

# TORONTO PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

June 2013 Special Edition Newsletter

[www.torontopflag.org](http://www.torontopflag.org)

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## TORONTO PFLAG VISION

Toronto PFLAG is a charitable organization that speaks for a more accepting Canadian society by providing support, education and resources to all people who wish to grow in their understanding of sexual and gender diversity.

Toronto PFLAG actively assists in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.

## Next Support Meeting

Wednesday  
**July 3, 2013**  
7:30 p.m.

Kimbourne Park  
United Church  
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,  
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2



Irene and Jim at IDAHT 2013

## A message from your President

June 15, 2013

### Let Toronto PFLAG be your family at Pride!


June is Pride month! As excited as we are at Toronto PFLAG about all the Pride celebrations in Toronto and indeed across the world, I am reminded that for many people Pride can be a bittersweet time.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/12/americas-got-talent-jonathan-allen\\_n\\_3428914.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=tw](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/12/americas-got-talent-jonathan-allen_n_3428914.html?utm_hp_ref=tw) This video clip of Jonathan Allen on America's Got Talent touched me deeply. I hope the support and validation he is receiving now helps him take pride in himself, and that his family will realise what they are missing by cutting him out of their lives.

I am always saddened to hear that families still turn their backs on their LGBTQ kids; or offer 'conditional' support with unfair restrictions and expectations that their straight siblings don't have to adhere to.

One of the reasons our Monthly Support Meetings are so rewarding is that we meet individuals and families who are trying their best to be understanding and supportive, and in time, as families help other families, we see the bonds of familial love strengthened! It is a privilege to be a small part of that process, and I thank our Toronto PFLAG volunteers who share their own stories to help others be the best they can be.

Knowing that Pride can be a time when some in the community may feel alone if their families are not able to celebrate with them, I ask you all to extend an invitation to the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto PFLAG Pre-Pride Family Brunch, at Pogue Mahone's Restaurant** on the south side of College Street between Yonge & Bay Streets, from **9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**.



Join us for Brunch at Pogue Mahone's, College Street between Yonge & Bay Sts.  
Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.  
Choose the \$12.00 Buffet option - more time to enjoy the food & company!  
Meals ordered from the regular Menu are excluded from this \$12.00 offer, and may take longer as the kitchen will focus on stocking the Buffet Table to allow PFLAG families and guests to eat with minimal wait time!

**\$12.00 - Buffet Breakfast, includes coffee & Tax**

- Scrambled Eggs
- Farmer's Sausage
- Bacon or Peameal Bacon
- Baked Beans
- Home-fried Potatoes
- Multigrain Pancakes & Syrup
- Toast & Coffee & Mini Muffin

To make your reservation for the Pre-Pride Family Brunch hosted by Toronto PFLAG Email [office@pflagtoronto.org](mailto:office@pflagtoronto.org) and receive your reservation #  
Enjoy a meal in the company of PFLAG families and supporters  
All are welcome!

While we are talking about invitations let me issue a warm invitation to all PFLAGers and allies to come and **march with Toronto PFLAG** in the **Trans March on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.** Toronto PFLAG is welcoming increasingly more families that include someone who is Trans, and our small but mighty Ally contingent will show our support by marching and carrying our Toronto PFLAG signs. Email [office@pflagtoronto.org](mailto:office@pflagtoronto.org) if you can join us - your presence will be very much appreciated. The route is mapped here <http://goo.gl/maps/bpsu1>

In 1 year we host World Pride in Toronto! Make our Toronto PFLAG contingent one of our best yet in the **Pride Parade on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.** Join our families and Toronto City Councillors and march with us! Check in at our booth at **12 noon to pick up a Toronto PFLAG t-shirt, and collect a sign** to carry in the Parade! Updates on our Parade marching position will be posted on Facebook and on our website [www.torontopflag.org](http://www.torontopflag.org)

We are thrilled to announce that  
**Ben Scrivens**  
**Toronto Maple Leaf Player #30**  
**Proud Ally and Supporter**  
Will march with Toronto PFLAG this year!

We appreciate the support of **Ben Scrivens** and others at **MLSE** who continue to help Toronto PFLAG families by being positive role models and allies.

Last year at Toronto Pride our volunteers spoke with hundreds of people who visited our booths. Sign up for a shift on Saturday or Sunday and enjoy Pride with Toronto PFLAG at the Heart of Toronto's LGBTQ Community ♥

Toronto PFLAG volunteers are busy throughout June, and recent events included attending PwC's GLEE Pride bbq which was a lively affair despite inclement weather. Board members Gary Miller, Jill Holroyd and I, enjoyed chatting with PwC's Ybia Anderson.



A **Lunch & Learn** Session presented by Anne Creighton and I, on June 11<sup>th</sup>, was held at the Toronto offices of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, and via webcast was shared with their New York, Ottawa, Calgary and Montreal offices.



*This year when I march in the Pride Parades, I will march to represent all the Moms and Mom figures who cannot be there to show their love and support! My heart will be full of Pride and there will be PFLAG hugs to share!*  
**Yours in Pride, Respect, Love & Support**  
*Irene*

JUNE 30, 2013



PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
**PRIDE!**

*There is always room for another in the Toronto PFLAG family!*



[www.torontopflag.org](http://www.torontopflag.org)

**TORONTO PFLAG**

*At the Heart of Toronto's LGBTQ Community*

### **Toronto PFLAG's 5th Annual Pride Brunch**

**9:30-11:00 a.m.**



**POQUE  
MAHONE**

To make your reservation, email [office@pflagtoronto.org](mailto:office@pflagtoronto.org) to receive your reservation #.  
(Entrance on south side of College St., between Bay & Yonge)

### **March with Toronto PFLAG in the Pride Parade**

**2:00 p.m.**

Please pick up your sign from the Toronto PFLAG booth.  
(Visit us on Facebook for exact booth and marching locations)

[www.torontopflag.org](http://www.torontopflag.org) - **facebook**.com/torontopflag - 416-406-1727

## Frank Mugisha in Toronto

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Board Member Anne Creighton and her daughter Amy attended “A Conversation with Frank Mugisha” presented by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network at the Toronto Reference Library.

About 300 attended the event where Mugisha spoke about being LGBTQ in Uganda and the work being done by SMUG (Sexual Minorities Uganda) of which Mugisha is Executive Director. The Ugandan government is now considering anti-homosexual legislation known around the world as the “Kill the Gays” bill because it includes several offences for which the penalty would be death.

Photo: Frank Mugisha and Amy O'Reilly



## A Salute to PFLAG

"A special Thank You to the incredible Michelle DuBarry, reigning Empress at The Imperial Court of Toronto, for throwing the incredible fundraiser "A Salute to PFLAG" last Sunday at FLASH Nightclub. Thank you also to George Pratt, Carlotta Carlisle, and the wonderful performers who donated their time, and kept us all entertained. We greatly appreciate your love, and generous contributions to support Toronto PFLAG"



## Thanks to the Big4 !

### Ernst Young; KPMG; Deloitte & PwC

This year Toronto PFLAG was delighted to be named the beneficiary of the Big 4's Fundraising efforts.

On Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> the Toronto PFLAG team of bowlers and cheerleaders joined teams from the four firms at the Bowlroom on Richmond Street. Our team, including Irene, Gary, Susan, Marla, Rickey, John and Vera had lots of fun!

