Boy."

OUT ON THE STREET: PRIDE EDITION BY KYLE BURTON

Why did you choose your outfit?



Abuzar
SEX WORKER

This is how I usually dress. But I'd rather be naked.



Alina
MAKEUP ARTIST

I just love dressing up for Pride — any reason to look colourful.



Mark
STUDENT

Because it's fabulous. And because my twin sister gave me this skirt.



Rebecca
VET

Pride is transcendent and I wanted to express that through my clothing.



“In solidarity. From Russia with love.”

— a message from Tilda Swinton, seen here in front of the Kremlin in Moscow

FROM THE PTP ARCHIVES
30 YEARS AGO

BODY POLITIC #95 JULY/AUGUST 1983

Gerry Oxford explores the ramifications of *Cruise to Win*, an American how-to book about bar cruising. Six Canadian guys of varying backgrounds, ages, races and outlooks complicate what seems like a simple question: "Do you cruise?"



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Kirsten Dunst

Recently sold her car to a friend for \$7,000.



2010 Acura ZDX

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Subaru

Often stereotyped as the car for lesbians.

Martina Navratilova

Gay tennis player featured in a 2000 Subaru ad.

The L Word

Subaru was a sponsor of this show about lesbians in LA.

'Lacy Litling Lyrics'

Name of a Season 4 *L Word* episode.

Lovelace

Title of a new film about Linda Lovelace, starring **Amanda Seyfried**.

Sharon Stone

Plays Lovelace's mother in the film.

2005

Year in which *Out* magazine named Stone its top straight ally.

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*Fees and taxes are extra.

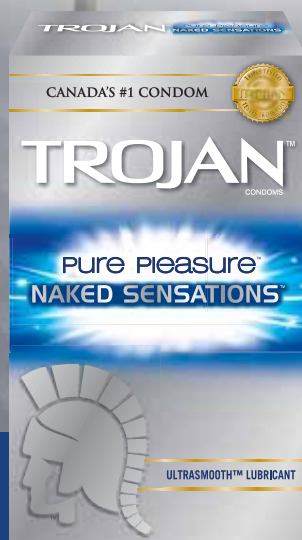
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CONDOMS

Slack's owner alleges she was illegally evicted

Popular women's joint shut down just before Pride

COMMUNITY NEWS
ROB SALERNO

The popular women's bar Slack's was forced to close after the owner of the space's previous incarnation teamed up with the bar's landlord to financially cripple Karen Halliday, its current owner, Halliday alleges.

The bar had been struggling for months when Halliday was presented with a steep rent increase and a sudden demand for back taxes from her landlord on June 5. After a week of trying to negotiate a solution with the landlord, Halliday says, she vacated the bar on June 12 with the understanding that she would be able to continue negotiations. But Halliday was notified by her alarm company that someone had broken into the bar on June 14 — it was the landlord, who had gone inside to have the locks changed, Halliday says.

“He locked me out illegally, didn't use a bailiff, didn't go through any of the proper procedures,” she says.

Halliday says she had agreed with the landlord, John Feeley, to find someone to take over her lease, which would settle any outstanding debts while allowing her to keep the bar open during the lucrative Pride Week. But once she found a new tenant, the landlord refused to deal with her, she says.

“[Feeley] told me that he was going to leave that space vacant, the same way he had left the space beside me vacant for the last four years. I can only guess that he has a developer interested in going in,” Halliday says.

A lawyer for Feeley told *Xtra* he has no comment.

After further negotiations with the landlord, Halliday says, it was agreed that she would be allowed to enter the bar to remove her property on June 26, but when she arrived with a technician, she says, the landlord barred her from removing any of her heavy equipment.

She says former Slack Alice's owner Heather Mackenzie, who currently co-owns The Flying Beaver Pubaret on Parliament Street, then reopened the bar during Pride weekend.

Although Halliday was working to come up with



A Palm Bay tarp hangs over the Slack's sign.
ADAM COISH

a way to keep her bar open over Pride weekend, she says she now believes that Mackenzie had made a deal with Feeley to force her out of the space illegally so she could use it during Pride. Halliday says Feeley “alluded” to such a deal.

Mackenzie referred *Xtra*'s questions to her publicist, Rich Bruggeman, who declined to comment. “These items are between the landlord and the tenant,” Bruggeman wrote in an email.

Halliday says she believes that Mackenzie had been plotting against her with Feeley since at least 2011, when Mackenzie struck a deal to run a beer garden during Pride in the alley next to Slack's — a profitable privilege Slack's had previously enjoyed.

“I was paying him \$2,500 to have the garden for two days. She must have offered him more,” Halliday says. “People used to assume that it was still Slack's garden, but it wasn't.”

The deal cut off a major source of revenue for the bar during its busiest season, she says.

Halliday also believes that Mackenzie worked with Feeley to try to get her liquor licence revoked.

Halliday was incensed that Mackenzie was using the “Slack's” name during Pride and had her lawyer send a cease-and-desist request. The bar eventually covered up the Slack's sign outside with a vinyl Palm Bay ad. “That was the major issue, using my name and work I'd done over the last eight years,” Halliday says.

Mackenzie's representative would not respond to Halliday's allegations.

The bar is currently unoccupied, but Halliday hopes that a new tenant can make the space work for the community, even if it is Mackenzie. “I can just hope that if it is Heather going in there that she does right by it. There's a lot of good customers... and maybe she can reemploy some of the staff members that are now out on the street.”

Slack's had employed four people.

Halliday says she is filing a lawsuit against both Feeley and Mackenzie, alleging that she was evicted illegally and that Mackenzie illegally used her business name and property. “I worked really hard on that street for the last eight years to forge really positive relationships and work with the other business owners and with 51 and 52 Division [of the police] to make sure we had really successful businesses and Pride.

“I'm not on a bitter rampage,” she says. “I'll do what I need to do legally, but I want to see Church Street flourish.”

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The dress rehearsal is over

Toronto's Pride hangover has barely subsided, but planning for WorldPride 2014 is already in full swing.

Pride Toronto executive director Kevin Beaulieu says he is basking in the afterglow of a successful 33rd Pride parade. This was the first time in 10 years it stretched all the way to Yonge and Dundas, a taste of what the city can expect next year.

But that wasn't the only first for the 2013 parade. "This was the first time we had women firefighters join us in the parade," Beaulieu says. "That was fantastic. I loved hearing that."

Beaulieu says his favourite moment was seeing international grand marshal Marcela Romero, from Argentina, speak to the massive crowd at Yonge-Dundas Square about trans rights. "Seeing that packed crowd whipped into a frenzy for trans rights around the world was an amazing moment," he says. "That was something I'll never forget."

Now that the 2013 festival has been put to bed, he says, it is full steam ahead toward WorldPride next year. "Up to now we have been planning on parallel tracks," he says. "Now we bring them together. The whole organization, the whole machinery of Pride Toronto, turns to producing WorldPride... A year will go by in the blink of an eye."

Along with the marquee parade, the Dyke March and the Trans March, the event will also feature an opening and closing ceremony, a human rights conference and Pride-focused events in neighbourhoods all across the city.

Pride parade.
ADAM COISH

—Andrea Houston

Trans March.
N MAXWELL LANDER



Trans March.
N MAXWELL LANDER



Dyke March.
TANJA-TIZIANA



Dyke March.
TANJA-TIZIANA

New Dyke March formula proves a hit

The Toronto Dyke March is a storied institution, but this year, organizers altered the formula. The march was re-routed to direct participants into Allan Gardens for a post-march rally. It's a model used in cities like Chicago and Ottawa and appeared to be an instant hit.

At least 1,000 people arrived at the park for chants — including “Our Pride is political, let’s get critical” — and music. Many sprawled under the trees as the Raging Asian Women Taiko Drummers kicked off the festivities.

Davina Hader, a volunteer wearing a Pride Toronto T-shirt, was all smiles. “It’s a way to keep the momentum going. The march generates a lot of positive energy, so it’s great to have a place for that to continue,” Hader says.

For years, Toronto’s Dyke March had no rally at all. Last year, organizers

tested the San Francisco model, with a rally before the march, rather than after — the same format used by the Toronto Trans March. “Each event has its own flavour, and the Dyke March has a grassroots, community flavour, which is representative of the history of this event,” says Pride Toronto board member Susan Gapka. And that means a rally makes a lot of sense for the Dyke March. “We showed that we can do amazing things.”

The Dyke March rally was not without its hitches. An anti-gay evangelist threatened to disrupt the proceedings shortly after 3pm, but he was quickly removed. “We glitter-bombed him and forgave him. And then the ole boys in blue took him away,” says participant Dianne Moore, laughing.

— Marcus McCann

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“If someone had told me, when we were making *Winter*, that gay marriage would be legal in Canada within 40 years, I would have wondered what they'd been smoking.”
~ David Sector

Before *Brokeback Mountain*, came...

Winter Kept Us Warm

Canada's first gay-themed feature film will soon celebrate its 50th anniversary! David Sector's *Winter Kept Us Warm* explores the burgeoning relationship between U of T students Doug and Peter. Their bond is not explicitly sexual, but it was clear to audiences and reviewers in 1965 that the two were 'more than friends.'

The CGLA has the film in its collection.

Find out more at clga.ca



Pride parade.
ADAM COISH

The 519 rakes in big money at Green Space, Ryerson quad parties

A big gamble paid off for the 519 Church Street Community Centre, which netted \$300,000 at its outdoor Pride parties in 2013.

As in previous years, The 519 ran a beer garden in Cawthra Square Park beside the community centre, from Thursday to Sunday. But this year, organizers moved their marquee dance party — known as TreeHouse — from Cawthra Park to Ryerson's Kerr Hall quad and ran beer gardens at both venues during and after the Pride parade.

"We were extremely nervous. We didn't know what to expect," says Mathieu Chantelois, chair of the Pride planning committee at The 519. "But honestly, when we booked the space, we just thought it was such a gorgeous place to host TreeHouse. The Ryerson quad is almost designed for it. People on the dancefloor were like, 'Why haven't we done this here before?'"

TreeHouse may have also inadvertently benefited from its location. The Pride parade ended at Yonge-Dundas Square this year, meaning that participants had to pass the party to get

back to the Church-Wellesley neighbourhood. By mid-afternoon, lineups snaked around the corner and down several blocks.

But Chantelois says TreeHouse has many devotees who make the party a destination. By 10am, some revellers had camped out with folding chairs at the entrance, waiting for the 1pm start time.

In total, about 35,000 people visited The 519's beer gardens in 2013. After factoring in the additional expenses, the \$300,000 take-home beats the \$240,000 netted last year. And that's despite gloomy skies on three of the four party days — and cumbersome lineups at the beer tents during part of Pride Sunday.

"That is something that we're going to have to address next year. We don't think it's acceptable that people had to wait that long in lineups to get in and for beer," Chantelois says. On the whole, he describes 2013 as "a learning and a growing year" and says that the lessons learned this year will go into planning The 519's parties for 2014, when Toronto hosts WorldPride. — *Marcus McCann*



The 519 Green Space.
ADAM COISH



Pride parade.
ADAM COISH



Pride parade.
ADAM COISH



Until next year...
ADAM COISH



For more Toronto Pride photos and full coverage, go to dailyxtra.com.



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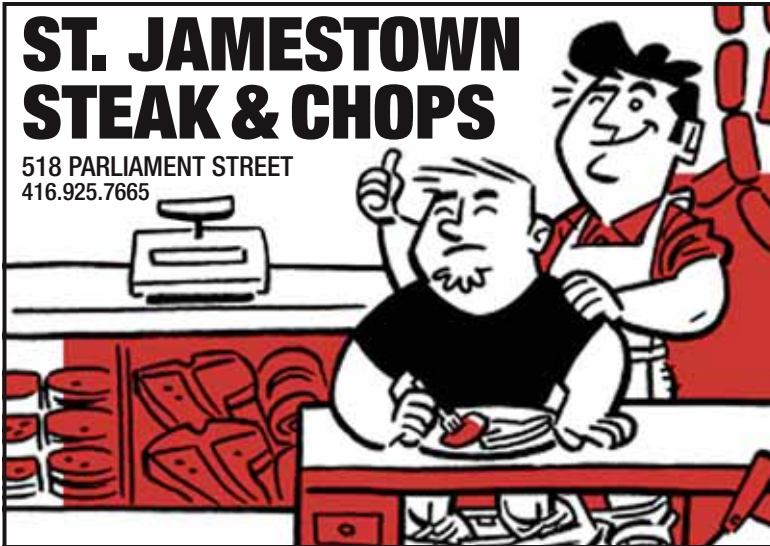
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Out lesbian vies to be Miss America

Analouisa Valencia is making waves in South Carolina.

Valencia, 20, from Spartanburg, South Carolina, thinks she is the first openly lesbian contestant for the Miss South Carolina pageant and its parent, Miss America.

"This is who I am. People tell me I am the most real pageant contestant they have ever met. I wasn't open about it last year, and that's why I think I was so uncomfortable competing," Valencia told *The Augusta Chronicle*.

She says she hasn't had any negative reactions since coming out earlier this year, and officials from Miss South Carolina and Miss America are standing behind her. —Brandon Matheson



Analouisa Valencia, with her Miss Lyman title crown.

NATIONAL NEWS

New Manitoba code sets clear consequences for homophobia

Manitoba's minister of education says a new provincial code of conduct is being developed that sets out disciplinary consequences all schools will be required to follow to address homophobia and bullying in a clear and consistent way.

"What this means for gay students is when they are bullied, there will be very clear consequences," Education Minister Nancy Allan tells *Xtra*. "Everybody in the school will know what the consequences are."

Allan says the code will present a broad range of consequences, starting with an interview and dialogue with students who break it. That could lead to detention or suspension.

"If it's a serious matter, it could be referred to law-enforcement officials," she says. "We know that students can't learn when they feel marginalized, humiliated or intimidated. We want all of our students to feel safe. And we

want bullies to know there are real consequences for their actions."

The code builds on Bill 18, the Public Schools Amendment Act (Safe and Inclusive Schools), introduced in early 2013 and expected to pass into law later this year.

Paul Olson, president of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, welcomes the announcement. "Teachers are always working for better learning in safer schools," he says. "This code could be an important step toward having both useful guidelines and a clear message of support for the work Manitoba teachers do every day." —Jeremy Hainsworth

Canada Post investigating alleged homophobic incident

A Toronto man has filed a complaint against a Canada Post employee for an alleged homophobic incident that occurred in his workplace. Rick Kopfensteiner says that he boarded the elevator of his Yorkville office complex on June 21 with an on-duty mail carrier and was immediately surprised by the man's erratic behaviour.

"It was just the two of us, and he ... seemed intoxicated. I noticed he stum-

bled getting onto the elevator and then fell backward into the elevator wall."

What followed left Kopfensteiner shaken. "He righted himself, looked at me and said, 'Do you want to hear a joke? How do you get a homo to have sex with a woman? You fill her cunt with shit.'"

Kopfensteiner informed the postal worker that he identifies as homosexual and that he found his comments to be offensive. "He got off the elevator ... and mumbled something incoherent and then [said] 'faggot' as the doors closed."

Upon returning to his office, Kopfensteiner checked in with the shipping department, who verified his description of the employee. He then contacted Canada Post. "We spoke with a very sympathetic customer service rep who said he would file the complaint with the supervisor who oversaw the Canada Post workers in this area."

A representative from Canada Post tells *Xtra* that the incident is still under investigation and that the Crown corporation "takes complaints of this nature very seriously." —JP Larocque



For more on these stories,
go to dailyxtra.com.

07/11/2013

CHALLENGE TO MAYOR ROB FORD

Mr. Mayor, I'm a fat, balding, openly proud faggot with a bum knee and a cane – quite probably your worst nightmare come to life before your eyes.

My name is Harold B. Desmarais.

I had planned to make my challenge standing in Nathan Phillips Square on the morning of Friday, June 21st.

However, the police arrived at my door at 8:21 a.m. and escorted me to St. Michael's Hospital where I was to undergo a psychiatric evaluation. It seemed that I was having a "manic episode". St. Michael's kept me for 76 hours and then released me about 1:38 p.m. on Monday, June 24th.

On Tuesday, I was determined to carry on with my plan. I got dressed in my "Jester" outfit, took my bullhorn, leaflets and other paraphernalia and went to Nathan Phillips Square. I was greeted by an offensive rent-a-cop security guard who told me that I shouldn't be dressed "like that" and that I had no right to speak. I told her that I had spoken with my Councillor's office and that I had every right to speak. She left to confer with her superiors and I started to hand out my leaflets asking people to help feed the world's hungry through the use of a website called "Freerice". I had been doing that for about 45 minutes when I was approached by a friend who had been called at his office by my Councillor's office. He told me that

I HAD TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY OR THE POLICE WOULD BE CALLED AND I WOULD BE ARRESTED.

I decided to leave until I could clarify exactly what my rights and responsibilities in this situation actually were.

After speaking with the City Officials, it seems that you have to have a "permit" to use the square. Unfortunately, you have to be a not-for-profit group who has charitable tax status in the eyes of Revenue Canada before you can even apply for a permit. Individuals do not qualify. While I was told that there is a "Speakers' Corner" in the square, the exact location is unknown since the square is being renovated. Using any type of sound amplification (such as my new bullhorn) is also a no-no! I guess that you just have to go out there and scream.

Denied my first choice venue, I have decided to use the printed word even though it can't clearly demonstrate the intensity and the passion of my feelings.

As Sheldon Cooper from T.V.'s The Big Bang Theory is known to often say: "I AM NOT CRAZY ...my mother had me tested."

Believe it or not, I'm not crazy either.

I'm still wearing my plastic hospital bracelet to remind me of that particular 76 hour adventure.

It turns out that I WAS in a "manic state".

NO – NOT the manic behaviour of madness or craziness

AND NOT the manic behaviour of morbid cravings or that of uncontrolled excitement and frenzy.

Rather I was demonstrating the second meaning of the word "manic" and that is "RAGE" and the eager desire for something. MY RAGE is focused on you, Mr. Mayor and on the idiocy that has presently gripped our city. We are bombarded by claims and accusations, denials and charges from you, Mr. Ford AND the media. In all the smoke and dust, the sound and fury, the very real problems of our city are being ignored and pushed aside. The media is just as guilty as you are, Mr. Ford. After all, it takes Two to Tango and this particular dance has gone on for far too long. I want to give both dance partners a very swift and a very hard kick in their butts.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "I have been to the mountain top and I have seen the Promised Land."

Well, guess what?

In the Promised Land, Rob Ford is no longer Mayor.

The grime, the filth, the shame and the sordidness that has been splashed all over our City Hall and our Municipal Government is going to be washed away. I intend to take a high pressure hose (public opinion) and clean the towers and that clam shell until they shine in the sun.

As my favourite childhood cartoon character, Popeye, would say: "That's all I can stand, I can't stand no more!"

In the words of the character from Peter Finch's 1976 movie, "NETWORK",

"I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

I'm a proud, openly gay man of French-Canadian descent who deeply loves his country. I'm proud to be an Ontarian where my Premier is a proud lesbian committed to a loving and supportive relationship. I'm proud of my Province and its Leader for she is proof for young LGBT people that

"IT DOES GET BETTER!"

My links to this city go back to December 4, 1944 when I was born at St. Michael's Hospital. AM I PROUD OF MY CITY??

NOT SO MUCH!

My city has become a laughingstock. It is the focus of cheap shots and jokes on late night television. And why? WHY??

It's because of you, Mr. Mayor. It's because of your antics and shenanigans, because of your mistakes and escapades.

It seems the only time you take your foot out of your mouth is when you decide to change feet.

ENOUGH! – ENOUGH I SAY!

Mr. Ford, it's time to go. Just go now, don't check with Dougie, just sign your letter of resignation and drop it off at the City Clerk's office. Then go, JUST GO!!

Right now, you're a millstone around the neck of our city. You are dragging us down into the filth and mire. You're like a loose marble rattling around in an empty

drawer. It makes a lot of noise and is terribly distracting. Please take whatever shreds of dignity and honour that you still possess and just go

I PUBLICLY CHALLENGE YOU MR. FORD, TO "PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!"

You continue to insist that you have the support of the majority of the citizens of this incredible city.

I DON'T THINK SO!!

The election was in 2010 - almost three years ago. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then.

EXACTLY WHO SUPPORTS WHAT IS, AT BEST, A MATTER OF CONJECTURE.



While that nebulous construct known as "THE FORD NATION" MAY actually exist; please forgive me if I'm a Doubting Thomas. Lacking any physical boundaries as well as any visible parameters, my sense of the entire concept is that I'm being fed a con job.

While it is certainly true that, eventually, the voters will be given an opportunity to make their preferences clearly known,

MY MENTAL HEALTH AND MY HEART JUST CAN NOT TAKE ANOTHER 16 MONTHS OF THIS INSANITY!

I'M PROPOSING THAT WE PROVIDE THE PEOPLE IN OUR CITY WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT ROB FORD TO CONTINUE ON AS THEIR MAYOR.

The tool we will use to do this is a website called "Freerice". This is a legitimate arm of the United Nations Food Programme.

(Freerice is a website that asks you questions. It gives you four choices. One of these choices is the correct answer. If you choose that answer, 10 GRAINS OF RICE WILL APPEAR IN THE RICE BOWL ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SCREEN. As soon as those grains appear, they are paid for by the

sponsors of the website whose names appear on the site. The grains are turned over to the United Nations Food Programme for distribution.

Since March, 2009, this site has paid for 99 BILLION GRAINS OF RICE, all of which was given to hungry people all over the world.

THE ONLY COST TO YOU IS SOME OF YOUR TIME!!

When you open your account with Freerice, you don't even have to use your own name. You can be as creative as you wish – Euphagenia Mergotryd.

THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT YOU REGISTER WITH AN ACCURATE E-MAIL ADDRESS

(Freerice needs this in order to send you the link to set up your password. Since Freerice's Privacy Policy is sterling, you need never worry about them giving out your e-mail address EVER!)

With your I-phones, your P.C.s, your laptops and your I-pads, you can play on this site anytime day or night.

Whenever you can spare a few minutes, perhaps during those pesky commercials that have interrupted your favourite T.V. program, you could be earning rice to feed the hungry. Isn't that preferable to meaningless texting, twittering around or being one of the 20 friends on Facebook who are commiserating with poor Myrna over her attack of diarrhea last night?

Really people, when did our society become so self-absorbed?

Wouldn't you feel better about yourself if you spent 5 or 6 minutes and earned 100 grains of rice?

Just by answering 10 questions correctly, YOU COULD DO THAT!!

There's no penalty if you give the wrong answer. The site will give you the correct answer and within the next 10 minutes it will ask you the same question again to see if you learned.

The website starts out with the meaning of English words, but there are 21 different topics on which you could be quizzed. You can change topics as frequently as you wish. From Flags of the World to Human Anatomy, from Famous paintings to learning five different languages, it's your choice. You can even prepare for a SAT test.

USE THIS WEBSITE TO EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT ROB FORD AND WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD CONTINUE ON AS TORONTO'S MAYOR.

If you want Rob Ford to continue on as Mayor, then join his team, the **Blind Believers**.

Every grain of rice you earn will boost his team's totals.

If, however, you feel that Mr. Ford has overstayed his welcome and that it would be the best thing possible for the city IF HE WERE TO RESIGN AS MAYOR, then join Harold's

team, the **June Jester**.

Every grain of rice you earn will boost his team's totals.

Go to the website - >>>www.freerice.com<< and sign up –

- - Remember that you **MUST PROVIDE** an accurate e-mail address
- - Once you have a password and are earning rice, you can join a group
- - Click on the Groups button at the top of the screen. Use the "Search" field to find the team you want to support and then click on the join button

On July 11th Harold challenges the Mayor, and presents his plan to use Freerice to express the feelings of the voters. For the next 36 days, people will have the opportunity to make their feelings known by "**voting with rice**".

Every grain of rice will be a vote for or against the idea that the Mayor should resign. The more grains that you earn the more votes for your side of the issue. If you have very strong feelings about this issue, you may want to spend every spare moment on the site.

Once you've joined a group, every grain of rice that you earn will go to credit that group's account. You can check on the current standing of either or both of these groups at any time you want.

IF, on August 15, 2013, the Blind Believers have earned the most rice of the two groups; then Harold will publicly kneel in Nathan Phillips Square and make a contrite apology to Mayor Ford for ever doubting the validity of his claims.

IF, however, the June Jester team has earned more rice, then Mayor Ford will resign his position as Toronto's Mayor and he just leaves City Hall.

Of course, this contest has no legal weight, it has no moral impact. It's a poll, it's just a poll. However, it is a poll that was designed to allow the people of the city to let their wishes be known. It demonstrates just how many people feel that Toronto's "FORD DAYS" should end.

What happens if Mayor Ford's team is severely trounced in terms of "rice" numbers and yet he still refuses to resign? If Mr. Ford just ignores the clear evidence that there are more people who would like him to resign than there are who want him to stay, he will have to deal with the public embarrassment and ridicule. Personally, I feel that if he takes that road he will have doomed his chances of re-election. After ignoring the will of the people, I think that the Ikea monkey in his darling little coat would have a better chance of being elected Mayor in 2014.

The sweetest thing about this whole **proposal is that**

NO MATTER WHICH TEAM GETS THE MOST RICE, THE HUNGRY PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ARE THE REAL WINNERS!

Let the Hungry Games begin!!



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bridged the
Victorian and
modern eras

HISTORY BOYS
MICHAEL LYONS

History has a tendency to overlook the fact that women exist. For every Marie Curie, Elizabeth I or Ada Lovelace, you can probably think of 10 better-known men. On top of being consigned to the margins of history, women's sexuality has been demonized or ignored. Thankfully, many women have fought against being cast aside; queer writers are especially important, because the words they left behind map their stories and desires. Alongside names like Sappho and Virginia Woolf, I think of British-born, Canadian-American poet, journalist and philosopher Elsa Gidlow.

She was born Elfie (a name she hated and later changed) on Dec 29, 1898, in Hull, England, and when she was six, her family moved to Tétreaultville, Quebec. At the age of 17 she took a job in the office of a railway parts manufacturer. There, she developed a crush on a woman named Francis, whom she'd met at business school, and soon after became aware that a female co-worker was in a same-sex relationship. She came to understand her romantic and sexual feelings for women and wrote in her diary, "I am going to get a room of my own. I am going to find my kind of people."

As part of her burgeoning identity she established herself as a poet, creating a poetry group in Montreal, where she met a beautiful, effeminate young man named Roswell Mills, a 19-year-old editorial assistant at *The Montreal Star*. Mills was more involved in the gay community and became a major influence, introducing Gidlow to the first few women she developed feelings for.

When Gidlow was in her early 20s, she became involved in the United Amateur Press Association of America (UAPAA). Through the organization she became a rival of the influential horror writer, amateur journalist and notable racist HP Lovecraft. Gidlow and Mills started what could be considered Canada's first gay and lesbian publication, *Les Mouches Fantastiques*. "Besides our poetry, [Mills] contributed translations from Verlaine, articles on 'the intermediate sex,' and one-act plays sympathetically presenting love



ERIC WILLIAMS

Gidlow had a number of lovers and girlfriends, including a long-term relationship with Scottish golfer Violet Winifred Leslie Henry-Anderson, nicknamed "Tommy."

between young men. My poetry was obviously addressed to women," Gidlow wrote in her autobiography.

In the years after 1920, Gidlow moved to New York, San Francisco and Fairfax, California, working as an editor, journalist and poet. She had a number of lovers and girlfriends, including a long-term relationship with Scottish golfer Violet Winifred Leslie Henry-Anderson, nicknamed "Tommy," whom she met through Mills. The golfer lived openly in society and "was able to tell me more than I had ever suspected of women's passionate, romantic involvement with one another." One evening Henry-Anderson slipped a ring on Gidlow's finger inscribed, "Vincit qui patitur — They conquer, who endure," and the two were married every way but legally. They were inseparable for 13 years until Henry-Anderson died of lung cancer in 1935, devastating Gidlow.

Gidlow travelled widely, meeting such notable gay people as Magnus

Hirschfeld, the German father of sexology, and novelist Radclyffe Hall, author of *The Well of Loneliness*. After Henry-Anderson's death, Gidlow purchased some land outside San Francisco. At Mills's insistence, a new lover, Isabel Quallo, moved in, and the two later moved to a larger, remote piece of land Gidlow named Druid Heights. This became a mecca for artists, spiritualists and young lesbians who saw the poet as a leader. She never stopped writing and was widely published, with her most well-known work being *On a Grey Thread. Elsa, I Come with My Songs* is possibly the first published autobiography written by a lesbian. She died of natural causes at Druid Heights at the age of 87.

Gidlow bridged the dying sentiments of a stuffy Victorian era and the political hodgepodge of the modern age. Though it is impossible to sum up her complex life in so few words, her work marks her as a pioneering gay woman of the 20th century. This snippet of "For the Goddess Too Well Known" expresses her desires proudly and poetically:

*I break wild roses, scatter them over her.
The thorns between us sting like
love's pain.*

*Her flesh, bitter and salt to my tongue,
I taste with endless kisses and
taste again.*

*At dawn I leave her
Asleep in my waking garden.
(For what was done there
I ask no man pardon.)*

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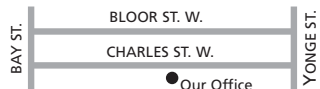
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Winters wonderland

Ivy Winters might be the most underrated queen on *RuPaul’s Drag Race*. Though she didn’t make the top three of Season 5, girl kicked butt with her costume-making skills and circus-act background. *Xtra* chatted with her ahead of her Toronto debut.

How was your experience on the show?

From the moment I knew I was on the show, it was completely life-changing. Drag went from a hobby involving making costumes to a full-time job. Before I was doing minimal drag, I had two wigs to my name, and my costumes were so dated. The experience was the most stressful thing ever

but also the most enjoyable. I never thought drag could be a career, and now for me it is.

You steered clear of drama and subsequently won Miss Congeniality. Was that a conscious choice?

There was so much bickering and confrontation. I was constantly like, “Are you serious? You guys are fighting about a pageant that happened years ago?” Part of me feels sorry for those girls. I’m not above arguing, but there is a time and place. I felt like I couldn’t get a word in edgewise, and often, I didn’t care to listen.

How has your life changed?

Since the show, I barely have time to sew. I barely have time to watch a movie with my boyfriend. I love travelling. I used to be a flight attendant, but drag is a much better way to see the world.

Any advice for young queens?

Try and be different. Queens who are all the same are not special. Learn to play the violin or juggle.
— Mike Yerxa

#Hashtag: Welcome to the Circus is Fri, July 12, 10:30pm, at Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$15. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Hedonistic Headmaster

It was a lucky coincidence that Drasko Bogdanovic was headed to Serbia right as he received his first *Headmaster* assignment. While making plans to return to his homeland for the first time since 1996, the Toronto artist got an email from the editors of the biannual art-smut tome proposing an exclusive original photo series. The project (a series of diptychs featuring bodies in space and space without bodies) turned out to be the perfect accom-

paniment to Bogdanovic’s nighttime adventures during his 10-day stay.

“Lots of the guys I photographed were guys I had sex with,” he says. “It ended up being a document of my intoxicated, hedonistic sexual adventures. The cruising scene in Belgrade is very active. In comparison to Toronto, it has a lot more significance, because it’s much more dangerous and there’s a stronger charge because it’s so repressed.”

Bogdanovic’s series of 20 images captures that Belgrade mix of dark-edged, intense sexuality. The photos are available exclusively in the magazine’s fifth edition; gearing the work to a limited audience rather than tossing them up on the web is part of what makes them special.

“*Headmaster* isn’t made to be disposable. It’s a collector’s item,” Bogdanovic says. “There’s a certain beauty to the experience of waiting for it in the mail, unwrapping it and reading it with your coffee or whatever. You can have any kind of porn you want online. But having this beautifully crafted piece of art in your hands is a much more satisfying experience than just scrolling through pics on a blog.” —Chris Dupuis

The *Headmaster* launch party is Thurs, July 18, 10pm, at Buddies, 12 Alexander St. headmastermagazine.com, draskobogdanovic.ca



BELLE OF THE BALL

Drag/DJ sensation Kitty Glitter, the fun-loving pussycat from *Down Under*, will spin at this year’s Glitterball.

Who is your biggest drag inspiration?

RuPaul has always been my greatest inspiration. No other drag queen in the world has reached out and entertained the masses like she has.

How do you choose your outfits? Do you make them yourself?

I have never used a sewing machine in my life! I tell my dressmakers to go for gold and to keep it sexy and shiny.

What is it with queers and felines?

We’re all pussyboys at heart, I guess. Nice and cute to play with, but rub us the wrong way and we’ll scratch your freakin’ eyes out!

Any fashion advice for summer 2013?

Wear what makes you look and feel the sexiest! Superstyle yourself and your attitude will follow.

What’s the most fabulous thing about being queer?

As gay rights and equality become the norm around the world, we queer folk are being embraced for the loving and creative beings we are. We have come a long way since hiding in the closet for fear of homophobic assaults. Our work is not over, though. It’s up to each and every one of us to shine our light. I’m pretty popular in my hometown of Sydney, but it’s an amazing feeling when I DJ on international dancefloors where people have not experienced what I do... the joy I see makes every second amazing for me. Gay, straight, young and old — it seems everyone loves a bit of glitter!
— Matt Hays

Glitterball is Sat, July 20, 10pm, at Fly, 8 Gloucester St. \$10 advance. flynightclub.com



Deconstructing
the entertainment
of Mr Sloane

Psycho KILLER



ON STAGE SERAFIN LARIVIERE

The decision to take in a lodger is always a risky one, what with fluctuating hydro rates, cleaning deposits and collecting the rent in a timely manner. And, of course, there's always the risk that your tenant may end up impregnating you, sleeping with your brother and murdering your elderly father.

Such was the case in Joe Orton's seminal play *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, a pitch-black comedy detailing the lives of Kath, her brother Ed, their dad and the inscrutable lodger who changes all of their lives. Kath (played by the brilliant Fiona Reid) is a lonely spinster living adjacent to a dump with her sickly father, Kemp (Michael Simpson). Frustrated and bored, she thrills at Sloane's arrival one afternoon, especially because he is looking for a room to rent. Kemp is less enthusiastic and certain that he recognizes the young man (played by *Xtra* cover guy David Beazely) as the murderer of his former employer, but Kath brushes aside his concerns and opens her home (and her legs) to the new lodger.

Things become even more complicated when Kath's brother Ed (Stuart Hughes) arrives for his weekly visit. It's a perfunctory gesture, given Kemp's refusal to speak with his son, citing Ed's purported "felony in the bedroom" as cause for the snub. Clearly conflicted

by his sexuality, Ed nonetheless begins to unlace the suffocating bonds around his libido as he becomes infatuated with Sloane's mysterious appeal. The unlikely foursome continue in this vein for several months, until jealousy and an unexpected pregnancy lead to suspicion, confrontation and murder.

"Sloane is fascinating in that he's completely ambiguous and ambivalent, whether it's in his intentions or his sexuality," says Brendan Healy, the director of Soulpepper's upcoming production of the Orton classic. "This was written in 1964, so for me he represents the Baby Boom generation that was brought up on TV and pop culture. He's anachronistic; he's rock and roll. He's every parent's nightmare."

Healy has long been an Orton fan and wasn't about to pass up the chance to direct the play despite an already-heavy workload as artistic director of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

"It's just an amazing play, and of course Orton is a hero of mine," he says. "I love the outlaws of the art world, the people who stand outside of society and make commentary and challenge what they see as hypocritical. Orton, like Oscar Wilde, was able to be both inside and outside of the society of the day."

"My first experience of Orton was *Prick Up Your Ears*, the film of his biography. It's a scary story, and I was quite young, at an age where I was

figuring out my own sexuality. The image of gay masculinity that Orton projected was one that scared me and yet attracted me as well."

For the uninitiated, Orton's own story is every bit as chilling and complicated as the stories he crafted. Born to a gardener and a shoe factory worker, the future playwright endured life on a council estate and bouts of severe childhood asthma before landing a scholarship with London's renowned Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). There he met Kenneth Halliwell, aspiring novelist and heir to a modest stipend. They set up house together as creative partners and lovers, until their arrest in 1962 for defacing library book covers with naughty pictures (now on exhibit in a British museum).

Almost impossibly, the two received jail sentences of six months for their heinous crime, but it was this enforced separation that allowed Orton to come into his own as a writer with a razor-sharp wit and a loathing of social corruption and hypocrisy. His ensuing plays became counter-culture hits, even as the relationship with Halliwell began to unravel. In August of 1967, Halliwell murdered Orton in a fit of jealous rage, upon discovering the playwright's plan to leave him for a new lover. A grisly end fit for any of Orton's fictional works.

"It's weird to think about this show,

David Beazely is a very entertaining
Mr Sloane. DRASKO BOGDANOVIC



how he wrote it, and the grotesque nature with which he died," Beazely says. "In a way, it's reflected in the play, really."

The actor is fascinated by his character's amorphous nature and the process of unravelling Sloane's motivations and intentions with his hapless hosts.

"I think it would be really easy to play this character as a psycho who uses his body and his mind to win in any way possible, but I love his instinctual nature, his primal ability to survive at all costs.

"We talk quite a lot about whether he's a sociopath or not. You can figure out the behaviour that makes someone like that, but Mr Sloane is hard to pin down. He's like the taste of water; you don't know what it is, but it's definitely something, and it can be different for everybody who experiences him."

Born in Saskatoon, Beazely began his career at Calgary's Mount Royal theatre school, before relocating to Vancouver to study drama at Studio 58. His move to Toronto three years ago was less about work than a need for challenge and change.

"I love Vancouver," he says. "It's so beautiful, but I like the dirty grind of Toronto so much. It's so different from where I'm from. Saskatoon gives you

the flavour of a city, while still feeling a little small. But I feel like I grew up on the Prairies with a nice idea of space outside of myself, which helped me figure out how to have space inside as well."

Beazely still feels a connection to Canada's grain belt but admits life there can be a little challenging for someone of the LGBT persuasion. "Growing up as a gay guy there, well, you have to learn to roll with the punches," he says. "It was right before things started to turn, with gay-straight alliances and such.

"My parents were supportive, but it was very much a 'Well, okay, but don't talk about it too much' sort of thing. So I became sort of like a confirmed bachelor. A 17-year-old confirmed bachelor."

That same calm endurance has served Beazely well in the rough-and-tumble world of professional acting, but *Entertaining Mr Sloane* has given him a new perspective on being gay in a world that has begun tacitly to accept homosexuality — as long as it's kept muted and subdued.

"Orton poked at that 'Keep calm and carry on' attitude so well," Beazely says. "I think he was saying, 'No, don't keep calm! Get out there, go wild and give blowjobs!'" X

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Songs of summer

PLAYLIST KEVIN RITCHIE

It's that time of the year when we tirelessly search for fresh additions to our pool-party playlists. It's often hard to gather just the right mix of summer anthems and laid-back tracks. Good news: Playlist has compiled a list of 10 tunes to assist you in this endeavour. Of course, if you're not feeling these songs, anything from the 2009 *Brüno* soundtrack should do the trick.

Imagine It Was Us

JESSIE WARE

After having a banner 2012 with her acclaimed debut, *Devotion*, Jessie Ware entered the world of dance-pop with the underrated gem "Imagine It Was Us." The track, produced with frequent collaborator and UK funky-house master Julio Bashmore, debuted on the North American re-release of *Devotion*. Ware told me earlier this year, "I wanted something that was going to be quite fun to play at festivals and was a bit lively — and also just give a nod that I'm not abandoning the dancefloor totally."

Vocal

PET SHOP BOYS

The Pet Shop Boys will release their second album in less than a year later this summer. Last year's *Elysium*, recorded in Los Angeles, was the British pop duo's introspective, pool-lounging moment, but *Electric* heralds a return to bombastic London dance music. The second single, "Vocal," is particularly massive, with Neil Tennant paying homage to the simple joys of vocal dance music: "Anything I'd want to say out loud will be sung/ This is my kind of music."

Painful Like

AUSTRA

Toronto electro-pop group Austra upped their production prowess and overall sound quality with their Chicago-house-influenced

Olympia album, which came out last month. "Painful Like," the second single, furthers a long tradition of melancholy dance tunes by pairing uplifting and introspective lyrics about "the disillusionment of growing up gay in a small town" over a satisfyingly deep bass line.

Bad Skin

HUNX AND HIS PUNX

Bad skin, teen angst, social wimpery, trash, isolation, schizophrenia, peroxidized delusion, rat parties and vengeance are a few of the topics trash rockers Hunx and His Punx tackle on their upcoming *Street Punk* LP. The lead single checks the first item on the aforementioned list in a concentrated burst of snarling energy.

Oh Come On

THE JULIE RUIN

Bikini Kill and Le Tigre front-woman Kathleen Hanna is making a gradual return to the spotlight after taking an extended hiatus to deal with Lyme disease. During that time, she turned her bedroom project, The Julie Ruin, into a full band that includes Kathi Wilcox, of Bikini Kill, and Kenny Mellman, of Kiki and Herb. On the bouncy lo-fi jam "Oh Come On," the feminist punk rocker sounds as raw and animated as ever.

Body Party

CIARA

Ghost Town DJs' "My Boo" just won't quit. R&B diva Ciara is the latest top-40 artist to sample the 1990s bass anthem, transforming it into a sinewy slow jam with help from

producer Mike Will Made It. The song marks a return to form for the singer who seemed trapped in music-industry marketing hell during an admirable attempt at reviving '80s electro with singles like "Gimmie Dat" and "Sweat."

Without You My Life Would Be Boring

THE KNIFE

On *Shaking the Habitual*, Swedish pop innovators turned queer theory enthusiasts The Knife reinvented their sound by taking a detour into electro-acoustic improvisation. One of the album's more rollicking (and accessible) tracks is "Without You My Life Would Be Boring," a jerky percussive jam that whizzes and buzzes with whistles, overlapping tribal rhythms and shrieking vocals.

Defeated No More

DISCLOSURE

Upstart British dance duo Guy and Howard Lawrence have pulled off the difficult feat of composing a dance album that works from beginning to end. Their debut LP, *Settle*, is packed with immaculately produced house bangers like "Defeated No More," a floor-filler featuring Friendly Fires singer Ed Macfarlane that is typical of Disclosure's ability to meld British house music and pop.

Look Around You

BORIS DLUGOSCH,
FEATURING ROÍSÍN MURPHY

Ex-Moloko singer Roísín Murphy reunited with her "Sing It Back" and "Never Enough" collaborator Boris Dlugosch for this wistful, one-off single.

Dlugosch's thumping disco groove plus Murphy's sophisticated pop sensibility equals pool-party-playlist magic.

No Bueno

ANGEL HAZE

Although the unflinchingly irate refrain — "Bitches owe me!" — would suggest rapper Angel Haze is in no mood to be fucked with, the hilarious music video for "No Bueno" indicates otherwise. The

Frank Borin-directed clip features a pair of drag queens, a spiral-permed little person, a handful of geriatrics and a topless dominatrix, among many others, doing their best to keep up with Haze's rapid-fire flow. **X**

The Pet Shop Boys of summer.





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ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY

10x10 Photography Project

The annual celebration of queer heroes features work by 10 queer photographers. Runs until Sun, July 14. The Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W. Free. 10x10photographyproject.com

That's So Gay: Say It to My Face

This annual Pride art exhibit, featuring 15 artists, examines issues like transphobia, slavery and racism. Runs until Thurs, July 28. The Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W. Free. gladstonehotel.com

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

Writing from the Heart

Readings from a collection of stories from the 50-plus queer community. Thurs, July 18, 6pm. Toronto Public Library, Yorkville Branch, 22 Yorkville Ave. No cover.

HEALTH & ISSUES

The 519 Legal Clinic

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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, July 11, 7–10pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free, donations appreciated. legit.ca

Positive Routes to Recovery

A peer-led support group for gay men working on substance abuse issues. The first and third Tuesday of each month. Tues, July 16, 6–8pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. pr2r.org

Bisexual Men of Toronto

A peer-support and discussion group focused on community and solidarity. Tues, July 23, 8–9:30pm. Sherbourne Health Centre, 333 Sherbourne St. Free. torontobinet.org

LEISURE & PLEASURE

Ginger Nation Redux

Shawn Hitchins delivers one more ginger-themed show in Toronto before taking it to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Sat, July 13, 7pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. PWYC. pubaret.com

Board Games Night: It's a Mystery

This month's ToGG board-games night is mystery-focused and features the game Sleuth. Sat, July 13, 7pm. Glad Day Bookshop, 598 Yonge St. \$6. torontogaymers.ca

Beach Volleyball

GetOut! Canada invites skilled players and newbies to a night of volleyball. Staff wearing distinctive T-shirts will be found in the east public courts. Tues, July 16, 7pm. Ashbridges Bay. \$10. getoutcanada.com

Out and Out Club New Members Night

The queer social club introduces potential members to its broad range of activities. The third Tuesday of each month. Tues, July 16, 7–8pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. outandout.ca

Headmaster Magazine Launch Party

A celebration of the release of *Headmaster's* fifth issue, which features work by photographer Drasko Bogdanovic, with DJ The Robotic Kid. Thurs, July 18, 10pm. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. No cover. headmastermagazine.com

Comedy, Coffee Talk and Cabaret

Ryan G Hinds belts out some tunes and holds court with several local artists and musicians. Fri, July 19, 9pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. pubaret.com

Singular Sensation: A Musical Theatre Open Mic

Every Monday, Jennifer Walls invites amateur crooners to perform their favourite showtunes with a live band. Mon, July 22, 9:30pm–12:30am. Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover.

SEX

HypnotiXXX: A Slightly Naughty Comedy Hypnosis Show

Brandon the Hypnotist's new show takes audience volunteers on a risqué and slightly rude journey into the subconscious. Sun, July 21, 7pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. pubaret.com



Ginger Nation Redux
— The Flying Beaver,
Sat, July 13
JEN SQUIRES

South Asian Night: Kotha

Scantly clad guys enjoy cruising, a 50/50 draw, a safer-sex workshop and *tel-maalish* (head massage). The second Thursday of each month. Thurs, July 11, 8–11pm. Spa Excess, 105 Carlton St. Regular rates apply. spaexcess.com

The New Wave Night

A night for young and burgeoning male kinksters, with a raffle, prizes and demonstration on basic Japanese rope bondage. No dress code, but fetish wear is encouraged. Thurs, July 11, 10pm. The Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. blackeagletoronto.com

Sex Work and Self-Care

Participants gain the skills and knowledge to do sex work in a healthy and empowered way. All sex workers welcome. Pre-registration recommended. Tues, July 16, 7–10pm. Good for Her, 175 Harbord St. \$33. goodforher.com

Bigger, Better and Multiples: Orgasms for Women

A women-only workshop where attendees learn to make their orgasms longer, stronger, full-body, multiple, et cetera. Pre-registration recommended. Thurs, July 18, 7–10pm. Good for Her, 175 Harbord St. \$33. goodforher.com

G-Spots and Female Ejaculation for All

The G-spot does exist and everyone has the potential to ejaculate. This workshop teaches the anatomy and techniques for better orgasms. All genders welcome. Pre-registration recommended. Wed, July 24, 7–9:30pm. Good for Her, 175 Harbord St. \$33. goodforher.com

STAGE

Fringe Festival

The 25th annual Toronto Fringe features 35 venues and 148 shows, including the family-friendly FringeKids program. Runs until Sun, July 14, various times, venues and prices. fringetoronto.com

Feint of Heart

Henri Fabergé transforms his monthly cabaret into a two-part punk-rock opera about his fictional years in a naval academy. Runs Thurs, July 11–Sun, July 14, 7pm. Videofag, 187 Augusta Ave. \$10. videofag.com

Legend of Tiger

Written by Dario Fo and translated and adapted by Sadreddin Zahed, this one-man show is the story of an injured soldier left behind in the treacherous Himalayas. Sat, July 13, 8pm and Sun, July 14, 3pm and 7pm. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. \$25. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Angels in America

Seven people negotiate New York City during the AIDS crisis. This two-part play begins with *Millenium* and ends with *Perestroika*. Part 1 begins Fri, July 19, 7:30pm, and Part 2 begins Sat, July 20, 7:30; runs until Sat, Aug 17. Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 50 Tank House Lane. Prices and times vary. soulpepper.ca

Cats

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical returns with an all-Canadian cast. Runs until Sun, Sept 1, various showtimes. Panasonic Theatre, 651 Yonge St. \$59.95–109.95. mirvish.com

Avenue Q

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

CLUBS

Thurs, July 11

Random Play The DJs spin their favourite '70s and '80s beats, with DJ Dwayne Minard and guest. 10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. No cover. waylabar.com

The New Wave Returns Kink night for newbies and veterans, with raffle prizes and a demo on basic Japanese rope bondage (*shibari*). Leather and kink wear encouraged. 10pm. The Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. blackeagletoronto.com

Fri, July 12

Pride Run Afterparty and Volunteer Appreciation Showing gratitude for Pride heroes at 6pm; Full Frontal, with DJ Devon Sheffield, at 10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. No cover. waylabar.com

Glam! '90s Retro Dance and Game Show Revue DJ Kenny K spins '90s faves. Featuring Andrew Johnston, Heidi and Howdi Brander, Marilla Wex, Michael Yerxa, Lee-ann Galloway, Yoko Sanchez, Hailey Goguen. Proceeds to the Pat McFarlane Cancer Research Foundation. 9pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$10. club120.ca, brownpapertickets.com

Good Friday Heaven Lee Hytes, Farra N Hyte and Teran Black praise the loud at 9pm; DJ Shane Percy spins the hallelujah at 11pm. Church, 504 Church St. No cover. churchonchurch.com

Fly Pop DJ Sumation spins top 40 and dancefloor faves, with VJ Grace in the Pop Lounge. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. No cover. flynightclub.com

Her: #omg10 Edition DJs Kris Steeves, Donna Ho, omgblog.com and guests spin beats to make you forget 2003. 10:30pm. La Perla, 783 Queen St W. \$5. herherher.com

#Hashtag New monthly party launch, with Ivy Winters and Scarlett Bobo. DJ AVS on decks. The second Friday of every month. 10:30pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Cub Camp with Sparber DJ Scooter warms up for NYC's DJ Sparber, with Abeardedboy measuring for full-length fur. 11pm. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. \$7. beavertoronto.ca

Sat, July 13

Board Games Night: It's a Mystery The Toronto Gay Gamers' night features Sleuth. 7pm. Glad Day Bookshop, 598A Yonge St. \$6. torontogaymers.ca



Feint of Heart — Videofag, until Sun, July 14

CENE

Belle's Boudoir Live Burlesque

Boudoir sauciness Volume 5 and Belle's Bootie Bounce afterparty, with DJ Johnny B. 9pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$15 advance, \$20 door. pubaret.com

B. East Ball DJ Cory Activate spins top 40, house and tribal for the beach-themed party. 10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. \$5. waylabar.com

Wepa Batista Charo hosts this Latin party, with DJ daVinci spinning top 40, retro pop, salsa, meringue and bachata. 10pm. The Loft, 487 Church St, 2nd floor. No cover. statlers.ca

Mischief DJ Deko-ze spins house and tribal; hosted by Charles Pavia. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. flynightclub.com

Trade Hosted by the Hairy Pig, Sterling and Abardeboy in the dark room. DJs Scooter, The Robotic Kid and Dave Picard spin, with go-go sluts Simon and Gabriel. 10pm. The Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. blackeagletoronto.com

Bad Tuck

DJ Regina the Gentlelady on the decks for queer drag and dance music. Hosted by Judy Virago and Igby Lizzard, with a late-night show featuring Matthew Lindholm. 10:30pm. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. \$5, no cover in grandmother-clock drag. beavertoronto.ca

Absolut Sultry Saturday

DJ Cajmere spins house music all night long. 11pm. Byzantium, 499 Church St. No cover. byz.ca

Brooke Lynn Hytes EOY Fundraiser — Woody's, Mon, July 15 TONY FONG



Bad Tuck — The Beaver, Sat, July 13 ERIC WILLIAMS

Best Ass Contest Show off the bubble butt for \$300 in cash prizes, with drag performances and the DJ on decks. Midnight. Woody's, 465 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Sun, July 14

TICOT Patio Show Mr and Miss Trillium 2013/14 play hosts in the heart of the Village. 5–7pm. Garage, 477 Church St. No cover. ticot.org

Barnyard Brawl: Hens vs Hogs Pop-up restaurant featuring locally sourced farm cooking from the boys at The Hogtown Cure. 6–10pm. The Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. RSVP to henhouseto@gmail.com.

Best Ass Contest Carlotta Carlisle gets to the bottom of things, with \$200 in cash and prizes. 10pm. Flash, 463 Church St. No cover. flashonchurch.com

Mon, July 15

Singular Sensation Musical-theatre open-mic, hosted by Jennifer Walls, every Monday. 10pm. Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover. statlers.ca

Brooke Lynn Hytes EOY fundraiser Help send one of our city's fiercest queens to Louisville, Kentucky, for the Entertainer of the Year pageant. 10pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Tues, July 16

Varsity Tuesday Sofonda Cox has \$100 to give away at So You Think You Can Strip? 11pm. Remington's, 379 Yonge St. \$5, no cover with student ID before 11pm, \$2 after. remingtons.com

Wed, July 17

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

Unrock Bingo: Courtney Love Edition A monthly gathering of beer drinking, bingo playing and punkrocking. Hosted by Jenna Syde and Daddy-o. 8pm–midnight. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. All

proceeds go to local queer charities. henhousetoronto.com

Woody's Got Talent Miss Conception hosts a talent show, where the audience favourite wins \$100. Every Wednesday until Sept 18. 10pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. woodystoronto.com

Thurs, July 18

Ladyplus Party DJ Todd Klinck spins dance tracks for T-girls and friends, with spontaneous T-girl go-go shows and private VIP dances. 8pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$5 before 11pm, \$10 after. club120.ca

The Dirty Hustle DJ Blackcat spins old- and new-school hip hop and R&B at the west end's newest gay hangout. 10pm. The Steady Café, 1051 Bloor St W. No cover. thesteadycafe.com

The Smirnoff Best Men's Chest Contest Boys go shirtless for \$300 in cash prizes, with drag performances and the DJ on decks. Midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Fri, July 19

Toronto's Ultimate Mixed Sex Party Mandy Goodhandy and Todd Klinck host the socializing and dancing on the main floor, with spontaneous orgies and private sex booths on the second. DJs Jay&J on decks. No-touch-unless-invited rule strictly enforced. 8pm. Club120, 120 Church St. No cover with pass phrase "I read Xtra magazine." club120.ca

AX-A-Gogo Summer 2013 DJ Alex spins top 40, club anthems, K- and J-pop for gaysian boys and friends, with Sofonda Cox and the Ax Maximus dancers. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. \$10, \$5 before 11pm with flyer. meetmeatax.com

Le Kiff Kiff The Toastr girls' new party, with DJ Sticky Cuts on decks. 10pm. WAYLA, 996 Queen St E. \$5. waylabar.com

Bearcode DJs Cory Activate and Alain Plamondon spin for muscle bears, otters, jocks, daddies and boys every Friday. 10pm–3am.

Zipperz/Cellblock, 72 Carlton St. No cover. facebook.com/zipperz

DFMO DJs The Robotic Kid and Scooter spin for the dancefloor make-out session. 10:30pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$5. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Sat, July 20

Muskoka Pride Kickoff party, with potluck, bonfire and fireworks at dusk. Join for the evening or camp for the weekend. 6pm. HQ Muskoka, Iroquois Cranberry Growers Dr, Bala. No cover for evening, \$20 for weekend camp stays. muskokapride.com

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

Salvation Saturday DJ daVinci spins for the sexy sinners. 10pm. Church, 504 Church St. No cover. churchonchurch.com

Go Hard: Ultimate Beyoncé Video Party DJs Blackcat and Pleasure spin Beyoncé tracks, videos and remixes in preparation for the Mrs Carter concert, with performance by Tyra-Shadae Monroe. 10pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$10. club120.ca

Glitterball DJs Kitty Glitter (Sydney), Amalia Leandro (Miami) and Baby Joel (TO) make the night sparkle. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. \$10 advance. flynightclub.com

Fit: Customer Appreciation Edition Last month's Fit Primpin' party was a may-jah success. Fit DJs Kris Steeves and Phil V throw a free night of happy house to say thanks for supporting the party and to kick summer into high gear. 10:30pm. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. No cover. beavertoronto.ca

Tallulah's Cabaret DJ K-Tel spins top 40, dance, house and retro, with a midnight performance by Donnarama. 10:30pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$7. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Sun, July 21

Shit Show Sunday Industry night, with a different live band every week on the main stage at 9pm, and DJs



Her — La Perla, Fri, July 12 ADAM MOCO & MARK PARISELLI

spinning in the Loft at 11pm. Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover. statlers.ca

Amateur Strip Contest DJ Chris Steinbach spins every Sunday while the boys strip for a chance to win \$100. 11pm. Flash, 463 Church St. No cover. flashonchurch.com

Mon, July 22

Dirty Monday Devine Darlin and Nikki Chin take to the drag stage for a filthy performance. 11pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. No cover. crewsandtangos.com

Tues, July 23

T-Girl Strippers DJ Todd Klinck spins for the spontaneous T-girl pole shows and private VIP dances. 8pm. Club120, 120 Church St. No cover, \$10 for all-night VIP booth access. club120.ca

Sinema Movie night, featuring the best in queer cinema every Tuesday, with performances and popcorn from Judy Virago and Igby Lizzard. 9:30-ish. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover. henhousetoronto.com

Wed, July 24

Knaves Kitchen A biweekly pop-up restaurant featuring tapas-style cuisine, courtesy of Naco Gallery's Julian. 6–11pm. Henhouse, 532 Dundas St W. RSVP for dinner reservations to henhouseto@gmail.com.

Bowie Bar Wednesday Featuring Bowie and Bowie-flavoured tunes from DJs Avery, Doc Benway and guests. 10pm. Andy Poolhall, 489 College St. No cover. andypoolhall.com

Toronto Drag Kings Drag kings Tyler Uptight, Cameron, Kenny and Chase Manning perform. Every Wednesday. 11pm–2am. Zipperz/Cellblock, 72 Carlton St. No cover. facebook.com/zipperz

Submit your event listing listings@dailyxtra.com. Deadline for the July 25–Aug 7 issue is Wed, July 17.

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DEEP DISH

ROLYN CHAMBERS

Matinee Starship

SAT, JUNE 29 @ KOOL HAUS

“Fag! You’re it!” Outing homos? No, silly, we’re playing a game of tag at this year’s Prism Matinee Starship main event. It’s the perfect spot. Lots of room to run around in The Government, decorated only with eye-popping lighting effects, which shoot out and illuminate the half-naked crowd, turning them into *Tron* porn. Cutting through our playground is a large round stage that seems designed solely for the vanity of those who scramble up on it, eager to show off their pretty, plump packages and hump guys with brand-new gym bodies. But around 1am the platform empties and becomes centre stage for singer **Vanessa Klein**, who wows us with her vocals. Who is that? Adele? No, it’s Vanessa, who channels her voice so well we take a break from our game to marvel. Her energy continues as the main stage is overtaken by teams of dancers in hot red-and-black leather futuristic motorcycle gear, then huge white feathers, then skimpy silver shorts and glow-in-the-dark armbands, who surround DJs **Micky Friedmann**, **Phil Romano** and **Ivan Gomez**. And though I wasn’t feeling the Taylor Swift remix, I was appreciative of the Salt-n-Pepa throwback. As the night continues, our little game of tag becomes a frenzied game of gag. Is there really a lineup to get slutty on the stage?

1▶ The men of a Matinee main event 2▶ Chris, Walther & Emilie 3▶ Colton, Chase, Dez & Changu

Starry Night

THURS, JUNE 27 @ THE 519

“Ready or not, here I come!” Premature ejaculation? No, silly, we’re playing a game of hide-and-seek at this year’s Starry Night Pride kickoff party in Cawthra Park. It’s the perfect spot. Lots of trees, bushes, monuments and people to hide behind. And when we thought we had found someone, it turns out to be someone else, as many who turn up to raise money for the 519 Community Centre are sporting wigs for the Love Is in the Hair theme, in honour of guest DJ **Lady Bunny**, who spins a lot of top 40 for a drag queen in her 50s. Also making appearances on the stage are **Tynomi Banks**, fully rocking a blonde Beyoncé/Mariah wig, and **Sofonda**, whose wig is so big it’s actually a stuffed lion head. “I never miss this party,” says TV personality **Traci Melchor**. “Warm weather, hot guys, drinks. Perfect.” And even though things don’t start off perfectly, what with her drag luggage being lost in transit, *RuPaul’s Drag Race* winner **Jinx Monsoon** makes the most of her much-anticipated appearance, singing two songs live. I’ve never actually seen the show (yes, you can confiscate my gay card), but her singing voice impresses and her animated speaking voice amuses. Hide-and-seek turns into drink-and-leak. Is that really the lineup for the Porta-Potty?

4▶ Traci Melchor & some other people 5▶ Nick & Charles 6▶ Perky & Slanty 7▶ Stephan & David 8▶ James & Xica



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XPOSED

ANNA
POURNIKOVA
PHOTOS BY
BECCA LEMIRE

1 Miss Margot, the hot door queen at Big Primpin', was in full form at Fit Primpin', on both floors of The Great Hall on the Friday of Pride. Seriously, have you ever seen anyone nail blow-up doll so thoroughly?

2 If you've ever heard the New Orleans sound of Big Freedia, you know it's completely infectious. This event at the Drake on the Thursday leading into Pride was hands-down the best of Queer West that night. Big Freedia herself is so accessible. She's always on the floor enjoying the DJs before her set and deals with adoring fans and media photographers like an old pro. Plus, she can really make that booty bounce!

3 Jen and Kerry have been together for ages. I've known Kerry for even longer than that, and all I have to say is that these two look so good on each other. Kerry has really blossomed into her true beautiful self since she's been

with Jen. It's so lovely to see ladies loving ladies and celebrating that at Pride. And on a booty-bounce dance-floor, no less!

4 Lailani and Sun Sun are so fucking on-point hot it hurts my face to look at them! "Black Weirdo" — OMG, she didn't go and put that on a shirt? And yet she wears it so well, so cool. Sun Sun, on the other hand, has this hot Snoop Dogg-meets-Coolio thing going on with her hair, and the two of them together are total perfection. This is the picture I want to represent our community. This is how I want the world to see Queer West.

5 On the same night, Pinky's Nails did an event at the Gladstone. If you don't know about Pinky's, you need to recognize. Lizzie is the brains behind the shop that will do everything from studded grommets to Dawn of the Dead to Star Wars tributes on your nails. In the middle is Justin (my personal nail god), and if you look, he's got his best set on for the evening. On the end is Allison, a woman whose taste in nail art is out of this world.



6 The crowd at the Pinky's event was so diverse — it was like every diva in the city was there. Every stripe. In this picture, Jesse, Cassandra, Brendan and Anthony give great face. And Cassandra's nails are off the chain, girl!

7 The Trans March is probably the most authentic, urban celebration during Pride Week. Not to take the thunder from any of the other events, but it's the only one where a truly diverse crowd comes out: breeders, queers, lezzies, fags, trans folk and anyone in between. Donnarama does a great job of making those chains work for the money, honey.



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LEANDRO_KIBISZ

Beyond Buenos Aires

Exploring the Tigre Delta and Mar del Plata

MICHAEL LUONGO

Watery refuge

Imagine the islands and waterways of Venice before they became a developed city. That's the feel of Argentina's Tigre Delta, a wild river and island system less than an hour from Buenos Aires. One of the world's largest inland deltas, it is a place of remote tranquility. The name Tigre comes from the Spanish word for tiger, reflecting the jaguars that once roamed here. The delta is formed by the confluence of five rivers that flow through the grassy, sediment-rich Pampas, depositing their silt as they meet with the Río de la Plata north of the Argentine capital.

The area has a long agricultural history, reflected in its Puerto de Frutos, or fruit market, now largely a handicrafts market. In the late 1800s, British magnates who developed the railroads built summer mansions, many mock-Tudor in style, with grounds full of weeping willows, giving a sense of London's Hampstead transplanted into the Pampas. Modern vacation homes are often built on stilts and each has a small dock. There are no cars on the islands, and even kids go to school by boat.

The town of Tigre itself is on the mainland, its main feature the belle époque Museo de Arte Tigre, a former casino, and is accessible by a 45-minute train trip from Buenos Aires's Retiro Station. From the town, various boats,

or *lanchas*, depart for the surrounding islands — the more remote, the more peaceful. Many visitors come for the day to the waterside restaurants or to relax, swimming in the silty water or going for nature walks and horseback riding.

The remoteness of the Tigre Delta, and yet its proximity to Buenos Aires, means it played an important role in the development of Argentina's gay rights movement. Gay groups could meet in privacy on the islands, especially during dictatorships, without fear of government attack. A small gay presence developed, though never to the extent of American resort towns Fire Island or Provincetown. Much of this history is detailed in gay journalist Osvaldo Bazán's important book *Historia de la*



Homosexualidad en la Argentina. Many older Argentines may also recall the 1950s movie that gay icon Tita Merello made here, called *Los Isleros*, about a struggling farm family.

Argentine native Carlos Melia, a luxury travel agent who manages the gay-travel-oriented Carlos Melia Blog, says, "El Tigre is a quick and relaxing getaway from the city of Buenos Aires, where you will be able to experience a completely different side of Argentina in direct contact with nature."

Melia's favourite hotel stay in Tigre is "without a doubt La Becasina Delta Lodge," a luxury complex with bungalows and a swimming pool in a wild, overgrown wooded setting. Luxury accommodations have begun to sprout

in the region, including Delta Eco Spa and Rumbo 90. The exclusively gay resort Favela is a small guesthouse with a day rate for visitors who come for the barbecue or to sunbathe waterside with a mix of tourists and locals.

Daytrippers from Buenos Aires might want to take the Sturla Viajes boat, which sails from Puerto Madero early in the morning and returns to the city in the evening. It is a beautiful way to enjoy the watery side of this South American metropolis.

Argentina's beach resort

Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, has long been a gay vacation spot. In 2003, it became especially popular



LUIS ARGERICH



MICHAEL LUONGO



CHRISTIAN HAUGEN

Clockwise from far left: Mar del Plata beaches; the Museo de Arte in Tigre; Tigre's Puerto de Frutos ("fruit port") is now a craft market; Club de Regatas in Tigre's La Marina district; the canals of Tigre.

theatre and other entertainment, along with DJs who travel the beach-scene circuit. The city is not as chic as Uruguay's Punta del Este, where Argentina's jet set head. Instead, you'll find largely middle- and working-class Argentines vacationing here, many spending every summer weekend in second homes that have been held by their families for generations.

Don't expect the Caribbean or even Rio de Janeiro — the Atlantic is, relatively speaking, on the cold side at this latitude, but the beach is definitely the city's social focus. The long waterfront promenade is called La Rambla. Its heart is a plaza fronted by stone sea lions (real ones can sometimes be found on the beach) and the city's casino complex, which also houses an NH Hotel, an iconic structure designed by Argentine architect José María Bustillo in the 1940s. You'll often find street entertainers and buskers thrilling the crowds on La Rambla. Further from the heart of the city, the beaches are lined by rocky bluffs.

It should come as no surprise that this city by the beach has a thriving year-round gay scene, one that really heats up with the temperature.

Marcos Duszczak lives with his partner, Rodolfo Moro, in Mar del Plata. Together, they produced the documentary *Familias por Igual*, or *Families Alike*, about queer families in Argentina.

Duszczak says, "The gay life in Mar del Plata is very rich. It has two gay beaches,



L H DAVID

one near downtown, called Playa Chica, and the other one, Playa Escondida, in the outside of the city"; the latter serves as the city's nude beach. He adds that for vacationers wanting to meet locals, "during the day and night, one of the best ways to meet people is to walk around the shore. The city is really gay-friendly, and usually you see gay people in the diverse variety of pubs and bars, in Alem Street, or in the clubs, like Sobremonte in Avenida Constitución. But for those who prefer a strictly gay place, you can choose between the three gay clubs of the city: Extasis Disco is the oldest club

in the city; Pin Up Club recently opened in a new location; and Clip Club is a great place with great DJs."

Duszczak adds that day and night, Mar del Plata has something to offer. A trip to the city will teach you how the Argentines vacation, all in a gay-friendly way. ■

 The province of Misiones, a 90-minute flight from Buenos Aires, is home to Iguazu Falls, 17th-century missions and Argentina's legendary gauchos. Learn more about it at dailyxtratravel.com.

On the web

Argentina tourism
argentina.travel

Tigre Delta tourism
laisladelta.com.ar
puntodelta.com.ar

Mar del Plata tourism
mardelplata.gov.ar
gaymardelplata.com.ar

when same-sex civil unions were legalized and even more so with the 2010 passing of the country's same-sex marriage act. But while you're planning your Argentine getaway, have you ever wondered where Argentines plan theirs? The answer for many is Mar del Plata, a resort on the Atlantic coast that's a four- to five-hour trip southeast of the capital in Buenos Aires Province.

Mar del Plata is a large city on its own, with nearly 750,000 year-round residents. This swells to millions in the South American summertime, which is the reverse of North America's. You'll find it's happening from November to March and busiest in December and January. Much of Buenos Aires's cultural scene moves here for the season, with summer stock



LALOGGIA.CA

Exquisite gardens, clothing optional

Montreal bed and breakfasts offer a wide variety for weekend getaways

MATTHEW HAYS

As people plan their trips to Montreal for a hot weekend of naughtiness, they should keep lodging alternatives in mind. Stereotypes do tend to be accurate for gay tourists: we love fancy, high-end hotels. But there are some stunning, very inviting bed and breakfasts in the city run by incredibly attentive hosts, offering perfect — and oftentimes far less expensive — home bases while visiting the city. And unlike a large hotel chain, these smaller establishments are often gay-owned, so you're putting money back into the local queer community.

The Alexandre Logan was fully renovated in 2002 by its owner, Alain Pigeon. The refurbishing was so exquisite that it earned the B&B a certificate of merit from the National Geographic Society. "I wanted to return the building to its historic splendour," Pigeon says. "I wanted it to be pretty much as it was when it was first built in 1870." Not only

is it a stunning building; it features all the amenities and sits in the heart of the Village. (1631 Alexandre de Sève St; alexandrelogan.com)

La Conciergerie also feels historic, and with 19 rooms it feels more like a small European hotel than a B&B. In the spring and summer the proprietors maintain a lush garden. The breakfast room, encased in glass, provides a lovely view. There's also a private roof deck, whirlpool and a gym. "It's not mandatory to be gay to stay here," co-owner and manager Luc says, "but that is mainly who we serve." (1019 St Hubert St; laconciergerie.ca)

Just up the street is NuZone, a bit different in mandate, in that this is a B&B that caters to men only. It's also clothing optional, so you can pack light — always a bonus. There are only four guest rooms, but there's a common room, an open kitchen, a sauna and an exercise room. (1729 St Hubert St; nuzone.ca)

Also in the heart of the Village is

Maison des Jardins, owned and run by Luc and Robert. As the name implies, these guys love their garden, and it is spectacular. There's also an outdoor jacuzzi (even in winter months) and a trained and licensed on-site massage therapist, so you can book a treatment while booking your room. This establishment is men-only and smoke-free. (1365 Logan St; maison-desjardins.ca)

On a smaller scale is Ruta Bagage, but this intimate B&B has intense charm going for it. The lovely rooftop patio is a perfect place to relax between big-city ventures. With plenty of attention to detail in its decoration, Ruta Bagage is also adorned with fine works of art. The spacious rooms are bathed in natural light thanks to huge windows. (1345 Ste-Rose St; rutabagage.com)

BBV Bed and Breakfast du Village is another highly recommended choice, with a great selection of rooms, all completely refurbished in 2011. Location is also primo: it's a two-minute walk from



ALEXANDRELOGAN.COM



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Clockwise from top left: La Loggia's garden is an urban oasis; the quaint dining room at Alexandre Logan; one of Ruta Bagage's romantic guest rooms.

Beaudry Metro, the epicentre of the Village. (1279 Montcalm St; bbv.qc.ca)

L'Escogriffe B&B features basic rooms, shared bathrooms and a delightful and accommodating host. There's also a balcony and a beautiful terrace for lounging. Men only. And note: this B&B has a charming dog and three cats, so it's probably not a place for those with allergies. (1264 Wolfe St; lescogriffe.com)

La Loggia is located on Amherst, a strip of antique and retro high-end junk shops that is a mandatory stopover for

anyone visiting the city. This B&B is run by art enthusiasts, so the entire house is filled with fascinating works. They also offer art workshops for those interested in honing their skills. (1637 Amherst St; laloggia.ca)

For more information on gay tourism in Montreal, visit tourisme-montreal.org.

For information on more than 180 places of interest in Montreal, visit dailyxtratravel.com.

Facelift for Black & Blue

Circuit party will be refocused toward gay jet setters

Bad Boy Club Montréal (BBCM) is revamping Black & Blue by moving the festival to the cutting-edge Arsenal space, in Montreal's historic Griffintown neighbourhood, for the circuit party's 23rd edition this October.

Some 5,000 people danced the night away on three dancefloors in Montreal's Palais des Congrès last year. Attendance at the all-night party peaked in 1999 when 17,000 people packed B&B's dancefloor in the outfield of Olympic Stadium.

"We are excited to begin a new era of events with the selection of Arsenal as a major innovative space," says Robert Vezina, Black & Blue's president and co-founder. "[It's] a great way for BBCM to increase the success of the foundation and the generated proceeds in order to help community groups."

BBCM has announced two major partnerships: with the Priape group, as a principal title sponsor, and New York's Saint at Large.

"Our new partnerships with Priape and The Saint will help us reach our goals," Vezina says, noting that the event will be re-gearred toward gay jet setters from all over the world, with a focus on the United States.

Vezina says the Arsenal venue was chosen to bring "freshness" to the main Black & Blue event. During the mid-19th century, this industrial space served as a shipyard, where commercial seagoing vessels were constructed and serviced.

While the building's interior and exterior architectural features have been preserved, the 41,000-square-foot venue is now home to art galleries, an artist studio, a multimedia room and two enormous halls that can be subdivided and transformed to fit any type and size of event. Black & Blue organizers want to capture a cool "warehouse" feel and plan to convert the space into a big underground club for thousands of people.

After drawing 800 revellers to their



Black & Blue Festival.
LOUIS-MARTIN LEBLANC

first party in 1991 — raising \$3,500 for AIDS Community Care Montreal — Black & Blue has become one of the most successful all-night dance parties on the planet. Over the past two decades, Vezina says, Black & Blue has generated more than \$320 million in local economic spinoffs and has donated \$1.8 million to various AIDS and queer organizations.

This year's edition will take place Oct 9 to 15, during the Canadian Thanksgiving and American Columbus Day weekends. —Richard Burnett

For more information, visit bbcm.org.

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— Tanya Churchmich,
Tourisme Montreal

Info: piknicelectronik.com

From favourite events to hidden gems off the beaten path, My Montreal gets the inside scoop from locals about what not to miss when visiting the city. We kick off this series of six with Tanya Churchmich, who handles the queer travel portfolio for Tourisme Montreal.



Piknic Électronik features local and international DJs tag-teaming on the two stages, each offering a unique atmosphere in a distinct park setting that feels like it's out of the city. MIGUEL LEGAULT

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Checking in with Chris: Week 15

BODY WERQ
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With summer in full swing, Chris is adding some sporty spice to his life and his Evolution Fitness program.

"I've been cycling or walking to work most days, which gives me an extra cardio boost," he says. "I'm also staying busy with Triggerfish water polo and Downtown Soccer Toronto. Some days, if I'm feeling fancy, I'll go do a few laps at the Regent Park Aquatic Centre."

Meeting with his trainer, Stephanie, once a week does him good, but the extra physical activities and healthy eating are also having an impact.

"I haven't really been using my stove at all this summer; it is all barbecue all the time," he says. "The fat drips away, and I can cook a ton of vegetables at the same time. Stephanie pointed out that my yogurt had a ton of sugar in it, so I'm switching to Greek yogurt to make my diet a bit cleaner."

Chris is transforming into a lean, mean, well-rounded fitness machine. And his summer wardrobe is getting cuter. "It's all about shorts, flip-flops and Converse," he says. "I just want light, breathable and cute clothes to keep cool in. At work, I tell people I'm dressing like a flower."

To read about the home stretch of Chris's Evolution Fitness training, pick up the next issue of Xtra. For more information about Evolution Fitness and its team of experts, visit personaltrainerstoronto.com.



Chris getting his Triggerfish on.

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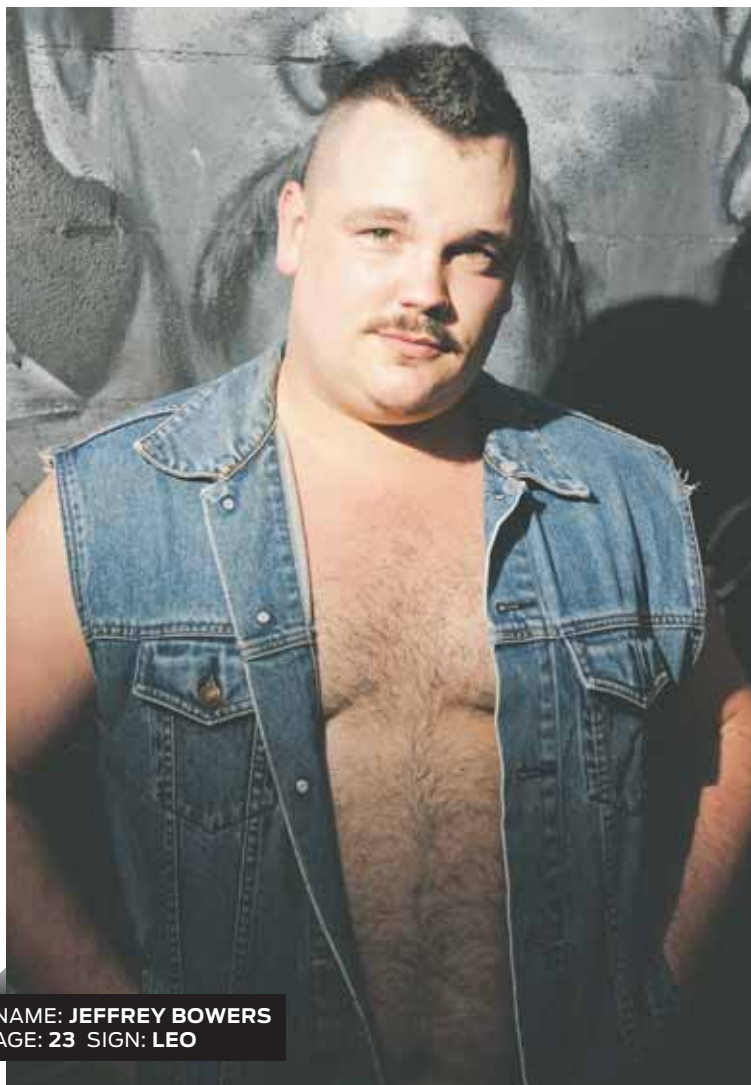
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AGE: 23 SIGN: LEO

Jeffrey, a nighthawk who loves dancing until the sun comes up, moved to Toronto from Kitchener-Waterloo to pursue a degree in musical theatre. He likes hanging out on Queen West, or wherever the bears are, prefers wearing briefs or jocks, and loves "anything denim." His favourite holiday is Pride, "a week of fun parties where it seems you run into everyone you know. I have never been disappointed after Pride!"

Instagram: jeffrejbowers | Twitter: jeffreystevenb

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* **T**he Evanov Radio Group is looking for an ambitious and motivated Account Manager, to sell commercial air time on 103.9 Proud FM, Z103.5, Jewel 88.5 FM, and CIAO, as well as promotions, sponsorships and other specialized sales activities.

→ Some sales experience and/or a completed radio program.

⇒ Proficient in Microsoft applications, specifically Excel, Word and PowerPoint.

→ Above average communication skills.

→ Excellent time management skills with the ability to prioritize and work independently.

⇒ An adaptable team player.

Reporting to the Sales Manager, primary duties are developing and selling strategic customer focused advertising plans to increase their revenues. Work involves the coordination of the activities of others. It is essential to be able to establish effective relationships with co-workers, clients and key stakeholders.

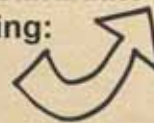
→ A Valid Drivers license and an automobile are absolutely required.

PROUD FM is the world's first and ONLY commercially licensed radio station catering to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. PROUD FM is an equal opportunity employer.

If this sounds interesting, we want to hear from you! Please send your resumes to jobs@evanovradio.com. We thank you for your interest, but only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

No phone calls please.

We are looking for a candidate
with the following:



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Newmarket 905.939.5092

Other cities: 1.877.882.2010

1.900.561.8888 (75 min/\$25)

Text "CRUISE" to 96669 (10 min/\$5)

PURCHASE TIME ANONYMOUSLY: Priape & Xtra



www.cruiseline.ca

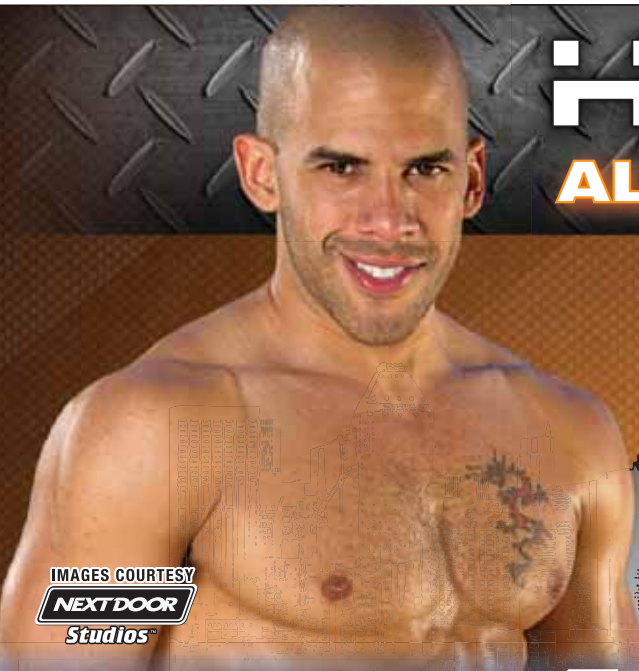
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oshawa 905.448.2011

other cities 1.877.628.9696

1.900.451.1441 \$25/150min

Text "HARD" to 96669 \$5/10min or dial #HUGE (#4843) with Bell, calls cost 79 ¢/min plus airtime.

A black and white photograph of two men standing outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a dark denim jacket and is looking towards the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored sweater and has sunglasses hanging from his neck; he is looking back at the first man. They are standing next to a dark-colored car. In the background, there is a large window with a grid pattern and a view of a landscape under a cloudy sky.

Exploring: never stop

Single Tablet Regimens (one pill, once a day) are a step forward in HIV treatment.

Explore more at exploreHIV.ca

While they're not a cure, these treatment options are designed to be effective and convenient. If you've been exploring different HIV treatments, talk to your doctor about **Single Tablet Regimens** too. It's good to know what is out there.