

OUT
about

O & A NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 3

Fall/Winter 1998

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

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Annual General Meeting**

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**Twin Ports
Pride
Celebrations
Duluth - Superior
U.S.A.
Sept 4, 5, 6 1998**

Fall is fast approaching and with it a hectic schedule of work, school, family and friends will surely ensue. Then winter will set in with Christmas and New Years and throughout all of the hustle and bustle everyone is going to be extremely busy. How can you balance your social life? The answer to the question is obviously, **PLAN AHEAD.**

The Out & About steering committee has been planning ahead to offer the gay & lesbian community some options to break away from routine. Activities have been organized to give you, our members, some fun events to attend. Get your calendar out now and plan to attend before you're telling your friends "You have to work" or "Study".

You don't want to miss the fall/winter line-up!

What can you do to help build the gay and lesbian community? Attending events helps.

Volunteering at a social adds spice to your life. Organizing an event is an activity of creation from inspiration to completion. Your energy and input helps build the community. Energy in equals energy out. If a tree falls

in the forest does it make a sound? Yes, and supporting local gay & lesbian ventures, assisting with the fight on AIDS all work to develop a stronger community. Ask yourself what you can do for your community today.

On the Labour Day weekend, Out & About will be travelling south to the Annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Festival in Duluth/ Superior to experience the American rainbow culture. The event will not just be for fun but to build our gay & lesbian community. How? The committee has organized a booth to distribute information on our city and attractions. Volunteers will hand out brochures on our tourist attractions, hotel accommodations and gay services. With the strong US dollar, the opening of a new bar in our city and the lower cost of our hotel and restaurant services, we are working to attract our gay & lesbian friends from the south, north for a weekend.

Have a great time over the next months and we'll see you out & about.

Out & About's First Annual General Meeting

The First Annual General Meeting held on June 13, 1998 was attended by twenty Out & About members and six American guests. Eight members of the steering committee made several presentations regarding the state of the organization.

A binder of the last 11 Steering Committee meeting minutes was presented to the members for their review. The treasurer reported that the organization has a bank balance sufficient enough to organize and operate a social or any other small event in the future.

Membership for the organization's first year totalled 47 with members receiving three newsletters.

The O & A News editor asked for

contributions from the membership at any time. The volunteer coordinator commented on the excellent assistance provided throughout the year. Members in attendance decided by a vote to support the gay owned, Backstreet Klub over the next coming months. Dewar's Pub Night on Thursday's has been cancelled until further notice.

Twenty-seven internet bulletins have been sent to members and non-members this past year.

In future, the committee is looking at the possibility of creating a web-site.

The AGM ended with an excellent talk by our guest speaker Darrell Lewis, a gay man from Duluth, USA who gained media attention after he decided to apply

for a position in his field in Topeka, Kansas. He publicly refused the position in a letter to the editor of the Topeka newspaper because of an unsettling climate of homophobia due to the presence of the anti-gay Rev. Fred Phelps and his followers. Unfortunately he was outed after his story was picked up by the U.S. media and he was threatened with harassment by Phelps as a result. But he did triumph in the end and had the support of many who knew of his fight for justice. He was the guest of honour at the Stars & Stripes Social held that same evening.

"A special thank you is extended to Maria as she is leaving the Steering Committee after volunteering during the past year!!"

Spring & Summer Events

During the past four Months O & A has been busy providing you with many interesting events. 360 people participated in 9 events including a social and several outdoor activities.

To start the O & A Spring Season a Poker Derby & BBQ was organized in May by Richard. Six cars showed up at Hillcrest Park for the beginning of the derby and were given the rules and course outline. The objective was to reach three locations around the city and pick up a poker hand along the way. The event ended at Hazelwood Lake where prizes were handed out for fastest around the course and best poker hand.

One car, a Volkswagen Beetle was disqualified for not finishing the course. Several other people showed up for the BBQ. Next year the event will be expanded to

cover more destinations around the city. Many thanks to Richard for organizing this event!! On Saturday June 13, 1998, Out & About hosted a Stars & Stripes Social for the community. In attendance were several Americans who made a special trip to visit our city. Darrell Lewis, guest speaker at this year's Annual General Meeting thoroughly enjoyed his visit. Decorations were arranged by three hard working individuals, with the debut of a rainbow trapezoid hung from the ceiling. The midnight buffet was prepared by Jen & Vaiki. Overall the social was a success.

The Pigeon Falls Annual hike (formerly Middle Falls) was well attended on a warm summer's day. Many hiked the look-out trail to view Lake Superior, Pigeon River Bridge and Isle Royal. The BBQ went well and some took a walk

to explore Middle Falls.

Camp-Out weekend was held at Darryl and Saul's Cottage on the Devon Road near the Canada/US border in late July. Many activities were planned including volleyball, horseshoes, canoeing, and hiking. Some even ventured to take a sauna, where the rocks were said to be "very hot". A great big bonfire was made and talented musicians played into the night. Saul said "It was an exceptionally fun night, everyone was really relaxed."

Thanks to Saul & Darryl for opening up their Camp to Out & About and maybe next year they will invite us back!! Overall it has been an interesting few months. The Steering Committee is now lining up new events for the fall and winter. The committee looks forward to seeing you out at the next event.

form included with this directory or by purchasing one at an Out & About function.

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

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

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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

to improve the quality of life in our community through various community activities, 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.

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of the newsletter call the phone line 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 transgender 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

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 purchase your membership by filling out and mailing in the form included with this directory or by purchasing one at an Out & About function.

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Events Calendar Fall/Winter 1998

Back to School Social

Saturday, September 19, 9pm. Ukrainian Labour Temple, Ogden Street,
AIDS Committee of Thunder Bay (ACT-B) Function Admission \$6 Call 345-1516 for more info.

AIDS Walk Canada

Sunday Sept 27th., 1998. LU Outpost Registration 12 noon, 1pm walk begins.
Music, entertainment and prizes. For further information contact ACT-B at 345-1516.

Silver Falls Hike & Corn Roast

Saturday October 3, 1998. Meet at 2pm, TD Bank Parking Lot at County Fair Plaza,
1020 Dawson Road. Carpooling will be arranged if necessary. Silver Falls located north
(25 minutes) on Hwy 102. Hike takes 25 minutes to falls and same to return.
Glenn will be hosting event afterwards with a Corn Roast and BBQ.
Bring your own burgers, wieners etc. BBQ provided. For further information contact
Glenn at 767-3758.

Pot Luck Social

Saturday, October 24, 1998, Volunteers, members and friends are welcome to
attend a house party and pot-luck supper. Members will be contacted regarding location
and menu.

Hallowe'en Social

Saturday October 31, 1998. Ukrainian Labour Temple, Ogden Street, Doors Open at
9pm. Prizes for best costume. Special invitation will be made to our friends in Duluth
and Superior. Midnight Buffet. Members \$3, Non-Members \$5

'Christmas in November' Social

Saturday November 21, 1998. Ukrainian Labour Temple, Ogden Street, Doors
Open at 9 pm. Donation of non-perishable goods to be made to local charity.
Start Christmas early with an O & A social. Members \$3, Non-Members \$5.

Ribbon Day

November 21st., 1998. Buy a red ribbon and support the fight for AIDS.

AIDS Awareness Week

November 23 -30, 1998 Watch for announced events or call ACT-B for further information (345-1516)

New Years Eve Dance & Coffee House

Thursday December 31, 1998. Ukrainian Labour Temple, Ogden Street, Doors
Open at 8:00pm. After your New Years Eve Dinner why not come and dance the year
away at the O & A New Years Eve Party? Downstairs will be turned into a non-smoking
coffee bar ncluding snacks. Further details and tickets will be made available in
December.

Tentative Activities

Some other activities may take place during the fall and winter schedule. O & A is
looking at organizing an event at the new bar and will attempt to keep members posted.
If you have an event ideas please let us know.

remember to check the phone line (807) 623-3141 or you can email outabouttb@hotmail.com for future events

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Out & About

The First Annual Meeting held on Saturday, June 1st, was attended by 150 members and guests. The steering committee presented a report on the presentation of the organization. A binder of the committee presented to their review reported that the bank balance was good, and any other surplus for the future. Membership's first members reported. The O & A

Spring & Summer

During the Spring and Summer, the A has been with many people participating in a door activity. To start the activity, a Poker Tournament was held in the M. showed up the beginning were given an outline. reach three city and along the Hazelwood were held around the hand. One car, was disqualified the course showed the year the e

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 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.
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.
Back Street Dance Klub Bar, dj on the weekend, snacks, pool tables 24 S. Cumberland St. 344-5737 Tuesday-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 625-9767 Various sites and outreach.
Family Services Thunder Bay 626-1880
411 E. Donald St. 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-discriminatory

Member's Corner

"Out of the Closets, Into the streets"

Gay, in its most far reaching sense, means not homosexual, but sexually free. This includes a long-ranged vision of sensuality as a basis for sexual relationships.

This sexual freedom is not some kind of groovy life style with lots of sex, doing what feels good irrespective of others. It is sexual freedom premised upon the notion of pleasure through equality, no pleasure where there is inequality...Gay is good for all of us.

Allen Young
(1941-)

American writer, editor

Thanks to Out & About member
Brad for this contribution



Trail-Middle falls hike

B.Holden

Roots and leaves themselves alone are these,
scents brought to men and women from the wild woods and pond-side,
breast-sorrel and pinks of love,
fingers that wind around tighter than vines,
gushes from the throats of birds hid in the foliage of trees as the sun is risen,
breezes of land and love sent from living shores to you on the living sea,
to you O sailors!
frost-mellow'd berries and third-month twigs offer'd fresh to young persons wandering out in the fields when the winter breaks up,

love-buds put before you and within you whoever you are,
buds to be unfolded on the old terms,
If you bring the warmth of the sun to them they will open and bring form,
colour, perfume, to you,
If you become the ailment and the wet they will become flowers, fruits, tall branches and trees.

Walt Whitman: Blades of Grass (1855)

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

Your financial Orientation by Cam Rosa Health Insurance

The benefits of Health Insurance in evening out life's unexpected financial challenges is self evident. The burden of health care expenses is often accompanied by loss of earnings- the result can be financial devastation, and dependency on government assistance. Supplementary health care insurance is a common perk of workplace benefit packages. However, gays as a group are often entrepreneurial, or working on contract, where such programs are not provided. It is then essential to identify a program to suit your needs.

As with just about any type of insurance, you must "qualify". Underwriting of private health

coverage is quite stringent- (just as you'd expect difficulty buying fire insurance for a burning building). The message is- enrol now, while you are in good health! When selecting an insurer, be aware of contractual limitations. Many programs will have a \$50,000 lifetime limit (and annual limits) - would that get you through a long illness with expensive prescriptions? Standard plans will not cover experimental drugs- and there may be other specific concerns you'll want to talk about before signing up.

Most insurers provide reduced premiums for couples and same-sex couples qualify as long as they

are co-habiting. Due to the high frequency of benefit use, and the substantial risk taken on by the insurer, private Health Insurance isn't "cheap". However, assuming the costs and risks on your own can be a whole lot more expensive! Next column we'll talk about Life Insurance, as it fits your financial orientation!

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

In the Theatre

54*

Starring: Ryan Phillippe, Neve Campbell, Salma Hayek

A fictionalized account of the glitz and excess of New York's famous nightclub, Studio 54.

Up and comers Phillippe and Campbell are intriguing.

High Art

Starring: Ally Sheedy

A young photo editor has a lesbian affair with her upstairs neighbour.

Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss

Starring: Sean Hayes, Brad Rowe

While working on a series of homoerotic Hollywood photos, a gay photographer falls in love with a sexually confused waiter after hiring him as a model.

* is currently viewing
on-screen in Thunder Bay

Looking for hard to find gay/lesbian films on video to add to your collection?

Strand Releasing is a web-based company that carries a good selection of rare and critically acclaimed films.

www.strandrel.com

A few of the titles include:

-I Think I Do (G)

-Late Bloomers (L)

-Latin Boys Go to Hell (G)

-Homo Promo (G & L)

G - gay L - lesbian

Rainbow Music by Brian



Rufus Wainwright

This openly gay Canadian young singer/songwriter is the child of two famous folkies, Kate McGarrigle and Loudon Wainwright III.

His music is based on the classical and operatic music that Wainwright says he listened to as a child. His voice has a slight nasal quality to it, and the songs

are laid back to the fingerings of a melancholy piano. By the way, he earned himself a Juno award at 14 years of age for a song he wrote for a Canadian film.



54 Soundtrack - Vols. 1 & 2

Oh the glamour, the men, the women, the drugs and of course, the music!

The party never ends on this

collection of disco classics that were spun and made famous at this well known New York club. These songs bring back memories as I was a teen in the disco era and boy what a party!

Are you old enough to remember such anthems as "Heart of Glass" by Blondie, "You make me feel (mighty real)" by Sylvester, "Don't leave me this way" by Thelma Houston, "Found a cure" by Ashford & Simpson just to name a few?

This 2 cd set contains over 32 tracks including one brand new track "If you could read my mind", the old Gordon Lightfoot classic redone by Stars on 54 (Ultra Nate, Amber and Jocelyn Enriquez)

Everybody DANCE!!!!

People gotta move ... (Current Club Pix)

Feel it - The Tamperer/Maya

Delicious - Pure Sugar

Miracle (remix)- Olive

Until the day - Funky Green Dogs

Love is alive - Third Party

II drive me ... -Waldo's People

U won't forget me - La Bouche

Cruel summer - Ace of Base

What would you do - Code Red

Midnight - Robin S.

Breathe - Kylie Minogue

If you could read my mind - Stars on 54

Busy child - Crystal Method

I surrender - Rosie Gaines

Dreams (remix) - The Corrs

You're a superstar - Love Inc.

I'm a pig - Two

Turn back time (remix) Aqua

Ray of light - Madonna