

OUT
about

O & A NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring/Summer 1998

Welcome to the second edition of the O & A NEWS. This is our spring edition dedicated to you, our Members. O & A News is pleased to have the opportunity to inform you about what's happening in our community and what's coming up.

Your support of the events through your participation over the past year has definitely made a difference to our community. Members are now stepping forward to help in any way with the O & A cause as volunteers, event coordinators or just sitting back and enjoying the view.

Over the last year our membership has grown, our e-mail bulletins have reached more & more people, both in and outside of our city and we continue to gain strength. We have hosted people from Toronto, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and the US. And we hope again in September to visit our friends south of the border.

O & A has been networking to connect the community and create activities that bring gays and lesbians together.

Individual viewpoints are accepted and discussed within the Steering Committee in an

attempt to balance everyone's needs. This may seem a difficult task but in reality works very well.

Our committee is always exploring new event ideas, developing plans and creating new opportunities and vistas.

In the end, O & A is hopeful of operating well organized events for everyone's enjoyment. But none of this can be done alone.

Your membership in the O & A organization is important for many reasons.

In May & June, O & A is offering our past and future members another year of excitement and activities.

We ask that you renew your membership soon.

Why be a member? What does a membership give? And how does the fifteen dollar fee help our community?

Membership is not just a financial contribution, but a statement of values, growth and the desire to move forward. It's about coming together to participate in safe & fun events, while building self esteem and giving the opportunity to express yourself the way you want. It is not a haven for the exclusive, but in fact offers friendship to *everyone*. Being a member gives the organization some operation money to maintain the phone-line, office expenses and finance events.

Your contribution is appreciated as it provides a base to operate from, it assists future developments and harbours growth.

Membership is a partnership in community building.

The Steering Committee and your fellow members thank you for your ongoing support and interest in the activities of Out & About!!!



Enjoying an afternoon of baseball -April '98

What's Inside :

Recent Event Review
Your Financial Orientation

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Events

During the past four Months O & A has been busy providing you with many interesting events. 765 people have participated in 14 events including two socials, a brunch and two outdoor activity.

In February O & A held a Valentines Social which attracted over 150 people. The event ran smoothly thanks to several volunteers. Mark, April and Larry spent several hours decorating the hall for the social.

Dewar's Pub has seen lots of activities in the past months with the addition of one extra night per month. Kate organised a Talent Night on February 19th., which drew a great crowd that were entertained by many musicians. Dewars has certainly become a place for the community to come together and talk.

Later in February, O & A entertained twenty people at a night hike

through the woods around the Nor-Wester Mountains. There was a warm camp fire and hot chocolate for everyone followed by a house party provided by Jack.

In March, O & A purchased two tables for the Healthy Sex Cabaret put on by the Aids Committee of Thunder Bay. The tenth anniversary of the event was enjoyed by all members in attendance. Everyone is looking forward to next year's Cabaret.



Events are a good mix of women & men

O & A also was informed by the North of Superior Film Associations about a gay film, "The Hanging Garden" Many members were notified of the event and enjoyed the east coast film.

In March, O & A provided a brunch for members to hear about the progress of the organization. Over half the membership attended. Special thanks to Mono for the catering. Finally in April, O & A put on a beach party. Vaiki and Mike won best costume awards with Larry getting special mention for decoration and his costume. Luc won the door prize which was a year long membership for O & A. Overall it has been a busy few months!!! The Steering Committee is now lining up new events for the spring and summer. The committee looks forward to seeing you out at the next event.

Member Profile- Glenn

Glenn, a gay male moved to Thunder Bay with his partner in 1986. Finding gay friends was not a problem for the new couple but there was a lack of social venues. He had heard stories of other gay men & women, who were single and had difficulty meeting people.

Glenn believes the community climate was weak and gay organizations portrayed a sense of unrest. One positive venue that contributed to alternate lifestyle was Club V.I.P. Last summer in July, Glen attended his first O & A event.

The doors of Dewar's were wide open and approximately fifty people were in attendance. He had heard about the organization and had gone to meet some friends. The conversation was good and the atmosphere congenial. He decided soon after to get a membership to support the organization. He also understood that not every event was for him but he was ready to take advantage of the opportunities to participate in community events.

Hallowe'en & Canada Day in Duluth (Oct. 25/97) were among his

favourite events. He felt both events were well organized. He had the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of many new people. The organization in Duluth/Superior had hosted a wonderful weekend and he will certainly return.

In the future Glenn hopes that our community will continue to open doors, create more interaction and improve the social perspective. He concluded Out & About has a very promising future with lots more in store.

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,

THUNDER BAY RESOURCES (Area code 807)

Out and About : Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and friends organization providing community related activities
Phone line: 623-3141 email: outaboutb@hotmail.com mail P.O. Box 1291, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5W2
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.

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

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financial services. Send your questions to baynet.net

Events

During the past few months, O & A has been busy preparing many interesting events. We have participated in several social events including two socials, two outdoor activities, and a Social which attracted a large crowd. The event ran from February 1 to April 1. Several volunteers and Larry spent several hours preparing the hall for the event. Dewar's Pub has hosted the event in the past. In addition, one month. Kate organized the event on February 1. A great crowd was attracted by many members of the community to the event.

Later in February, we had twenty people

Member Profile

Glenn, a gay male, is a member of the Bay with his friends. Finding a gay friend is a problem for the new couple. A lack of social venues has heard stories of other women, who were having difficulty meeting people. Glenn believes the situation was weak and that the portrayals of gay men in the media were negative. One positive venue to alternate lifestyle is the last summer in July. Last summer in July, his first O & A ever

OUT
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place magnet here

Events Calendar Spring/Summer 1998

POKER DERBY & BBQ

Sunday May 24th., 1998. Poker Derby registration at 3:00 p.m. at Hillcrest Park. Participants will receive the first of five cards at the start of the run at 3:30 p.m. Additional cards will be picked up at 3 designated stops and the finish line for a hand of five cards. Entry fee of \$10/vehicle with half the money to be offered up as cash prizes at the end of the run. Membership in O & A is not necessary to be eligible for prizes. All participants are encouraged to bring food and enjoy a BBQ at the conclusion of the run. BBQ starts at 5:30 pm.

BASEBALL GAME

Saturday, June 6th., 1998. Game starts at 2 pm and is located at the Whiskey Jack Field near the community Auditorium. A great afternoon of fun & sun. Come on, let's see more guys come out and play!!! No cost for this event.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday June 13, 1998, 2pm Confederation College (you will be contacted on the room number) The event will be held to include a formal presentation by the Steering Committee and be followed by a guest speaker. Darrell Lewis, City Planner for Duluth, Minn. has recently been featured in the Advocate magazine and will be coming to Thunder Bay to speak on Discrimination in the workplace. His interests in expanding his career into another community was cut short due to his orientation. Darrell will tell us about the effect this has had on his life and his partners life. After the Annual General Meeting, Darrell Lewis will be guest of Honour at an evening Social.

STARS & STRIPES SOCIAL

Saturday, June 13, 1998, 9pm, Ogden Street Location. Our American Friends will be invited to attend a Stars & Stripes party. Special Guest will be Darrell Lewis, City Planner of Duluth. The lesbian and gay community in Minneapolis & Duluth have been invited. If you have any friends from the US please invite them!! It's going to be a great night to meet new people, come out and have some fun.

MIDDLE FALLS ANNUAL HIKE

Sunday June 21st., Middle Falls Provincial Park. Come join the crowd at the annual Hike and BBQ. The hike begins at 2:30 sharp. The trail is moderate in elevation and takes approximately 1 hour round trip to complete. Bring your camera, food and friends. BBQ will be provided for cooking after the hike. Nominal cost for park entry. Directions to Middle Falls: Hwy. 61 south, 30 minutes by car, turn right (just before US/Can Border) at Middle Falls Sign, go 2 km, make left turn into park. Rain Date Sun. June 28, check phone-line for further details.

CAMP OUT

Saturday & Sunday July 25-26, 1998. A couple of members have donated their camp to O & A. Come out and camp for the weekend. There is lots to do; hiking, biking, canoeing, scavenger hunt, sauna, bonfire, & BBQing. Spend the day or spend the night, lots of space to pitch your tent in a quiet area. Located on Devon Rd. 25km's north of Canada/US border, further details will be provided on phone-line.

DEWARS PUB NIGHT

Dewars will continue to be a favourite activity every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Doors open at 9pm. Date include: May 7 & 21; June 4 & 18; July 2 & 16; Aug. 6 & 20. For further details check phone-line.

PRIDE '98 TORONTO

If you want to make the trek down to southern Ontario it is well worth it. Join over 1 million people on Sunday June 28 for the parade. Lots of activities all week long. One of the largest pride celebrations in North America. The week of June 22 until June 28, 1998.

TENTATIVE ACTIVITIES

Some other activities may take place during the summer months. O & A is looking at organizing a canoe trip, mountain climbing and orienteering. If you are interested please let us know.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Check the phone line for upcoming dates by this great local band. They are members of our community too!

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

financial services
Bay. Send your
questions to
aynet.net

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coming around.

Events

During the past four months, we have been busy promoting many interesting events. We have participated in including two socials, two outdoor activities. In February O & A had a Social which attracted a large crowd. The event ran from 9-11pm and several volunteers and Larry spent several hours setting up the hall for the event. Dewar's Pub has set up a table in the past month in addition of one in March. Kate organized a Night on February 1st which drew a great crowd and was enjoyed by many members. We have certainly become a community to come to for fun and talk. Later in February, we will have a dance which will attract twenty people.

Member Profile-

Glenn, a gay male from Thunder Bay with his family. Finding gay friends can be a challenge for the new couple. Glenn has a lack of social skills and has heard stories of other gay men and women, who were having difficulty meeting people. Glenn believes the gay community was weak and not well portrayed as it is now. One positive venue to alternate lifestyle was the last summer in July when he attended his first O & A event.

Volunteering by Jenn Swayne

Since the last O & A NEWS we have had a couple of more socials, a few events and even a baseball game, and it has all been fun!! It means a lot when people volunteer, as it helps things run a little smoother every time. I would like to give a big thanks to everyone who has volunteered when I have asked on behalf of O & A. In appreciation of volunteers O & A has agreed to have a gathering sometime in the near future for you.

Volunteering is a big part of operating a social or any event. During a social we have positions for bartending from 9-1am (fourty-five minute shifts) Door ticket sales and drink ticket sales are from 9-1am (one hour shifts). When making the schedule I always seem to have a hard time filling shifts for the last two hours. So it would be really cool and helpful to the organization if more people could help out later on.

We can always use tons of volunteers. We can never have too many. "The more the merrier, right?" If you want to volunteer for anything you can always call the O & A phone line and leave a message with your phone number. (Remember that *Volunteers* are rewarded for their help) Either way, I love seeing so many people just showing up and having a good time. Hope you've all had fun so far and keep coming around. Thanks again!

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 1291, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5W2

Your financial Orientation by Cam Rosa

Your financial plans evolve around goals, with strategies and tools available to help you reach them. Too often, we identify wealth accumulation as our preferred goal, without building on a foundation of life, disability and health insurance to protect our plans, and ourselves. The typically self-employed, entrepreneurial gay/lesbian often has no group benefit plans to provide insurance protection. Those in group programs are at risk of losing benefits (along with jobs), due to discrimination. Furthermore, many group benefit plans don't adequately cover needs, especially if dietary supplements, experimental or trial drugs, travel for medical treatment, etc. are required. For people living with AIDS, welfare is often the recommended

strategy. As a group, gays and lesbians are statistically at high risk of developing critical illnesses. *Critical Illness Insurance* is designed to ease the financial burden. Gays and lesbians often have sufficient discretionary income to make this new type of insurance affordable. For singles, it's insurance for you. For couples, it can protect against financial devastation during a prolonged illness. Critical Illness Insurance provides a tax-free lump sum cash payment, on confirmed diagnosis of specific critical medical conditions. Consider the flexibility- use the lump sum for alternate treatments, lifestyle considerations, travel, or other wants and needs at your discretion. Unlike traditional Life Insurance, you can use and oversee the benefit yourself.

Will Critical Illness Insurance ensure that you're protected in the event of AIDS? Only when (and if) you are diagnosed with the specific conditions identified in the contract. Shop around, read the fine print, and beware of HIV exclusions before signing a contract! Critical Illness Insurance, while a valuable tool, is no substitute for the solid protection your other insurance programs can provide. Next issue, we'll examine how private Health Insurance 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

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 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

Employment Opportunity

Would you like to help yourself and others be safer?

We are looking for someone to provide peer education, primarily to the gay community of Thunder Bay. This is a part-time volunteer position with a small honorarium. If you are outgoing, like to talk to people, and are interested in the health of your community, please call us for more information. Contact Stuart at 345-1516 by May 18, 1998.

Substance Use Outreach Project
of the
AIDS Committee of
Thunder Bay.

Rainbow Film

The Opposite of Sex

Release Date: May 22

Cast: Christina Ricci, Martin Donovan, Ivan Sergei, Lyle Lovett, Lisa Kudrow (*Phoebe from the television sitcom "Friends"*)

Sixteen year old runaway Deedee (Christina Ricci) steals her half-brother's boyfriend, Matt (Ivan Sergei).

PLOT Sixteen-year-old Dedee (Christina Ricci) has a sharp tongue and a sharper wit, and she knows how to make life miserable

for everyone around her. Happily leaving home to pay a surprise visit to her gay uncle, Bill (Martin Donovan), and his live-in lover, Matt (Ivan Sergei), she persuades Matt to have sex, and names him as the father when she gets pregnant. She also steals 10,000 from Matt, whose teaching career is jeopardized when a former student (Johnny Galecki) accuses him of molestation. Meanwhile, Bill's friend Lucia (Lisa Kudrow) disapproves of everything Dedee does ...

and hey, who can blame her?

BUZZ This dark comedy caused a stir at Sundance and won praise for Ricci, who has cornered the market on troublesome teens. It's the directorial debut of Don Roos, whose screenplay for *Single White Female* also highlighted a young woman with a dangerous mind. Guaranteed to score points for audacity, the film isn't going to please everyone, as indicated by its dicey subject matter and a number of early mixed reviews.

Rainbow Music by Brian

Ani DiFranco

Little Plastic Castle

I love the cover photo art, depicting this artist as a goldfish in an underwater aquarium. She has a good sense of humour.

This bisexual punk-folk singer-songwriter, who has successfully released albums on her own record label, has made a memorable recording on this, her ninth studio album.

She has added horns in several songs, giving her a more experimental sound. Ani still shines on the songs with just her and her guitar though. There's the beautiful ballad *As Is*, the lively *Loom*, the devastating *Independence Day* and the equally powerful *Pulse* with it's haunting jazz trumpet in the background.

Ever since 1996's *Dilate*, DiFranco has been pushed into the mainstream. She is well known from the folk music & womyn's music festivals.

(just a note: Ani recorded a bubblish remake of 60's pop singer Dusty Springfield's "Wishin' & Hopin". It is found on the soundtrack to last year's film "My Best Friend's Wedding".)

Two

Voyeurs

Rob Halford, former lead singer of the 70's & 80's British metal band Judas Priest has come out of the closet. (I used to wonder if he might be gay, with his leather queen look and the references to s & m in some Judas Priest's lyrics.)

He also has a new band called Two. There is a brand new sound and look. (shaved head and goatee, he still likes to wear his black leather too.)

The music here could still be called "heavy metal," but is very strong with dance beats of the alternative sort. *Voyeurs* falls somewhere between Nine Inch Nails and White Zombie. This disc is loaded with a factory-full of machine-driven sounds, revved into various techno-style rhythms, topped with heavily distorted guitar and slathered in synthesizers. The hand of executive producer Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails) is evident.

The video for "I am a Pig" has been banned by MuchMusic for it's depictions of homo & straight erotica. I viewed this video on the web and to be honest I didn't find it any worse than Madonna's video for *Erotica* a few years back.

Sarah McLachlan's *Lilith Fair* is back on the road this summer. The festival kicks off in June with dates in the U.S. and Canada. Artists this year again include: Sarah,

Paula Cole, Shawn Colvin, Meredith Brooks, Sheryl Crow, Lisa Loeb, Indigo Girls, and newcomers Martina McBride, Bonnie Raitt, Natalie Merchant, Diana Krall,

Sinead O'connor, Lhasa, Erykah Badu, Chantal Kreviazuk, Luscious Jackson, Holly McNarland, Billie Myers, Mono, Morcheeba and many more.