

PFLAG TORONTO

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

April 2011 Newsletter

toronto.office@pflag.ca

PFLAG TORONTO VISION

PFLAG Toronto is a charitable organization that speaks for a more accepting Canadian society by providing support, education and resources to all people who wish to grow in their understanding of sexual and gender diversity.

Through our PFLAG Toronto Chapter, we actively assist in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.

Next Chapter Meeting

Wednesday
May 4, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Kimbourne Park United Church
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2

2011 Bowling Fundraiser

The PFLAG Toronto Bowling party
Is almost here.

Saturday May 14, 2011
at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at BOWLERAMA WEST
5429 Dundas St. W.

On **Facebook** search
PFLAG Toronto bowling



Bowling 2009

A message from your President

April 2011

April 1st was April Fools' Day and I missed that we no longer have young kids at home playing pranks and trying to catch us looking silly or gullible.

That thought returned a few times during the month the closer we approached Election Day, May 2nd, and we listened to politicians, some of whom think we are just that – silly and gullible.

I grew up in a home where my mother did not divulge which candidate received her vote. For a woman who gave everything to the family, this she kept to herself.

She also took me to various pre-election meetings to hear candidates speak, and this is something I still try to do now. Listen to candidates I mean – it's no secret who will get my vote, the sign is on our lawn.

Two weeks ago I was speaking with Grade 12 students and we discussed our Charter of Rights, specifically The Road to Equality leading to same sex marriage legislation; however, along the way we noted some dates:

- 1900 Women, minorities and Aboriginals excluded from voting federally;
- 1918 All Caucasian women gain the right to vote federally;
- 1960 All Aboriginal Canadians gain federal voting rights;

It sets me thinking of how it must have been for those groups of people waiting for their right to vote in the 20th century; to be recognized; for equality. And how some people are still waiting.

How precious are our votes; our voices. I hope all of you will be as well-informed as possible, and use your vote to let your voice be heard on May 2nd.



April was another busy month with a PFLAG presence in three high schools, and in Support meetings in both Toronto and Peel Region.

I can never say often enough how impressed I am with the youth I meet during these events. They give me hope that change is happening. That their voices will be heard.

Until they are old enough to cast the votes themselves, it's up to us.

Irene Miller



Raising the Rainbow Flag at city hall 2010

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday
May 18, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Kimbourne Park United Church
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2

PFLAG Toronto wants to offer a heartfelt 'Thank You' to the wonderful people who have recently made a donation to PFLAG Toronto. Your donations are allowing us to continue offering our 24/7 Telephone Support Line, our Monthly Support Meetings and our ongoing outreach and community support.

As a fully volunteer run organization, your donations make a direct impact in the lives of those who need our help.

If you would like to help, you can make a donation through the secure servers at CanadaHelps.org (charitable donation receipts are issued automatically), and if you wish you can specify that your donation remain anonymous, or you can choose to honour someone or a special occasion. Or you may send a cheque to PFLAG Toronto, 200 Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4C 1S2. (charitable donation receipts will be issued for amounts of \$20 or more)

DONATE

NOW <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s70090>

Charitable Registration BN: 891493348RR0001

pictured:

Ken Jeffers of TDSB with
Panel members



Educational Forum hosted by Queer Ontario

Students' Fight for a GSA at St. Joe's Catholic School

On Wednesday, April 13th - coincidentally The Day of Pink - an Educational Forum hosted by Queer Ontario was held at Jarvis Collegiate to discuss Publicly Funded High Schools; the Ontario Curriculum Guidelines; the Province's Policy regarding GSAs and the struggle yet another group of students has encountered in trying to form a GSA in their school. Irene Miller attended for PFLAG.

Prior to the Panel speaking Casey Oraa of Queer Ontario welcomed five St. Joe's students to address those present. Speaking from the heart, each student shared some of their feelings, thoughts and hopes. There were two well-deserved standing ovations for these students.

The Panel consisted of Lyba Spring, from Toronto Public Health; Pam Dogra of the Elementary Teachers LGBTQI Committee; Noa Mendelsohn Aviv, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association; El-Farouk Khaki, Salaam; j. Wallace of LGBTQ Parenting Network; and Rosario Marchese, MPP, Education Critic, NDP.

The Panel members used every one of their allotted seven minutes to address issues clearly and succinctly including: - an outdated curriculum and lack of inclusive sexuality programmes; the pressure applied to the Government which resulted in new curriculum guidelines being pulled within 24 hours last fall; and legalities regarding students' Rights and Freedoms (1) Freedom of Association, (2) Freedom of Expression, (3) Right to Equality. They discussed inequities in the system and opportunities to address inequities.

Invited to, but missing from, the Panel were Leona Dombrowski, MPP, Minister of Education; Elizabeth Witmer, MPP Education Critic PC; a representative of Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario; a representative of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association; and Sister Joan Cronin, Executive Director Institute for Catholic Education.

Subsequent to this meeting the students continue in their endeavours to establish a GSA in their school. The speeches given by the students are on the Facebook St. Joe's Group page should you wish to read them.



Proudly Presents our 5th Annual

Bowlathon

Saturday, May 14, 2011

From 1-3 pm

Bowlerama West, 5429 Dundas St. West

TEN – pin bowling at its finest

Food, refreshments, lanes and shoes are all provided.

Please join us as a bowler, team captain, sponsor or donor.

Bowlers are asked to try and raise \$50.00 to \$100.00 in pledges either individually
(or \$100.00 - \$500.00 per team).

Join us for the day of fun!

For Details Contact PFLAG Toronto

<mailto:jimcallaghan@primus.ca>

[www.pflagt, oronto.org](http://www.pflagt.oronto.org)

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
Tuesday, May 17th, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.
Toronto City Hall – Nathan Phillip Square

Please join PFLAG Toronto on May 17th, to raise the Pride Flag and Awareness for the LGBTQ Community, and inspire change by supporting and being part of this important event.

- We will meet at the south side of Nathan Phillip Square at 12:15 p.m.
- The Rainbow Flag will be raised above us on the Podium Roof courtesy flag pole.
- Speeches and the Flag Raising will begin at 12:30 p.m. and will last until 1:00 p.m.

Please consider attending, and inviting your friends and colleagues to come with you to this lunch-time event in support and awareness of International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.



International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
2010

PFLAG Toronto board members have been active during the month of April

- **Zelda's** - Pam and Bev supported the Gay and Lesbian Archives who were the beneficiaries during April.
- **Norman Bethune High School** - Michael and Irene spoke at two assemblies for students in grades 9 through 12, assisted by Gary
- **Education Forum** – attended this Panel event re: St. Joe's students and GSAs in Ontario schools
- **Leaside High School** – Irene spoke with Grade 12 students on Diverse Families in Society
- **Victoria Park High School** – manned a booth during their Pink Triangle Awareness Week
- **Support Meeting in Toronto** – regular monthly meeting
- **Support Meeting in Peel** – helping to re-establish the Peel Chapter
- **E-newsletter** – Jim distributed another issue full of news and pictures.



Flower tea cozy



Elephant tea cozy

Pam's Knitting For Sale (Net proceeds to PFLAG Toronto)

Cost:	Rainbow tiger and teddy	\$20 (each)
	Flower tea cozy	\$30
	Elephant tea cozy	\$25

Mailing costs are not included in these prices.

If you are interested in making a purchase send an email to Pam at pamreefairy@hotmail.com



Rainbow tiger and teddy



THANK YOU



Pogue Mahone will host the annual PFLAG Toronto brunch the morning of the Pride Parade 2011, July 3.

Put this on your calendar. It will be a lot of fun.

Starbucks Coffee Company at 3250 Yonge Street, provides coffee for the Monthly Support Meetings - helping us to offer a warm welcome to all who come for support.

