

OUT
about

O & A NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 4

Winter 1999

An Information Quarterly for the Gay/Lesbian /Bisexual/Transgender Community in Thunder Bay



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Welcome to 1999 and the first anniversary of O & A NEWS. The newsletter was developed last year to keep members informed and up-to-date with events and happenings within the community.

Today's O & A NEWS has made some advances since the first edition, but mostly remains the same. The newsletter brings you opinions from the community and informs our members on up-coming activities.

Our community today is changing. More and more people are receiving an education through the internet and television, and this is allowing society to become more knowledgeable and accepting of the diversities of others. And with all the exposure of the issue of sexual identity there are still many people needing help coming to terms with their sexuality.

Out & About is here to assist those who wish to become integrated in the gay and lesbian community in a safe environment without too much fanfare. Where else in our community is such a broad based exercise taking place?

How do people connect?

Where can they go without feeling threatened? And who is reporting on the changes our community is facing?

To assist in connecting people with people, O & A has developed a web-page (see article on pg.2) and a resource directory. The organization also maintains a phone-line and sends out e-mail event information to members and non-members alike. There are sixty-five members currently signed up with many interesting events organized for them and for you over the next few months.

Out and About is made up of individuals who care about the community. They commit their time and efforts to make our community a better place to live. Take a moment sometime to ask a volunteer what it takes to make a community a better place to live. I am sure that you will find without their time and effort the community would not have so much diversity.

If you have some extra time come out and meet some new friends, bring along your partner or come to watch. There is a place for everyone.

The Launch of Out & About's Web Site

Over the past four months O & A has been active in developing a web-site for the organization. During the construction of the web-site many aspects of O & A were incorporated to represent the organization.

Using the O & A Bulletins and Brochure a comprehensive web-site was developed by some hard working volunteers.

The reason why a web-site was developed was simple, it's another way to communicate. Throughout the last two years there have been many e-mail requests for information regarding the organization. These questions have been addressed by providing a written response,

now a web-page address can be sent to answer most of the questions. Of interest, many requests have come from Southern Ontario, Winnipeg and the American Mid-West. A year ago O&A registered with gaycanada.com which has created some excellent exposure for the organization. The most important usage for the site will be it's availability to members to check on event listings and educate new members on O& A's activities in the community.

The site includes many resources with a Home Page, Event Calendar, Membership Information and Community Lesbian & Gay Organizations. If you are just

joining O & A there is information about the Goals, Charter and activities to date.

We hope as time goes on to build on the needs expressed by the community. We also hope to include other links to similar organizations that may assist the membership.

Thanks to David & Brian for their generous support in developing the web-site.

Special thanks to Norlink Communication & Consulting for providing space on their server.

If you wish to view the web-site then go to www.norlink.net/oa. Please e-mail your comments to oa@norlink.net.

Out & About News welcomes the talents of our community for inclusion into the newsletter.

We are looking for written word and artistic contributions of a non-political nature.

Material must first be approved by our steering committee.

Send your contributions to P.O. Box 27112, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5Y7

Jen Metcalfe rambles @ out & about...

So anywho, the christmas season just offered many blessings anew thanks to the purchase of our (first) new (to us) home

... first and fore-most, the respective families fully accepted our lack of deep winter road trip plans and sent their love via canada post and bell canada.

The more interesting blessing was our opportunity to be the stomping grounds for an east-meets-west of sorts; the theme of this ramble...(?)

... love never fades; humans being are lovely; and our community knows no boundaries.

Vaiki and I, from the first serious thoughts of being homeowners to the hostessing craze we have never lacked interest in,

have felt the arms of our community around us.

Rock solid advice and sensible ears were endlessly available throughout the mountain of process and order we climbed in home-purchasing. Our home rapidly became that familiar river, paddled through and camped around by friends, loved ones and others connected; goals and inspirations motivated by the flow.

Surrounded by our nesting, we have also been blessed with new venues of observation: New Year's day granted us a visit to the property of two women who have been together (rounding on) twenty years - truly an inspiration to our own

meagre five-ish years; sweet, dear friends of ours just assumed ownership of their own home and property out in the Kamzone, and others accomplished a mid-January move with the community umph and motivation of a couple of pick-up trucks, scarfs, mittens and winter-muscles...

Thought summary:

our peoples (crooked or ruler-drawn :) !) are good, good stuff...

Value each other, and celebrate life regularly.

Take good care & and see you at a coming event,

jen -the-fur metcalfe (& by proxy, vaiki tau!!).

Recent O & A Events

Over the past four months O & A has provided some interesting events for its members.

On Labour Day, twelve members of O & A travelled south to participate in the Annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Festival in Duluth/ Superior.

There were many interesting events including:

-a drag show featuring over thirty entrants

-a parade with marching band

-a boat cruise with over 350 people aboard.

A local park was turned into entertainment venue for the day with over 40 performers and 35 information booths.

The weather over the whole weekend was fantastic and everyone had a great time.

The event was not just for fun, but to attract our American friends north to visit our community. We did have some results with five visitors who

travelled up to our city after the long weekend. This was achieved by a small investment made with volunteer spirit and by O & A resources.

Tourism Thunder Bay provided us with tote bags and city brochures.

Next year we hope to feature some different attractions to keep our southern visitors interested in visiting our city.

In mid October there was a fall hike to Silver Falls (a local attraction) followed up with a bbq at one member's residence.

Thanks to him for his hospitality. The following weekend two members, Brian and David,

hosted a pot-luck supper at their house with excellent results.

Lots of people attended and the conversation was brisk. A couple of new members were pleased to have the opportunity to meet other people with similar interests.

A few days later the Annual

Hallowe'en Social was held. Glenn Yetman did the decoration with the assistance of five other volunteers.

Glenn and crew did an excellent job creating a most inviting atmosphere. Three people went home with some great prizes.

First place went to "Maid Marion" second place, "The Count" and third went to "Medusa and Rat Boy". Thanks to all our sponsors for the prizes.

Special thanks to the 14 volunteers who provided their time to make the event happen and for carving out the pumpkins, serving the drinks and cleaning up the hall.

To conclude this quarters' events a volunteer party was held. Twenty volunteers attended the party which was held at Jen & Vaiki's new house.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their support and energy to organize events for the community.

Volunteering at O & A by Jenn Slane

Volunteers are good reasons for a good turnout. There were those volunteers who gave us an hour or so of their time at our most recent events, and we would like to extend a warm heartfelt thanks to them. We do appreciate the help from people in our community.

I always enjoy going out and hangin' with so many people as sure as everyone else does too.

It is hard to keep the game running smooth by yourself, so when someone volunteers their time it is so welcome.

We had a gathering for our volunteers not so long ago and it turned out great. You know, in my observation, when the committee first came around and had events happening almost every event was packed with smiling faces and ener-

getic spirit. It is a wish to see this kind of enthusiasm continue and see more people hop onto the volunteer bandwagon. We can certainly use your time. If you have suggestions or comments in regards to volunteering at our events please call me at 345-5811. Thanks again.

Jenn Swayne

Volunteer Coordinator.

Have "you" joined Out & About as a member yet?

There are benefits to becoming one such as:

- discounts at events & more...
- receive a quarterly newsletter

Simply clip out the provided form below and mail it to us with a cheque or money order. Allow two weeks for delivery of your new membership card*.

A one year membership card* is only \$15 (no tax).

You can also buy your membership -at any of our events

-calling our phonenumber @ 623-3141.

-email oa@norlink.net

Please pass this form along to you friend you may think might like to join if you are a member already.

* good until June 1, 1999.

Out & About Membership Renewal Form for 98/99

Membership for a one year period is only \$15.00
Payment can be made by cheque/money order by mail

Memberships can also be purchased at our functions

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone # and/or email: _____

Would you like be mailed our quarterly newsletter? yes ☐ no ☐

Mail to: P.O. Box # 27112, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5Y7

Our Charter:

We do not discriminate based on colour, gender, sexual orientation, age, language, ethnic origin, physical or mental abilities, religious or political views. We are an organization providing an opportunity to meet other people of similar interests and orientations. *We do not consider ourselves to be a politically motivated group.*

Membership has its privileges but to create a membership we need your assistance. Money is needed to maintain:

- a phone line
 - message service
 - postage, printing and envelopes for the newsletter
 - to help finance the occasional social.
- Support the organization by buying a membership for \$15. You will receive a newsletter and discounts to many events. As well there will be endless opportunities to get out and enjoy yourself. The organization also maintains a confidential phone list to keep you informed of what's going on.

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of the newsletter call the phonenumber at 623-3141, leave a message.

The Steering Committee is presently comprised of individuals who volunteer their time to improve and assist the development of a cohesive gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gender community in Thunder Bay.

The club is looking to build the committee to include 12 members representing a balance of different parts of the community. If you wish to volunteer in assisting the development of this private, non-profit organization please let us know.

Advertising Rates:

Do you want space to place an advertisement in future newsletters?

The rates are:

Business card - \$15 / Issue
1/4 page - \$30 / Issue
1/2 page - \$60 / Issue
Full page - \$90 / Issue

Out & About Memberships are available for \$15 and are good for the current 98/99 year.

Membership gives you discounts at events and much more!

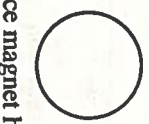
You can obtain your membership by purchasing one at an Out & About functions or call our phone line.

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Events Calendar Winter 1999

Bowling

Wednesday January 20th., 9pm at Playtime Lanes 250 Red River Road.
Out & About has received a discount for all participants. \$5 per head.
O & A Membership not necessary. Food and Bar also available from the attached restaurant.
Come out for some fun, exercise and meet new people. Bring a friend, tell a friend.

Movie Night

Saturday, January 30th., 8pm, Jen & Vaiki's Place, 134 Front Street. BYOB and pillow
and come out and watch a couple of movies. Full surround sound. Free!
Check Phone-line for movie titles. (623-3141)

Night Hike

Friday, February 12th, 1999, 7pm. NorWest Outdoor Centre.
Gather at 7pm at NorWest Outdoor Centre on Mountain Road. Snow-shoe under torch light, hike
up short incline to view city lights. Come down to hot chocolate and camp fire. \$3 Member,
\$5 Non-members.
To Get to NorWest OUTdoor Centre..... Take James Street South. Go over Kam River,
turn Right at T Junction onto Hwy 61 'B' South. Travel a mile, turn left onto Mountain Road.
Go up hill, down other side and as you round long right-hand corner look on your left for NorWest
Outdoor Centre Sign, 1114 Mountain Road (475-3786. if Lost)

Ski Day

Saturday, February 20th, 1998, Loch Lomond Ski Hill, Come ski or learn to ski. Group Rate
(For O & A Members) full day \$25 or \$27 non-member plus \$16 if you wish to rent skis. There is an
inclusive package for beginners at \$34.95 for an hour long lesson, plus skis and pass.

Coffee House

Thursday, March 4, 1999, Backstreet Bar.
Come out and celebrate International Women's Week.
Featuring the musical talents of local performers " Outside the Lines". Free entry for O & A Members.
50/50 draw.

Winter Tubing

Friday, March 12, 1999, 7-10pm Loch Lomond Ski Hill, Come out and do some winter tubing down
Loch Lomond. Check phone line for additional details. \$10 per-person.

Film Night

Thursday, March 11(tentative), Paramount Theatre, Showtime 7pm,
Presented by North of Superior Film Association.
"Gods & Monsters".

A film based on the book "Father of Frankenstein" by Christopher Bram, about the final days of the life
of James Whale, a gay Hollywood director who created "Frankenstein" and other classics.
Starring Ian Mackellen and Brendan Fraser.
\$8 at the door. Check phone line.

AIDS Committee of Thunder Bay- Healthy Sex Cabaret

Friday, March 19, 1998 Doors open at 7pm, Performance 8pm. Prince Arthur Hotel.
O & A members will be contacted in regards to group ticket purchase. For further details on the event
contact ACT-B at 345-1516.

Tentative Activities

If you have an event idea please let us know. and we will inform you about new events.

remember to check the phone line (807) 623-3141 or you can email us oa@norlink.net for future events

Have "you" joined

There are benefits

Simply clip out the
money order . Allc
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You can also buy :

Please pass this fc
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* good until June 1, 1999.

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* good until June 1, 1999.

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THUNDER BAY RESOURCES (Area code 807)

Out and About : Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and friends organization providing community related activities
Phone line: 623-3141 email: oa@norlink.net mail P.O. Box 27112, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5Y7

Northern Pride: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth Support Group Meets every second Tuesday. Contact: David 345-1516 or Barbara 622-6121.

Lesbain, Gay & Bi (LGB) Centre of Lakehead University - Pride Central 343-8813 Meetings and drop-ins.
Gender Issues Centre, Lakehead University 343-8879 Issues relating to gender.

Northern Women's Centre 345-7802 184 Camelot St. Women's issues, including lesbian issues.

Northern Women's Bookstore 344-7979 55 S. Court St.

AIDS Committee of Thunder Bay (ACTB)

345-1516 217 S. Algoma St. (Algoma and Cornwall) Education and support, HIV/AIDS and sexual orientation issues, condoms, counselling and referrals.

Back Street Dance Klub Bar, dj on the weekend, snacks, pool tables 24 S. Cumberland St. 344-5737 Wednesday-Sunday
Parents and Friends Group Joyce 344-8834 Beth 345-2845 Support for parents, families and friends.

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship 344-5980

129 S. Algoma Street Welcoming Congregation invites lesbian, gay, bisexual members.

Anonymous HIV Testing 625-5981 Anonymous counselling and HIV testing at various sites.

Thunder Bay District Health Unit 625-5900

999 Balmoral Street Offers STD clinic, HIV testing, education on sexual health. Also Village Clinic in Victoriaville Mall 622-7585.

The Exchange - Needle Exchange Program 624-0005 Various sites and outreach.

Family Services Thunder Bay 626-1880

544 Winnipeg Ave. Counselling and referrals.

TB Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse Counselling and Crisis Centre 345-0894 Crisis Line 344-4502

ABOUT, OUT & ABOUT

Our Goal:

The Out & About Organization within Thunder Bay was born of a small group of people identifying a need and desire to enhance the cohesiveness of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gender community. The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life in our community through effective communication, in a healthy, non-threatening environment by organizing various indoor and outdoor activities.

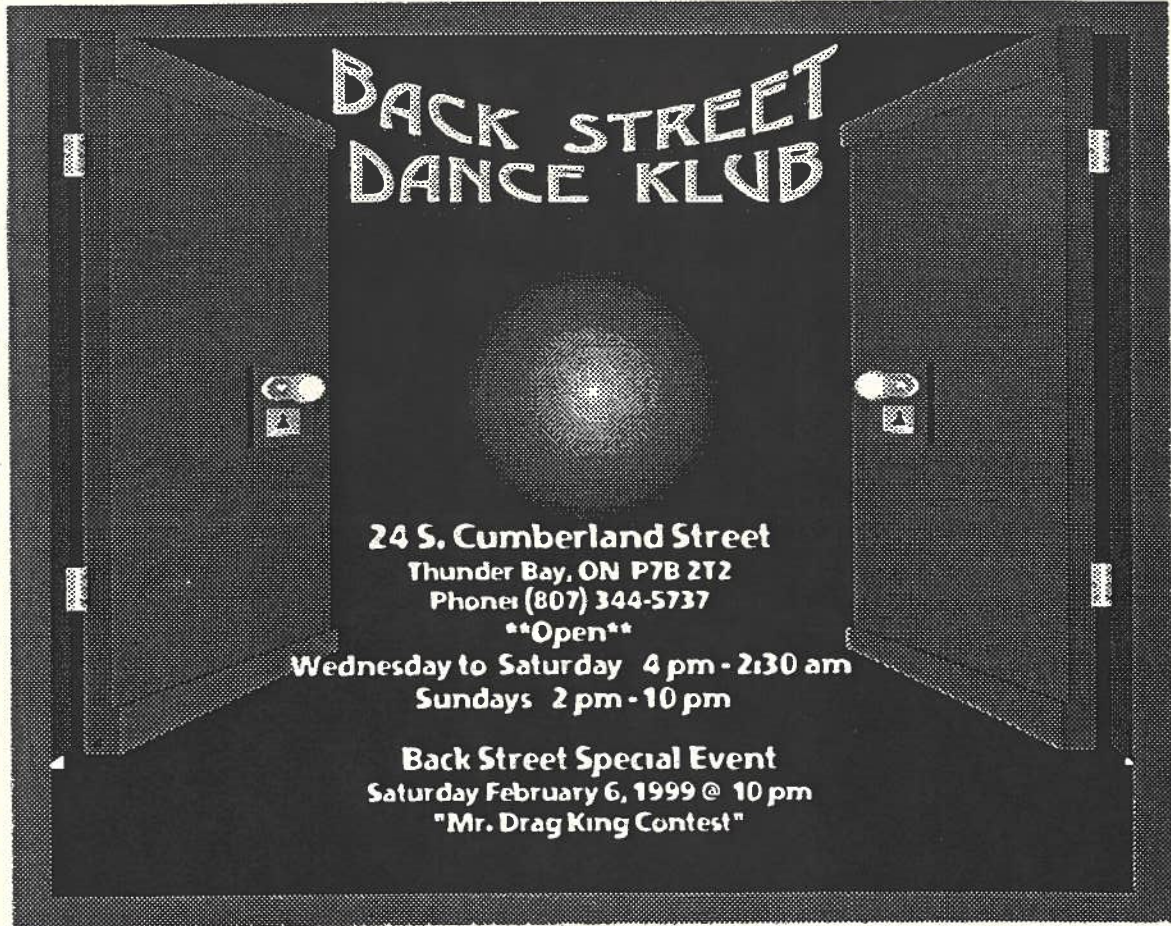
Your Financial Orientation by Cam Rosa "Insurance"

Is there a unique gay/lesbian perspective to Life Insurance? Statistically, there is less likely to be a need to protect minor dependants against the financial impact of your death- but everyone's situation is unique. If your income is essential to any loved one's financial security, a Life Insurance needs analysis should be conducted! Consider consulting a Life Insurance professional if any of the following circumstances would occur upon your death:

- your partner would experience financial hardship
- your liquid cash assets won't cover loans, mortgages or credit card balances
- you have a business partner (all small businesses should consult a planner!)
- you wish to leave a legacy to loved ones
- you wish to leave a gift to a charity or community organization
- your assets cannot be fairly divided among your beneficiaries at death

Also consider the impact of taxes

on your estate. Would your RRSP sheltered savings be taxed before passing to your partner or beneficiary? Are there capital gains on your property, taxable on disposition upon your death? Look for a Life Insurance professional equipped with the tools and products to tailor your plan to your unique financial orientation! *Cam Rosa provides financial services in Thunder Bay. Send your comments and suggestions to email: Rosacorp@baynet.net or call 346-8880*



BACK STREET DANCE KLUB

24 S. Cumberland Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2T2
Phone: (807) 344-5737
Open
Wednesday to Saturday 4 pm - 2:30 am
Sundays 2 pm - 10 pm

Back Street Special Event
Saturday February 6, 1999 @ 10 pm
"Mr. Drag King Contest"

Rainbow Entertainment - I Spy on Film

There are movies out there at present or soon to come out (pardon the pun) on the big screen that are worth a mention. They include some gay & lesbian content, and are rumoured to be very good viewing.

*"Gods & Monsters"** starring Ian McKellen (*Apt Pupil*) and Brendan Fraser (*George of the Jungle*) is based on the life of gay 30's Hollywood director

James Whale (*Frankenstein, Showboat*) and his relationship to his gardener, played by Fraser. McKellen may get an Oscar nomination for his performance in this one.

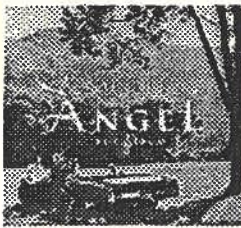
**A word of note: this film may appear in the near future in Thunder Bay through the North of Superior Film Association. Check your local paper under film listings.*

John Greyson's (*Lilies*) most recent film *"Uncut"* revolves

around three men and their bizarre obsessions with circumcision, Pierre Trudeau and copyright, huh?

Keep an eye out for the black comedy *"Relax...it's just sex"* with Mitchell Anderson (*Party of Five*), Meg Tilly (*Bound*) and Lori Petty (*Tankgirl*). It revolves around the lives of a group of friends- gay, lesbian and straight.

Rainbow Music by Brian



Touched by an Angel music from the tv series

This recent recording features songs from the television series *"Touched by an Angel"*. In all truthfulness I haven't really followed the show, and I take it these songs relate to

particular episodes. Therefore, I decided to listen to each song on it's own merit, and see how it related to me. Tracks of note were:

Celine Dion's 1994 hit *"Love can move mountains"* has been remixed to feature the gospel chorus more prominently & an organ solo not the original.

There is also *"I don't know why"* by Shawn Colvin, *"Believe in you"* by Canadian Amanda Marshall, and *"Independence Day"* by newcomer Imani Coppola (a good

song about breaking free of the chains of oppression).

Songs by Wynonna, Deana Carter, Martina McBride and Faith Hill (all country crossovers) also stand out. I recommend this disc highly for the messages in the songs and great deliveries by the performers.

Club Verboden (4 disc set)

A history of music that appealed to gay and lesbian listeners. From ie. 30's legend Marlene Dietrich, through the decades and into the 90's.

Music -Electronica - the next big thing?

I have been a fan of electronic music for over two decades, ever since I heard *"Frankenstein"* by the Edgar Winter Group in the mid 70's. This form of music incorporated the use of the synthesizer as one of the main instruments. Artists like Wendy Carlos, Brian Eno, Kraftwerk introduced us to electronic music in its infancy stages.

Disco in the late 70's gave us early techno (*"I feel love"* by Donna Summer and its hyp-

notic rhythm) and in the 80's the catchy electro-pop sounds of Duran Duran, Human League to name a few.

Recent electronic music has given us offshoots such as: trance, industrial, house, trip-hop, techno...

There has been a lot of attention paid to new artists like Chemical Brothers, Prodigy, Underworld who have been classified under the moniker *"Electronica"*, with it's synth-driven rhythms, drum, bass &

guitar and sound sampling. Performers like Madonna are also exploring these new forms.

Recommended listens:

Ray of light - Madonna
Vegas - Crystal Method
Sunday 3 am - Faithless
Big Calm - Morcheeba
Mezzanine - Massive Attack
The Remixes - Moby
Karma - Delerium
Fat of the Land - Prodigy
Amp vol. 1 & 2 - various
The Future sound of London
Ok - Talvin Singh (asian sounds)