

CELEBRATE WORLD PRIDE WITH



Ontario Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf ©2007

Your Guide to Toronto's LGBTQ Deaf Community



A note from the President

Dear the Queer/Trans* Signing Community,

I wanted to welcome you to the very exciting city of Toronto where the very first World Pride in North America is happening! I am sure that some of you are coming from out of town, or out of province, or even out of the country!

I hope you feel welcomed by our very diverse community. Many of you are of different identities and backgrounds—you'll find something here that will match your interest.

Aside from the Gay Village and Queer West, you'll discover that Toronto is generally a Queer/Trans* friendly city. You can identify that by seeing a rainbow flag sticker in the windows of stores, businesses, and restaurants. In Toronto, you are free to be yourself.

Have fun and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Acting President
Nicka Noble

Board of Directors

Acting President: Nicka Noble

Vice President: Nicka Noble

Executive Secretary: Nakia Ouletter

Treasurer: Andrew Mindszenty

Pride Director: Javier Cacheiro

Pride Director: Lex Moakler

Outreach Director: Rali Rodriguez

Events Director: Ellen Hibbard

About ORAD

The Ontario Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (ORAD) was founded in late 2001 by three co-founders: TJ Rose, Frank Folino and Adrian Paul Desmarais. ORAD started hosting social events such as monthly coffee socials at Timothy's on Church Street and other social events to bring our Deaf Queer community together to socialize and network with others.

In 2004, the first set of bylaws and mission statement were introduced and adopted by the ORAD membership. As a result, the first Board of Directors were elected: Lisa Faria, President; Richard Guzman, Vice President; Kari English, Secretary; Adrian Paul Desmarais, Treasurer; and Frank Folino, By-Laws Coordinator.

Since 2004, the Board of Directors and volunteers have been busy hosting social events and providing educational workshops that are geared towards providing a safe space for the Deaf and Queer community and increasing Deaf Queer visibility within the larger community. Our membership has expanded to include Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing members and the numbers continue to rise. Without our membership, we would not be where we are today.

In 2007, ORAD became affiliated with the Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (RAD), an organization whose purpose is to establish and maintain a society of Deaf LGBTQ to encourage and promote the educational, economical, and social welfare; to foster fellowship; to defend our rights; and advance our interests as Deaf LGBTQ citizens concerning social justice.

Mission

1. To coordinate events and activities for the Deaf, deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, and hearing people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, intersexed, queer, questioning, two-spirited, bisexual-curious, straight-curious, and queer positive, regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, sex, gender, religion, ethnic background or abilities.
2. To represent and encourage the growth and advancement of the ORAD community within the Province of Ontario as a whole.
3. To provide referral resources to individuals during the coming-out process, and to attempt through educational and social outreach to reduce the promulgation of homophobia, heterosexism, transphobia, biphobia, lesbophobia, audism and any other forms of discrimination and racism.

ORAD Events

The Ontario Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (ORAD) has activities planned for all of Pride Week 2014 to celebrate World Pride. Below you will find a table with information on the events taking place, the time, day and location. For a description of the events taking place please refer to the "Events Description". If you have any questions regarding the events please contact Pride@orad.ca

Event Name	Date	Time	Location
ORAD Meet n' Greet	June 23rd, 2014	6:00PM - 10:00PM	31 Wellesley Street East
Queer Artist Showcase Launch	June 24th, 2014	6:00PM - 10:00PM	31 Wellesley Street East
Tour of Toronto	June 25th, 2014	4:00PM - 7:00PM	Yonge & Bloor Intersection
World Pride Party	June 26th, 2014	6:00PM - 12:00AM	47 Lower River Street
Trans* March	June 27th, 2014	6:00PM	31 Wellesley Street East
Dyke March	June 28th, 2014	12:00PM	ORAD Pride Booth
Pride Parade	June 29th, 2014	1:00PM	ORAD Pride Booth

Events Description

ORAD Meet n' Greet

Come join ORAD for it's **World Pride** kickstart event. Meet board members and members of the Deaf community from Toronto and around the world. Find out what there is to do in Toronto, the best Queer and Trans hang outs and make new friends. All ages welcome! Free refreshments provided, accessible washrooms on-site and welcome packages for out of town visitors.

Queer Art Showcase Launch

ORAD has invited talented Deaf LGBTQ artists to showcase some of their artwork for **World Pride**. Come celebrate the talent of our community and get to know the Deaf Culture Centre in Toronto's beautiful Distillery District.

Tour of LGBTQ Toronto

If you are new to Toronto, want to learn more about LGBTQ hotspots in Downtown Toronto and learn about the LGBTQ rights movement in Toronto, this is the perfect event for you. We will start at Yonge & Bloor right in the heart of Toronto and work our way through the Church & Wellesley Village until we reach Allan Gardens. During this tour you will explore the history of Toronto's LGBTQ community, learn about important landmarks and historical moments that defined our community. There will be scheduled breaks throughout the tour and the route taken will be wheelchair and scooter accessible. We will provide free bottles of water!

World Pride Outdoor Party

Spend the afternoon celebrating **World Pride** with ORAD and enjoying the gorgeous summer weather. ORAD is hosting a party at 47 Lower River Street. There will be music, games, performances, prizes. We will also have food and non-alcoholic beverages for sale. This is ORAD's biggest event for Pride and the kickstart to Pride Weekend, you cannot miss it!

The Trans March

ORAD will participate once again in the annual Trans march in support and celebration of the Trans* community. The Trans* march is a demonstration of solidarity and a way for us to remember those who came before us and paved the way for Trans*'s rights to be recognized. Everybody is welcome to join this event. Allies are encouraged to join the march.

The Dyke March

The Dyke March is one of Pride's emblematic events and ORAD will be there again, marching in solidarity with the Lesbian community. Only people who identify as womyn/dykes/females are allowed to march but allies are encouraged to watch the Parade and cheer on.

The Annual Pride Parade

The Toronto Pride Parade is one of the biggest in North America and this year, with World Pride, it is bound to get even bigger. Come join ORAD and march with us down Yonge Street to celebrate diversity, advocate for LGBTQ rights and increase visibility of our community. Please know that this is a long walk; bring lots of water and sunscreen. You will most likely get wet as people use water guns on the people marching so plan accordingly. We promise you will have a blast!

Our Accessibility Commitment

As an organization, The Ontario Alliance of the Deaf (ORAD) is committed to be fully accessible. During World Pride, all of the events hosted by ORAD have no admission charge in order to be accessible to low-income people. In addition to that we will make sure that our events take place in wheelchair accessible spaces and that there are wheelchair accessible washrooms on-site or very close by. Whenever there is food and beverage available we will ensure that there are always vegetarian and gluten-free options, and we will try to the best of our abilities to be a peanut free environment. Furthermore, we try to create all ages events for those who are under 19 and for children to be welcome, as we understand that child care can be very expensive

ORAD is an organization dedicated to advocacy and the advancement of LGBTQ and Deaf rights; as such we try to be inclusive of all identities across the LGBTQ spectrum and no homophobic, transphobic, sexist, racist or ableist behaviour will be tolerated in our space.

If you require any accommodations or have any questions about accessibility during ORAD events, please contact Pride@orad.ca or Accessibility@orad.ca

World Pride Accessibility

The following section contains information regarding accessibility during the World Pride Festival. We have provided you with a link to World Pride's accessibility website so that you can find out more information or contact them. You can also feel free to contact us at Pride@orad.ca

Accessibility Headquarters

The Accessibility Headquarters is where you will be able to find information on accessibility during **World Pride**. It also has a shaded rest area and scooter accessible washrooms. The headquarters will be located at the corner of Church Street and Maitland. The headquarters will also have a schedule of all the interpreted events taking place during World Pride.

Wheelchair Rentals

There will be manual wheelchairs available for rent during **World Pride**. These can be rented at the Accessibility Headquarters at the corner of Church Street and Maitland. Please make sure you bring one piece of Photo I.D (Passport, Driver's License, Personal I.D Card from your country etc.). During rush-hour you wheel-chair rentals will be limited to 2 hours.

ASL Interpretation

If you need access to an ASL interpreter during **World Pride** you can find ASL interpreters at the Accessibility Headquarters. You will also be able to find interpreters roaming around the festival (they will be clearly identified), as well as during certain events. Please head towards to Accessibility Headquarters for a list of interpreted events.

Accessibility for the blind and low-vision

If you need access to an ASL interpreter during **World Pride** you can find ASL interpreters at the Accessibility Headquarters. You will also be able to find interpreters roaming around the festival (they will be clearly identified), as well as during certain events. Please head towards to Accessibility Headquarters for a list of interpreted events.

Getting Around Toronto

Toronto is a big city but has an effective transit system made up of subways, streetcars (Trams), buses and suburban trains. You will find that the downtown area is largely walkable, but you may need to use public transportation at some point during your visit.

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)

The Toronto Transit Commission is the network of subways, buses and streetcars in Toronto. You can get a free map of the TTC and Toronto at any subway station. To know if a subway station is accessible look for the  symbol in the map. Accessible stations are equipped with elevators that take you from the street level to the subway platform..

Most buses in Toronto are equipped with ramps to allow people on wheel-chairs to use the bus, however, routes with older buses remain inaccessible. Also note that while a route may have accessible buses, not all stops may be accessible by wheel-chair. Currently all the streetcars in Toronto are not wheelchair accessible on any routes.

As of February 2014, the TTC fare is \$3.00, you can get 3 tokens for \$8.10, and 7 tokens for \$18.90 (Each token is equivalent to a fair). You may also buy a weekly pass for \$39.25, which is valid from the Monday to the Sunday of any given week. There is also a day pass available for \$11.00. Children must pay 75¢ per ride.

For more information visit the TTC website at www.ttc.ca (English only)

TTC Wheel-Trans

The TTC has a service called Wheel-Trans which is a specialized door-to-door transit service for those of different physical abilities. Tourists are able to use Wheel-Trans for a period of 2 weeks within a one year period, as long as they are registered for specialized transit in their area of residence. We strongly recommend to plan your trips ahead if you are planning to use Wheel-Trans as they need to be booked ahead of time. For more information contact Wheel-Trans at: +1 416 393 4111/TTY: 416 393 4555/wtcs@ttc.ca (English Only)

GO Transit

If you are staying in any of the suburban cities such as Mississauga, Brampton, Vaughan, Markham, Pickering and other surrounding areas, your best way to get to Toronto is by using GO Transit. GO is Toronto's network of suburban buses and trains. Schedules for buses and trains will vary according to the community you are traveling to and from, as will the fare. To determine if there is a GO stop in the community you will be staying at, the schedule and the cost of the fare, please check GO Transit's website, www.gotransit.com (English & French).

There are two options when buying a GO bus fare, a one-way ticket and a day pass. The day pass is the equivalent of a two-way ticket and can only be used on the route the ticket was purchased for.

Most train stations are equipped with elevators where needed and platforms have an accessible ramp for wheelchair users who must use the train. The only train stations not accessible by wheelchair are: Long Branch, Mimico, Kipling, Bloor, Georgetown and Eglinton. Currently all GO bus routes are accessible by wheelchair but they encourage you to contact them in advanced to plan the trip. Due to the dimensions of the buses some medium-sized and large-scooters may not fit in the buses.

Train stops are announced on speakers but not on screens, if unsure where to get off you can always ask the driver to let you know when you get to your stop.

LGBTQ Friendly Toronto

Overall you will notice that Toronto is a very LGBTQ friendly city. Holding hands, kissing and being affectionate in public is common place and usually a safe thing to do. Like anywhere else, it is very important to use your judgment and common sense. Many businesses, specially closer to the downtown core, will have a rainbow flag sticker on their door or window to show that they are an LGBTQ friendly establishment. There are many LGBTQ friendly businesses outside the main LGBTQ areas.

Toronto is one of the only cities in the world to have not one, but two main LGBTQ spots: The Church & Wellesley Village and Queer Street West. The Church & Wellesley Village is where **World Pride** will take place and often seen as the centre of the LGBTQ community in Toronto. Here you will find many LGBTQ bars, restaurants, nightclubs and even a community centre. To get there just get off at Wellesley or College Subway Station and head east (see map below). Unfortunately both of these stations are not accessible by wheelchair, the closest wheelchair accessible subway stations are Dundas and Bloor Subway Stations.

Queer West

Queer West is Toronto's newest LGBTQ neighbourhood. It has a very different feel than Church & Wellesley and we invite you to visit it. While it is not located in the downtown core it is still a vibrant and lively neighbourhood. It is home to more than 70 LGBTQ friendly venue and generally attracts a more mixed crowd. Queer West is also located close to Trinity Bellwoods, one of Toronto's most popular parks and definitively a great place to go on a romantic summer stroll or picnic.

Queer West is not a main strip like Church & Wellesley, instead there are several different pockets in the west end of Toronto. Normally Queer West is considered to be Ossington Avenue between Dundas & Queen Street West and Queen Street West between Ossington and Roncesvalles.

The easiest way to get to Queer West is taking the 501 Streetcar West (501 Long Branch) and get off at Ossington Street, from there you can walk up and down Ossington or continue your walk west along Queer Street. At this moment all streetcar routes are not wheelchair accessible.

Tourist Attractions in Toronto

Toronto is not only Canada's largest city, but its cultural and financial centre as well. As a world class city, Toronto offers many attractions and there are many events that take place during the summer months. The following is a list of Toronto's most popular and must-see destinations.

CN Tower

Perhaps one of Toronto's and Canada's most iconic symbols, the CN tower was until very recently, the world's highest free standing structure. It is a definite must see, with a thrilling elevator ride, glass floor, amazing view of Toronto, and a revolving fine dining restaurant.

Casa Loma

Not many people know this but Toronto has its very own castle. It was an architectural dream built in the 1900's with a very interesting story. It has a magnificent view of the city and it's perhaps one of the most romantic spots in town.

The Royal Ontario Museum

Don't let appearances fool you! Voted Canada's ugliest building for several consecutive years, the ROM might look bizarre on the outside, but inside you will find one of the finest collection of Chinese artifacts, a six-foot totem pole and over 40 galleries of art, natural science and archeology. Don't forget to ask what the seasonal exhibit is for an extra special trip. This is one of the favourite destinations for those with children.

Toronto Islands

Toronto Islands is the perfect city getaway only 10 minutes away from Toronto by ferry. Head over to centre island for the theme park, go to Hanlan's point, Toronto's "Gay" clothing-optional beach, ride the bike along leafy quiet routes or kayak in Lake Ontario. The Toronto Islands is a perfect day trip destination, and the perfect summer spot.

Distillery District

The Distillery District in Toronto is rich with history and architecture. The Distillery District serves to promote culture in the city and has many little shops, cafes and restaurants. It is also pedestrians only so you can take a quiet safe stroll around the remains of 1800's Toronto. It is also home to Toronto's Deaf Culture Centre.

High Park

If green spaces are what you like, head over to High Park for a picnic, a hike or a visit to the High Park Zoo. High Park is large and has lots to see and it is home to Toronto's largest kids playground.

Tourist Attractions in Toronto con't

Deaf Culture Centre

Toronto is home to the Deaf Culture Centre. Located in the charming Distillery District, this is the place to go to learn about the history of the Deaf in Canada. It is free to go in, and while small, it offers some great insight into the history of the Deaf.

Hockey Hall of Fame

If you are a big hockey fan the Hockey Hall of Fame is where you want to head. The Hall of Fame celebrates the sport considered by many to be the national sport of Canada. With countless interactive exhibits, a replica NHL dressing room and all things hockey, you cannot miss this attraction.

Toronto Zoo

A fabulous day city get-away, the Toronto zoo is a great destination for animal lovers. Find yourself in the tropics, the Canadian tundra or the desert and explore the flora and fauna of the world.

Ontario Science Centre

The Ontario Science Centre is a super fun centre for all things science. Try to solve challenging puzzles given by staff, explore human anatomy, the science of communication and much more. The Ontario Science Centre's exhibit are entirely bilingual.

Ethnic Neighbourhoods

Toronto being one of the world's most diverse places in the world, and a place where 51% of people were born outside of Canada, it should be no surprise that there are many cultural enclaves around the city. Head over to one of the many cultural neighbourhoods for a taste of different delicious food and to explore Toronto's rich immigrant history. Among the more popular neighbourhoods are Chinatown, Kensington Market, Little Italy, Little India, and Little Portugal.

Yorkville

Last but not least, if you are interested in seeing one of Toronto's most popular and fine neighbourhoods, head over to Yorkville. Long time favourite of celebrities visiting the city, you will find luxury stores, fine dining restaurants and specialty cafe's. While it things may come with a pricey tag, it is a great place to stroll around.

Contact Information

Do you still have questions about **World Pride**, Toronto or the Ontario Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf? Are you visiting and do not know where to start? Get in touch with us, we will be happy to help you.

For information about ORAD, contact:
info@orad.ca (ASL & English Only)

For information regarding World Pride/Toronto contact:
Pride@orad.ca (ASL/English/French/Spanish)

To learn about ORAD, our missions, values and history, and to get our latest updates, visit:
www.ORAD.ca

Like us on Facebook and join our conversation:
www.facebook.com/OntarioRAD

We will be more than happy to offer you any assistance and point you in the right way. We hope to see you very soon!