



O & A NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 1

February/March 1998

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OUT
about

Welcome to O & A NEWS. Throughout the last month members of the steering committee and volunteers have actively been collecting tidbits to keep you informed and entertained. This is our first attempt at creating a newsletter and we hope you will benefit from the opportunity to leaf through the pages.

The process of developing a newsletter has required many hours sorting through gay and lesbian newsletters and selecting content relevant to our community needs. Where possible, content from our membership has been included. We also tapped into the internet and various community sources to bring you a complete resource index.

Our goal is to keep you well informed on what's going on and to expand community partnerships. Within our community one so called partnership has gone. The Boda, the local weekend bar for gays and lesbians has been sold.

Some people have taken the initiative to organized dinner parties, house parties and discussion groups to help fill their time. While a few are venturing into organizing a gay run, gay bar, we are told negotiations are still taking place and maybe something will appear in the near future.

In the meantime O & A has recognized the need and has added four new events to the roster for February.

As we march forward into 1998 new challenges and opportunities will face the community. Primarily it is up to the individuals to make change. O & A through the events, newsletter, phone-line, e-mail bulletins and call-ups will continue to shake things up.

We are looking forward to developing further activities that build, unite and challenge the membership.

Soliciting membership advice regarding event ideas is ongoing. If you have suggestions on how to continue to build the organization, let us know. We hope you enjoy your newsletter.



New Year's Eve Social - The clock strikes midnight 1998

Phone line: 807-623-3141

Email: outabouttb@hotmail.com

Event Review

During the winter of '97 several people sat around after a dinner party asking, "What is there to do in our community?" The answer was the formation of Out & About. Since its inception O & A has provided 620 people, twenty-one events.

The events have ranged from the tame to the extreme and covered a wide range of interests. '97 was a test for everyone on the steering committee and organizers alike to create new and enjoyable events. Events that would broaden people's perspectives, provide opportunities and create unity in the community. Many volunteers helped along the way giving O & A advice, assistance and direction.

The AIDS Committee of Thunder Bay, B.G.L.L.U and the V.I.P support group have all played their part this year to assist the building of the community. O & A worked on six co-ventures through-out its first six months that will surely be repeated next year. The Middle Falls Hike, City Car Rally, Pot-Lucks, Trips to the US, Sleigh Rides and

Socials will hopefully return, as annual events. Opportunities come and go and it's up to you to chose which avenue you take. Out & About will attempt to give the community options, not dead ends. Get OUT, have fun, network, meet new friends and lets work to build the community together.



Participants at the very first Out & About event - Middlefalls hike June '97

Volunteering by Jenn Slane, Volunteer Coordinator

We would like to begin by thanking everyone who has volunteered for O & A who have helped with socials and events up until now. As you have noticed O & A has been growing and a lot of people are getting involved. We have had a couple of socials with a few more events and many more to come and we could always use the help of volunteers.

And so you are wondering "What do volunteers do?" Well there are socials, there are some who work at the bar the door, and walk about making sure everything is OK. Which are all one-hour shifts. That way it doesn't take a chunk out of your night, right? We also have people who come in before to decorate and others who stay and clean.

As for the other events people help with whatever needs to be done throughout the day making sure everything is well organized. We have had a lot of help and could always use a bunch more. Besides you end up getting to know more people and having a great time. I guarantee it...I have!!!

Thanks again.

Membership Profile: Diane

Like many members of the community Diane has her own circle of friends, goes to dinner parties and occasionally out to the Boda (which is closed if you didn't already know). Before Out & About was created her social life was keeping her busy and she didn't see any need to do anything else. Back in the spring she heard of a new organization but was unable to attend

the public meeting and was curious about what was going on. She contacted a couple of friends who said "it was an organization worth supporting". The first event Diane went to was the baseball game, held July 26th on a warm sunny day. She remembers, she didn't know everyone and found the event informal and fun. There were some old friend who went to the game but she also managed to

meet some new people. During the rest of the summer Diane went to Dewar's, participated in the fall hike and corn roast and early in the winter went on the sleigh ride. To finish the year, she partied the night away at the new year's eve social. Meeting new people and increasing her circle of friends has been an asset. Diane said "bigger is not necessarily better" and hopes Out & About continues on the path that it has followed since she joined.

Events Calendar Winter/Spring 1998

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February	1	2	3	4	5 Dewar's Pub 9 pm McKellar St.	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine Social Ukn L. Temple 203 Ogden 9 pm \$2 members \$5 non-member
	15	16	17	18	19 Dewar's Pub Talent Night 9 pm Call Kate at 344-3915 for more info.	20	21 Snowshoeing Nor'west Outdoor Centre 7 pm \$2 mem \$3 non Call 623-3141
	22	23	24	25	26	27 Tubing Loch Lomond 7 - 10 pm \$5 members & non-members	28
March	1	2	3	4	5 Dewar's Pub 9 pm	6	7
	8 International Women's Day (I.W.D)	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 Dewar's Pub 9 pm	20	21
	22/29 Gen. Membership Meeting & Brunch Venue T.B.A.	23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28
April	Dewar's Pub First & Third Thursday of the month 9 pm				Dewar's Pub First & Third Thursday of the month 9 pm		
	Call 623-3141 for more event listings				Call 623-3141 for more event listings		
May							

* put this info. sheet on your fridge
And remember to check in with the phone line for future events not listed here.

THUNDER BAY RESOURCES (Area code 807)

Out and About : Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and friends organization providing community related activities
Phone line: 623-3141 email: outabouttb@hotmail.com mail P.O. Box 1291, Thunder Bay, ON Canada
Northern Pride: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth Support Group Meets every second Tuesday. Contact: David 345-1516 or Barbara 622-6121.
Bisexual, Gays and Lesbians 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
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.
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 625-9767 Various sites and outreach.
Family Services Thunder Bay 626-1880
411 E. Donald St. Counselling and referrals.

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.

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.

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

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

Call the Out & About Info.
line at:
623-3141
or email us at
outabouttb@hotmail.com

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

Boycott Cayman Islands !!! Isle of Shame

In an act of unabashed discrimination and homophobia, the Government of the Cayman Islands has denied landing rights to the Atlantis Events cruise aboard the M/S Leeward. After being caught in a little white lie (the port is full that day...), the Cayman Islands' Ministry of Tourism, Commerce & Transport, proved themselves among the modern world's ranking homophobes. The Minister himself wrote the following to Norwegian Cruise

Line on December 8th: "After great deliberation, the joint ministries of the Government of the Cayman Islands have voted to deny landing rights to M/S Leeward Charter by NCL which is proposing to arrive in Grand Cayman on Sunday, 1st February, 1998. Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of

visitors to the Cayman Islands, so we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality."
You are encouraged to write a letter of protest to the minister of tourism expressing your views about this unfair and inexcusable policy. Send your letters to:

Hon. Thomas C. Jefferson, Minister, Tourism,
Commerce & Transport
Cayman Islands Government
Government Administration Building

Coming Out?

O & A Valentine Social

Sat. Feb. 14th. at Ukrainian Temple, 203 Ogden Street.

Doors open at 9pm. Cost \$2 Members/ \$5 Non-members. Bring a friend, everyone welcome.

Dewar's Talent Night

Thurs. Feb. 19 at 9pm. Come out to Dewar's. Bring an instrument for O & A's first Talent Night. For further information call Kate 344-3915. Stage & Amp. provided. Free entry.

Nighttime Snowshoeing

Sat. Feb 21. Gather at 7pm at Nor'West Outdoor Centre on Mountain Road. 20min.

Snowshoe on candle lit trail up small incline to view city lights.

Come down to hot chocolate, camp fire and warm chalet. \$2 Member, \$3 Non-members. Location instruction on phone-line.

Loch Lomond Tubing

Feb. 27, from 7-10pm.

Slide down Loch Lomond on innertubes and then catch the chairlift back to the top. \$5 for everyone.

General Membership Meeting and Brunch

Sun. Mar. 29 at 12noon. O & A members can provide feedback to the steering committee regarding O & A's operation and future. Venue to be announced. You will be called.

Your Financial Orientation #1. Learning Life's Financial Lessons by Cam Rosa

Generations of Canadians have entered the adult world unprepared to plan for the essentials of their financial future.

Reading, Writing and Arithmetic need to be supplemented with Will Planning, Insurance Planning and Investment Planning.

This column will provide the Out & About readers with some of the financial ABC's every Canadian needs to know. And we'll key in on issues and needs specific to our readership.

Everyone's financial needs and goals are unique, and there's no secret formula to apply to "all" gays or lesbians. However, there is generally

less focus on dependency, and more on financial growth. Planning for estate preservation is essential-spousal rules may not apply to a same-sex partnership.

Same-sex couples need to know how Canadian tax laws treat their partnerships, and what benefits are (and are not) extended by social programs, and the Canada Pension Plan.

For some, health issues may be a dominant planning concern, with such tools as Critical Illness Insurance and Health Insurance playing an important role in assuring financial security.

Watch for YOUR FINANCIAL

ORIENTATION next Issue where we look at Critical Illness Insurance. We hope we can make a positive difference in your unique financial future!

NEXT ISSUE: WILL PLANNING FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

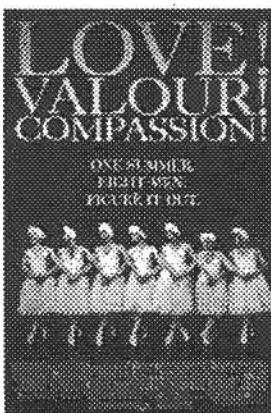
Cam Rosa provides financial services in Thunder Bay. Send your comments and suggestions to Rosacorp@baynet.net, or call 346-8880

Did you know...?

- There are Lesbian & Gay organizations using the same name *Out & About* in Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary and Japan?
- There is a website on the internet called *Out & About Travel* for gay and lesbian travellers. www.outandabout.com
- PBS (channel 12 on cable in Thunder Bay) airs informative and quality Lesbian & Gay programming every Sunday Night at 11:00 ?
- Our American friends in Duluth-Superior have hosted an annual Pride Celebration for the last few years on Labour day weekend ?
- There are *Gay Games* being held this year in Amsterdam, The Netherlands from August 1 to 8, 1998?
- *Showcase* (channel 34 on Shaw) airs gay & lesbian films? films.quently?

Gay and Lesbian Theme Movies you can rent on Video in Thunder Bay

Maurice
Desert Hearts
Longtime Companion
Love! Valour! Compassion!
Beautiful Thing
Fire
Lilies
Chasing Amy
Priscilla, Queen of the Desert
Bound



Feb./March Video Pick

The Top Ten Gay & Lesbian Films of 1997

(*may not be available yet on video)

1. Lilies
2. Chasing Amy
3. Love! Valour! Compassion!
4. Happy Together *
5. In & Out *
6. Licensed To Kill *
7. Bent *
8. The Delta *
9. Fire
10. All Over Me *

Rainbow Music Reviews

Various Artists: Women Like Us: Lesbian Favorites



Women Like Us: Lesbian Favorites (Rhino Records) is the first contemporary pop collection specifically, openly, and proudly compiled, produced, and annotated by and for lesbian women (okay, with a little help from a few open-minded and supportive guy friends)! This compilation features 18 pop-oriented tracks that have long been favorites among lesbian audiences. Look for songs by artists such as kd lang, Ferron, Janis Ian, Phranc, Dar Williams, Ani DeFranco and Jill Sobule just to name a few. The liner notes

include a first-person essay tracing the history of lesbians in pop music from the pop/folk "wimmin's music" and punk of the '70s and '80s through today's alternative queercore stars.

Divas Of Dance, Volumes 1,2 &3



These recordings were built as an attempt to salute the great ladies - famous and fame-deserving - of modern dance music. There are plenty of real gems scattered through these three volumes by artists such as Rozalla, Aretha Franklin, Martha Wash, Exposé just to name a few. Many of the tracks are the extended

versions from the 12" club-play vinyl.

Elton John: The Big Picture



No surprises here - just lots of big, romantic pop ballads with memorable hooks. High points here are "Love's Got a Lot To Answer For" and "If the River Can Bend", both of which rank with the singer/songwriter's best work. There are echoes back to his seventies recordings in songs like "The end will come" and "Wicked dreams".

The only disappointment is the absence of the new version of "Candle in the Wind". You'll have to buy the CD single for that song.