

PFLAG TORONTO

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

January 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.



Lena, Gloria and Bev at Zelda's

2011 Bowling Fundraiser

Mark this date on your calendar for the PFLAG Toronto Bowling party.

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

at BOWLERAMA WEST
5429 Dundas St. W.

Next Chapter Meeting

Wednesday
February 2, 2011
7:30 p.m.

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

A message from your President

In a perfect world, there would be no need for PFLAG at all, and the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays could take up a variety of hobbies to fill our spare time.

But not yet. According to a January 24th article in the Toronto Star newspaper, there have been recent incidences of homophobic slurs and even slushies being thrown at residents of the Gay Village.

Toronto's Gay Village is a place that people outside of Toronto hear about, talk about, and dream of visiting one day; so that they too can stroll hand in hand with their partner on a busy sidewalk; enjoy a meal or a drink in a bar where they feel they don't stand out; and just relax and 'be'.

Since our son came out about 10 years ago the Village is where our family has celebrated many birthdays and special occasions – because every one of us feels comfortable there. I want that to continue for my family and for yours.

And it will. With work.

In recent weeks you may have heard us on the Mike Chalut Show on Proud FM 103.9 FM; or at the LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce Holiday Event; or at Zelda's during Monday Night Bingo Sessions; or perhaps you read an article about us in OutLooks Magazine; or saw us on foQus with Deb Pearce on Rogers TV. Everyone I encountered during these interviews and events, gladdened my heart and reminded me of why I am a PFLAG Toronto volunteer - we are living our lives out and proud alongside you and we will continue to do so until we reach that state of being in a perfect world.

Our volunteers continue to answer the telephone support line, and our next monthly Support meeting is on Wednesday, February 2nd. If you know of someone who needs our help, please pass on our contact information to them.

To gladden your heart, read Ernie's story about attending the 10th Anniversary Renewal of Vows Ceremony at MCC.

Irene Miller

Celebrating 10 years of gay marriage in Canada – Toronto’s Metropolitan Community Church

Ten years after officiating at the first gay marriage in Canada, Rev. Brent Hawkes presided at a Renewal of Vows Ceremony on Friday, January 15th, 2011 at MCCT, Metropolitan Community Church. Both history-making couples – Anne and Elaine Vautour and Joe Varnell and Kevin Bourassa - stood in front of Rev. Hawkes and a congregation of almost 400 people to renew their vows and celebrate their tenth anniversary.

Among those attending was PFLAG Toronto Board member Ernie Lacasse who married his spouse Ric Reed at MCCT and memories came flooding back to him during this happy event. To quote Ernie, “Almost 400 people were packed into the church and the mood was definitely one of celebration.”

Ernie said that during the reciting of the vows he witnessed many couples in the congregation, both young and old, heterosexual and homosexual quietly repeating their own vows right there in the pews, whilst the gay and lesbian couples at the front proudly renewed their marital vows. This was very moving for Ernie and doubtless many of the others present that night.

The service was taped and can be found online if anyone wants to share the warm feelings that were celebrated on that special occasion.

Records show that today there are more than 7,500 married same-sex couples in Canada.

Message from the Secretary:

We are planning to have an exciting year ahead of us, and volunteer support will be absolutely key to our success. If you would like to help with upcoming events, please email: toronto.office@pflag.ca with your contact information. We look forward to working with you

Bev

Make a donation. Inspire hope.

We need your donation now to help our team ensure we can keep the critical phone lines and Support meetings in place through the New Year. If you have donated recently, thank you.

As a fully volunteer run organization, your donation makes a direct impact in the lives of those who need support and respectfully we would ask you to consider a min. donation of \$25.00.

Please help by making a donation through the secure servers at [CanadaHelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) (charitable donation receipts are issued automatically) or send a cheque to PFLAG Toronto, 200 Waverleigh 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>

On behalf of the PFLAG Toronto team, *thank you!*

Charitable Registration BN: 891493348RR001



Jim and Anne



Anne and Irene

Anne Morrie-Dadson joins the PFLAG Toronto board

During the summer of 2006, when I learned that my sixteen-year-old son was gay, my world changed in an instant. There had been no apparent signs and I struggled with feelings of shock, disbelief, panic and confusion. I felt completely disoriented and experienced a strong sense of loss. Thankfully, I searched the internet for help and found PFLAG. When I called the support line, a friendly, understanding woman named Joan spoke to me at length, allayed my fears and suggested that I attend a sharing meeting. I took Joan's advice and met a group of wonderful, supportive people who helped me to get my life back to a normal equilibrium. I will never forget the words of Irene Miller who said that our children are bravely living their lives "out," so we, as parents, should be out and proud with them. It was an exhilarating experience for my husband and me to march in the Pride Parade for the first time in 2009, and a proud moment when our son pushed his way through the crowd at the side of the road and shouted to his friends, "That's my mom and dad, marching with PFLAG!"

After a thirty year career with Canada Revenue Agency as a Team Leader in the Public Information section, an Auditor and an Appeals Officer, I retired in 2005. I have been a strong advocate for my older son who has a number of exceptionalities. In this regard, I was a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee with the York Catholic District School Board representing Autism Society Ontario.

It is an honour and a privilege to be a member of the Board of Directors of PFLAG Toronto, an organization that has been an enormous help to me and my family. I will do my utmost to assist PFLAG Toronto in continuing to provide its invaluable service to the public.

Anne Morris-Dadson



PFLAG Toronto meets students at CUQSC 2011 - Canadian University Queer Services Conference

PFLAG Toronto Board members Mike Ain, Bev Belanger, Ernie Lacasse and Irene Miller set up a booth at University College, University of Toronto on Saturday afternoon, January 29th as part of the World Cafe.

This provided an opportunity to meet and share information with the delegates at the CUQS conference, and indeed amongst those we spoke with today were some wonderful young people from Victoria, B.C., Edmonton, Alberta, Montreal, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, and many more from various Ontario universities including Lakehead, Western, and our own Ryerson and U of T.

In this picture the four PFLAG volunteers are flanked by Andrew from RyePride, Ryerson University and Justin from LGBT OUT, University of Toronto.



Rainbow Scarf



Rainbow Scarf

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

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Cost: | Teddy with rainbow scarf | \$10 |
| | Rainbow mittens | \$10 |
| | Rainbow scarf | \$40 |

Mailing costs are not included in these prices.

If you are interested in purchasing a rainbow scarf, mittens or teddy send an email to Pam at pamtreefair@hotmai.com



Teddy Bears with Rainbow Scarves



Scarves and mitts

THANK YOU!



330 Yonge St.
½ block north of Dundas Square

15% Off
Large Heart Cake

VALENTINE'S SPECIALS

- ♥ heart cakes ♥ mini heart cakes ♥
- ♥ chocolate dipped strawberries ♥



Taste The Love!

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Chocolate Dipped Strawberries 6 for | \$6.00 |
| Mini Heart Cakes | \$9.95 |
| Large Heart Cakes | \$34.95 |

Present this page of the PFLAG Toronto newsletter at **Marble Slab Creamery at 330 Yonge Street** and receive **15% off of a Large Heart Cake.**

Offer expires February 15, 2011

Valid at the 330 Yonge Street location only!

FUN for the whole PFLAG Family!!



Zelda's
TORONTO

RESTAURANT BAR

 **692 Yonge St. 416.922.2526 www.zeldas.ca**