



# Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau Inc.

**Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau Inc.**

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## Logo and Theme



This year, our logo is a symbolic representation of the coming together of the past, present, and future of the Ottawa-Gatineau gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community as embodied in the Pride celebrations. A dynamic image that rotates, constantly on the move like Ottawa-Gatineau's GLBT community, always changing, evolving, but cognizant of where it came from, and where it wants to go.

This year's theme "**Pride Is Forever**" "**La fierté est éternelle!**" expresses the community's demands to refocus the celebration back onto the community and provide a festival where everyone can party, relax, and express who and what we are as a group alongside our supporters in the political and business communities.

In this, the year of "007", our theme encapsulates the fun and sophistication of the by-gone era of James Bond films and Shirley Bassey ballads. The imagery used in our website and promotional material will draw from the stylistic cues of this vintage. Our annual New Year's Eve fundraising dinner dance entitled "Shaken and Stirred" was held in the spirit of Bond.

On a more profound level, "Pride is Forever" makes a bold statement that the rights and status gained by the GLBT community over decades of struggle will never be surrendered. We join in our annual celebration of our community, knowing that our unity is our strength. We proudly look forward to gaining even more rights and eliminating remaining institutional discrimination (such as in the area of transgender rights). Finally, we acknowledge the profound struggles of our GLBT brothers and sisters in other parts of the world and pledge to join their fight to eliminate oppression and prejudice. We hope that one day our fight for justice will end but our Pride is Forever!



## Proclamation

The following request for an official proclamation of the event is forwarded to all mayors in the Ottawa-Gatineau area.

### LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE AUGUST 17-26, 2007

**WHEREAS** diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity represents a positive contribution to society, and is therefore a matter for pride and celebration; and

**WHEREAS** citizens of the National Capital Region will be celebrating Pride from August 19-28, 2005; and

**WHEREAS** all members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community are entitled and encouraged to be represented in Pride celebrations; and

**WHEREAS** everyone who supports these principles is entitled and encouraged to help organize and to participate in Pride celebrations;

**THEREFORE**, we the undersigned do join in the proclamation of August 17-26, 2007 as the LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE FESTIVAL in the National Capital Region, and we encourage everyone to recognize the contributions of these citizens.

# Kids Can



**Kids Can** is a fun and safe way for children to enjoy Pride celebrations.

Part of the picnic grounds at the Festival Plaza (next to the City of Ottawa City Hall) have been set aside as a safe space for the young. They will have access to a myriad of arts and crafts and entertainment. Any parent or caregiver is free to register his or her child. Please feel free to bring your children to the parade and picnic knowing that **Kids Can** will be in operation from 2:00pm to 8:00pm.

**Kids Can** sign-in is for 2-hour periods. You are welcome to renew throughout the day or just when you need a break. There will be security and staff (cleared through the Ottawa Police) to help you and your children relax and enjoy the Pride celebrations. Help make this a fun day for all our family members by including the young members of yours.

If you are interested in being a volunteer for Pride, please consider signing up for **Kids Can**. For further information feel free to contact the following individual.

Wendy Ireland

Volunteer Coordinator: [wireland@prideottawa.com](mailto:wireland@prideottawa.com)

Or call the Pride office at 613-421-5387



## Community and Business Involvement

One of the goals of the Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau Inc. is to encourage all segments of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community to celebrate their sexual orientation and gender identity through Pride celebrations and other events throughout the year.

Over the past years the Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau Inc. has participated in many functions working with diverse groups in the community in pursuit of this objective. In 2005 we joined forces with Ten Oaks in a very successful New Years Eve party. Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG) Ottawa sponsored the children's play area (Kids Can) in 2006 and a pancake breakfast was hosted on the Supreme Court grounds in 2005.

In concert with the Great North American Wolf Society (GNAWS) and as in both 2005 and 2006, the Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau Inc. will be presenting a pansexual Leather Fest on August 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.

More and more events are being confirmed every week. We welcome all requests for a collaborative effort in making this year's celebration something to remember for every community group.

The Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau Inc. has developed mutually beneficial working relationships with enterprises such as the LookOut Bar, the Buzz Bar Restaurant, Heaven and other bars and restaurants serving our community.

Pride is committed to further our Committee's mandate to develop community visibility and to encourage understanding between ALL groups be they business or social in nature.

# Sponsors and Supporters



The Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau Inc. wishes to acknowledge the support of:



Pat Croteau  
*Digital Imaging & Web Services*



2007 sponsor list correct as of June 2007.



## Capital Pride Parade 2007

**Hello! From the Pride Committee of Ottawa-Gatineau Inc.**

Summer is approaching and we're gearing up for another great Pride Festival for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community. Everyone, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation is invited to join us in Pride!

Approximately 50,000 people will attend the various activities planned between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. In particular, the Pride Parade, August 26<sup>th</sup> and the Rainbow 8 dance party.

The Pride Committee Ottawa-Gatineau Inc. is proud to announce that we will again be taking the parade past Parliament Hill. This march past the Hill focuses on the rights of all individuals in Canada to live, to marry and be recognised, equally and fairly by all levels of government.

The Capital Pride Parade will commence at the Garden of the Provinces, proceed past Canada's Supreme Court, Parliament Hill and end at City Hall's Festival Plaza where you will find the following: an information fair, displaying community resources and a fine opportunity to network; a live stage show; a beer garden; a VIP Lounge; and indoor coffee house and vendors with products from across the continent. Every child will find something to do at Kids Can (the children's activity area). By providing an entertaining and safe place to be, Kids Can is our way of welcoming families to the Capital Pride festivities.

During the Pride parade we encourage participants to proudly carry their flags, banners and placards to let everybody know where they come from and who they are (provincial, state, city, group). If you or your group would like to participate please refer to our web site at [www.prideottawa.com](http://www.prideottawa.com) or call us at 613- 421-5387.

In pride...

Joanne Law                    [jlaw@prideottawa.com](mailto:jlaw@prideottawa.com)                    819-770-2178  
Vice Chair

Meg Gourlay  
Parade Coordinator    [parade@prideottawa.com](mailto:parade@prideottawa.com)                    613-421-5387



# History of Pride in Canada

## 1967

December 1967 - Justice Minister and later Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau declared, "The state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation" and proposed changes to the Canadian Criminal Code to make it happen.

## 1969

Tuesday August 26, 1969 - Ottawa took the first step out of the bedrooms of the nation. Amendments to the Canadian Criminal Code come into effect, legalizing sexual acts between two consenting adults, in private, 21 years of age or older. Neither sexual acts nor homosexuality per se was "legalized", rather, "gross indecency" and "buggery" were decriminalized in certain circumstances. Both charges remained on the books and continued to be used against acts considered insufficiently "private" (a term that has never been defined), involving more than two persons, or including anyone under 21.

## 1971

Saturday August 21, 1971 - In Ottawa, "We demand," a brief prepared by Toronto Gay Action and sponsored by Canadian gay groups, is presented to the federal government. It calls for law reform and changes to public policy as it relates to homosexuals.

Saturday, August 28, 1971 - Ottawa - March to mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of decriminalization of homosexual acts.

## 1972

Saturday August 19, 1972 - Toronto - The first Gay Pride Week is organized by Toronto Gay Action.

## 1973

Friday August 17-Sunday, August 26, 1973 - 33 years ago - Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa - Gay Pride Week becomes a national celebration. Political theme: sexual orientation in provincial human rights codes.

Saturday August 25, 1973 - Toronto, Vancouver - In Toronto and Vancouver simultaneous demonstrations for gay rights are held as part of Gay Pride Week.

## 1981

Tuesday August 25, 1981 - Ottawa - In Ottawa, the McDonald Commission on RCMP wrongdoings releases its report after four years of hearings and research. It reveals that the Security Service has a long-established programme for collecting information on homosexuals.

## 1986

Saturday June 14, 1986 - 20 years ago - Contemporary re-birth of Ottawa Pride Festivities.

# History of Pride in Ottawa-Gatineau



The first 'gay' pride celebration in our area was organized in 1986 by Gays of Ottawa (GO). In 1989 the pride celebration became a week of activities: dances, exhibits, films, sporting events, and receptions. These activities were generally organized under the auspices of GO. 300 people attended the first parade and picnic and the mayor of the City of Ottawa, Jim Durrell, proclaimed Equality Day.

In 1995 the executive was elected at a general meeting. In the context of this restructuring, the committee wrote out a bylaw and formed a corporation in May 1997. In 1996, the Parade and Picnic drew just over 5,000 participants.

Ten years later our attendance has quadrupled. Beginning in 1997 and 1998 respectively, Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien issued a proclamation supporting the festival. In 2000, despite the pouring rain, over 8,000 people gathered along Bank Street as the parade took a longer route from Lansdowne Park to Parliament Hill. 2002's Pride exceeded all expectations - 55,000 attendees. Pride 2002 was one of the most successful 1-day events in Ottawa, save Canada Day. Even though 2002's festival left the organization in a difficult financial position, and in spite of the resignation of the entire Board of Directors only eight weeks prior to 2003's festival, the community numbers were still there for the 2003 Festival on Bank Street. In hopes of recouping some of the lost dollars in 2004 many more ticketed events were added. This proved to be against what the community expected and low numbers added to the deficit, despite the efforts of a Board of Directors whose own numbers had dwindled to four. That fall at the AGM, an interim 90 day Board was struck to wade through the complicated disorder of the previous 3 years and develop a manageable plan to continue a successful Pride Festival.

The 2005 Pride Festival saw many changes, including date and location as the newly elected Board of 10 members did everything possible to cut expenses and still produce a professional Festival. The community responded in droves as during the Pride week's festivities, over 30,000 people came out proving one thing - Pride is a force that cannot be brought down. Street parties are not Pride - they are merely functions we use to make our Pride visible. Pride 2005 rose to even bigger heights. Everyone from activists, community members, community organizations, community businesses, and community supporters, along with local and federal governments pulled together. Pride comes from the depths of our collective souls and represents far more than any one individual could describe.

In 2006, still under huge financial debt from the losses of 2001-2004, the Committee received a loan from a local community business after being denied emergency funding at the City level. This enabled the Committee to do two things; one - to rename the Festival 'Capital Pride' in recognition of Ottawa's importance in the GLBT movement and two - to produce a festival with gated entrance and begin the climb out of financial hardships. The minimal \$5.00 entrance fee was received glowing reports from attendees who realized the need for full community support of such large-sized festival.



## Schedule of Events

**HIGHLIGHTS ... more to come!**

**Make no mistake! This is Capital Pride's 21<sup>st</sup> year and we are ready to celebrate ten days of festivities!**

**Friday, August 17**

### **Flag Raisings!**

Commemorate the opening of Capital Pride 2007 by joining us for the Flag Raisings. The first flag raises at **City Hall** (Laurier at Elgin) at 11a.m., the second flag raises at the **Central Police Station** (Isabella and Elgin) at 1 p.m. and the 3rd annual raising of the rainbow flag at **Gatineau's City Hall** takes place at 3p.m.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Elgin Street Pub Crawl!** What better way to end a busy week than to meet at the south end of Elgin Street and work your way up through selected pubs to the North end with 50 or so like-minded friends?

**Saturday, August 18**

The temperature rises today, with a double treat:

Lansdowne Park's Super Ex welcomes all for **GLBTQ Community Day** with an afternoon women's stage, special admission and ride prices, wandering magicians and much more. Our local Drag Queens will be there to welcome everyone!

**The Annual Capital Pride Boat Cruise** - Let everyone in on this one, Everyone!!! Reserve before August 10 for just \$25.00. You don't want to miss this!

Cool off at the end of your hectic day by taking in an outdoor film as **Centretown Movies Presents: Movie Night**. Free admission; bring your own chair, snacks and sodas. Settle in for the evening and enjoy.

**Pride Week's Events** (all to be confirmed - only those donating proceeds to Pride are listed as official Capital Pride Events)

Monday, August 20 - Sage Movie Night

Tuesday, August 21 - Leather Fest International Movie Night, Frontrunners Social Night

Wednesday, August 22 - Men's Underwear Fashion Show at the Lookout, PFLAG Open House, Capital Pride Sponsors Meet and Greet

Thursday, August 23 - Leather Fest International Movie Night, Breathless Club event

Friday, August 26 - Public Service event at ARC Hotel, Pride Fundraiser at Lookout, Leather Fest International Movie Night, Breathless Club event



## **Saturday, August 25**

**Annual Dyke March** – join the women of our community as they take over Elgin Street and end with a Ball game and a BBQ.

## **Rainbow Party 8 with Australian DJ Jesse James**

The year's biggest GLBTTQ dance party! This year we offer graduated ticket prices starting at \$15.00 – all ages!

## **Sunday, August 26**

Something for everyone at one of the Unitarian, St. John's Anglican or St. Joseph's Catholic Church services.

Buzz Restaurant's annual Pride Day Brunch – partial proceeds to Pride.

Or.... sleep in a little then come out to the  
**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Pride Parade**

beginning at 1 p.m. Join with us as we march in front of the three levels of government and celebrate the past 21 years of our movement and the all the years to come!

## **Pride Day Show 3-11 p.m.**

With MC comedian Trevor Boris in the house, everyone will be laughing! The Pride Day Stage offers  
up the renowned Dragon Ritual Drummers, Australian DJ Jesse James, the Herb Girls, singer/songwriter Amanda Jahnke and much more.

## **Pride Info Fair 3-7 p.m.**

Vendors from across the country will have their wares to sell, while community organizations and businesses present information kiosks. This is the largest assembly of GLBTTQ community and artisans in the area.