

CELEBRATING A HISTORY OF DIVERSITY: LESBIAN AND GAY LIFE IN SASKATCHEWAN, 1971 - 2005

A SELECTED ANNOTATED CHRONOLOGY



Saskatchewan
Culture, Youth
and Recreation

Community
Initiatives
Fund



CELEBRATING A HISTORY OF DIVERSITY: LESBIAN AND GAY LIFE IN SASKATCHEWAN, 1971 - 2005

A SELECTED ANNOTATED CHRONOLOGY

By Neil Richards

Published by the Avenue Community Centre
for Gender and Sexual Diversity Inc.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



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Dedication

“The one duty we owe to history is to rewrite it.”

~ Oscar Wilde

**For all those who inspired, joined and recorded this journey
to a more inclusive province.**

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Introduction

“No social movement can survive without two important elements: an intellectual framework and a collective memory...We are what has happened to us, and therefore the record of experience is essential in the process of becoming, and in the establishment of identity.”

~ Peter Millard, from the introduction to the 1998 Doug Wilson Award program.

This chronology, or aide-memoire, covers the period from the establishment of the province's first gay and lesbian organizations in 1971 to the summer of 2005. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Two-Spirit (LGBT) community is part of the diversity upon which Saskatchewan was built, a diversity that continues to strengthen the fabric of provincial life. Until recently LGBT people have been a mute and largely invisible minority, and like many minorities they have faced discrimination, silencing, and pressures to hide or deny their true stories.

Given the silence about sexual orientation traditionally maintained in Saskatchewan schools and the media's disinterest in sexual diversity stories that lack conflict, it is not surprising to discover a general unawareness of the historical struggles, accomplishments and contributions of local LGBT people. Saskatchewan poet Patrick Lane once remarked that here in the heartland of the Canadian West we often think ourselves to be outside history and beyond the sweep of events. Saskatchewan residents would be wrong to think that changes in laws and attitudes towards sexual and gender minorities are the result only of organizations, activism and media attention from beyond our borders.

Members of the LGBT community also share as well in this ignorance or indifference to their local heritage. Younger and newer members of our community have often not heard the names of those pioneers who dared to dream of change and who established the organizations and institutions that now maintain and enrich our community. There is little awareness of the campaigns over the past thirty years that achieved today's greater visibility and acceptance. Those without an appreciation of the long and bitter struggles behind today's freedoms may underestimate their fragility and vulnerability to attack.

Oral history seems particularly limited as a means of transmitting heritage information within queer communities. The LGBT community differs from other communities in which parents and extended family members are an important resource for community history. Particularly difficult in smaller LGBT communities such as exist in Saskatchewan is the real paucity of elders mentoring or transmitting forward community memory. Many of Saskatchewan's early participants in the struggle for gay and lesbian liberation have died, including far too many lost to the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s. Adding to these losses is a longstanding out-migration of lesbians and gays to larger centres to the West and East. Many of our best sources of community memory would now be found in Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto.

This chronology honors the efforts of the many individuals who against formidable opposition established a safer and a more just, tolerant and accepting place for them right here in Saskatchewan. Although the province's LGBTTT people have naturally been influenced by national and international events and by the global media, they have never been just passive consumers or simple imitators of a more urban queer culture. This chronology hopefully demonstrates that the development of the province's LGBTTT community has been impacted by distinctive Saskatchewan factors, including its rural-urban demographic, its social conservatism and its tradition of progressive politics.

The compiler has been a participant in not a few of the listed events. In writing this timeline I have tried not to begin with my own memory and opinions but to rely as much as possible on printed documentary sources, most from the mainstream media. The goal here was to provide simple answers to the what, where, when and how questions traditionally posed by journalists. I refrained from speculating about motives, or analyzing meanings. These should soon be provided by University of Saskatchewan historian Dr. Valerie Korinek who has a book in progress which examines and evaluates the development of lesbian and gay communities on the prairies. Notwithstanding these disclaimers it is impossible that the selection of events would not be influenced by the compiler's experiences, understandings and interests. The choice of chronology events was completely my own and I alone am responsible for any omissions, misunderstandings or outright mistakes. The University of Saskatchewan Library will soon add a version of this document on their website *Saskatchewan Resources for Sexual Diversity*. I welcome any suggestions or corrections that could improve the online version.

Reliable documentation depends upon the quantity and quality of the sources to which the researcher has access. In many years the reader will notice more events listed from Saskatoon than from Regina, the provincial capital. This disparity should not be viewed as a certain proof that Saskatoon is or was always a more active or welcoming community for LGBTTT people. The records of the long established Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina appear to be lost and Regina never sustained a journal like *Perceptions*, which carefully recorded events in the local community. One might also remark a noticeable and longstanding disinterest of editors at the *Regina Leader-Post* in publishing many LG news items, features and editorials, particularly in comparison to their counterparts at the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*. Perhaps I have simply yet to find enough sources to do full justice to Regina's LGBTTT heritage.

A few words about terminology. The chronology is subtitled *Lesbian and Gay Life in Saskatchewan* because for most of the time period in question most of the individuals noted would have identified themselves as gay or lesbian. During the 1970s some community members described themselves as homosexuals and some women preferred the appellation gay woman to lesbian. Early organizers / activists were, with a few exceptions, Caucasian and most familiar with European and American constructions of gender and sexual identity.

Beginning in the 1990s there developed a greater understanding that lesbians and gays were not the only, but perhaps only the largest of the minorities, outside a traditional heterosexual conception of society. Soon some embraced the previously derogatory 'queer' to encompass and connect a greater number of gender and sexual minorities. Others have preferred to highlight individual identities in acronyms such as LGBTTT. I have employed these more recent identifiers when they seemed appropriate to the individuals or events described. Fortunately there is now a greater understanding of and solidarity with transgender individuals in the LGBTTT community. Increased multiracial immigration and the growth in the size and visibility of Saskatchewan's aboriginal population have also increased awareness and acceptance of other cultural constructions of gender and sexual identity. ~ Neil Richards

"Stories that make up a tradition contain conceptions of character of what a good person is like, and the virtues that define such character. But the stories are not all exemplary, not all about successes and achievements. A genuine community of memory will also tell painful stories of shared suffering that sometimes create deeper identities than success. And if the community is completely honest, it will remember stories not only of suffering received but of suffering inflicted— dangerous memories."

~ Robert Beulah, *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life*.
New York: Harper and Row, 1986. p. 153.

Chronology of Events

1960s

1960s

Saskatoon

Groups of gay men met at downtown bars including the Cove at the King George Hotel and the second-floor lounge of the Bessborough Hotel. The "Park" (Kinsmen Park) behind the Bessborough Hotel was the principal site of outside cruising. In the late 1960s there were small gay social circles that met at private house parties.

[Valerie Korinek, "'The Most openly gay person for at least a thousand miles': Doug Wilson and the politicization of a province, 1975-83," *Canadian Historical Review*, v. 84 no. 4 (December 2003) p. 8-9.]

1967

December 22

Ottawa

Federal Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau proposed amendments to the Criminal Code which would relax laws against homosexuality, declaring that "there's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation. I think that what's done in private between adults doesn't concern the Criminal Code."

1969

August

Ottawa

Parliament passed amendments to the Criminal Code decriminalizing 'gross indecency' and 'buggery' when performed in private by two consenting adults aged twenty-one or older.

1970s

1970

November

Toronto

The first issue of *The Body Politic*, was published. *The Body Politic* was one of North America's most influential gay periodicals.

1971

April 27

Saskatoon

Doug (later Gens) Hellquist and Dan Nalbach placed an advertisement in Vancouver's *Georgia Straight* newsmagazine proposing the formation of a group titled Saskatoon Gay Liberation.

["Classifieds: Out of Town," *Georgia Straight*, (April 27-30 1971) p. 23.]

August 28

Ottawa

The first public gay demonstration on Parliament Hill demanded changes to laws and policies affecting homosexuals.

Autumn

Saskatoon

Two small activist organizations were launched: The Gay Students Alliance at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) and Saskatoon Gay Action (SGA). Organizers included Bruce Garman, Doug Hellquist, Dan Nalbach, and Erv (later Tom) Warner.

["News of the Gay: Saskatoon," *The Body Politic*, no. 5 (1972) p. 16.]

Autumn

Saskatoon

Gens Hellquist wrote that in late 1971 a group of gay men discussed the need to establish a regular drinking venue for Saskatoon gays. The group's choice was the Apollo Room at the downtown Ritz Hotel. Although the Apollo Room (adorned by murals of the lunar landing) was considered unattractive it was spacious and relatively uncrowded. The Apollo soon had a sizable and committed gay and lesbian clientele that continued to patronize 'the Ritz' for many years. The management and staff welcomed the new clientele and dealt quickly and firmly with anyone harassing LG patrons. The hotel closed in 1985

[Gens Hellquist, "Adventures of a prairie fag. Part 2," *Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 3 (April 25 2001)]

October Saskatoon

Respondents to the *Georgia Straight* ad and others were invited to a meeting to discuss the establishment a gay social organization. Several fundraising parties were held at private homes to finance the effort.

[Gens Hellquist, "Adventures of a prairie fag. Part 2," *Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 3 (April 25 2001)]

1972

January Saskatoon

The Zodiac Friendship Society (ZFS) was formed and officially incorporated in March as a non-profit organization. The Society soon began to operate the *Gemini Club*, which hosted dances and drop-ins at the Unitarian Centre at 502 Main Street.

[Ed Jackson, "Saskatoon Gay Action: Progress in a prairie city," *The Body Politic*, no. 10 (1973) p. 23.]

January 22 Regina

Ten people at a private party volunteered to investigate forming a social centre for lesbians and gays in Regina. Don Murdoch and others visited gay organizers in Saskatoon to share their ideas and experiences.

[Darrel David Hockley, "A History of the Gay Community of Regina," unpublished typescript, (1994) p. 8.]

February 11 Saskatoon

The *Gemini Club* hosted its first gay dance at the Unitarian Centre. At the time the club had fifteen paid members.

[Doug Hellquist, "President's Report," *Gemini News*, no. 1 (February 1972) p. 1-2.]

February 13 Regina

The first meeting of Regina's LG community was convened at the home of Don Murdoch. The Atropos Friendship Society was adopted as the group's official name and the *Odyssey Club* was selected as the name for the envisioned social club. An executive board was elected with Murdoch serving as president. Work began on a constitution and

advertisements were placed in the *Regina Leader-Post (RLP)* seeking gays and lesbians who might wish to meet others. Over the next decades the organization evolved into the Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina (GLCR) which at the date of this compilation appears to be Canada's oldest continuously running LG organization.

[Hockley]

August Ottawa

The National Gay Election Coalition was formed by sixteen Canadian groups to intervene in the approaching federal election (October 30).

September 9 Regina

The *Odyssey Club* opened at a rented house at 2242 Smith Street. The Club was initially open only on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. The club offered music for dancing, an information line, a library, and bi-monthly newsletter, *The Odyssey News* (publication ceased in 1977). During its initial years the club operated as a venue for 'private parties'. Liquor was brought in by patrons and deposited at a bar for service on request. To bolster the argument that these were in fact private house parties the upstairs rooms were rented to a live-in tenant. Don Murdoch served as president until 1975. He was succeeded by Bev Siller, the group's first female president.

[Hockley / Evelyn Rogers, "Reflections on the Good Old Days," *Sensible Shoes News (SSN)*, (March and June 1997)]

October 24 Saskatoon

At a Liberal campaign rally at the U of S gymnasium Bruce Garman of SGA asked Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau for his position on the place of homosexuals in the Bill of Rights and on restrictions against homosexuals in the Immigration Act. Trudeau replied noncommittally. The SGA received a more hostile response at another meeting when Justice Minister Otto Lang

replied that he was certain that the majority of Canadians felt there were already enough homosexuals, drug addicts and prostitutes in the country.

[*Zodiac Friendship Society News*, v.1 no. 11
(November 1972) / "He came, we saw, he left,"
The Sheaf, (October 27 1972) p. 1]

November 11-12

Saskatoon

The first Western Canada Gay Clubs Conference was hosted by the *Gemini Club*. Forty representatives from five private clubs - *Club 70* (Edmonton), *Club Carousel* (Calgary), *Happenings Social Club* (Winnipeg), *Odyssey Club* (Regina) and *Gemini Club* (Saskatoon) - met to share information and seek means of cooperating.

["Western Canadian Clubs Conference," *ZFS News*, v. 1 (December 1972) p. 1-2.]

1973

January

Regina

The University of Saskatchewan Homophile Association (USHA) formed at the U of S Regina campus. In 1972 a psychology student named Ann Tarjanne had promoted gay awareness on campus. USHA organizers Gary McDonald and Bev Siller reported difficulty in recruiting members. The group helped students come out and made classroom presentations upon request. When the University of Regina was established in 1974 the group became the University of Regina Homophile Association. It ceased operation in 1980.

[Bev Siller, "University Homophile Association (Letter)," *The Carillon*, (February 9 1973) p. 2.]

January

Saskatoon

Members of SGA were guests on CFQC Radio's Glenys Joyce show.

[ZFS Newsletter, v. 2 no. 2 (February 1973)]

February 24

Saskatoon

Bruce Garman and Doug Hellquist met with the board of the Saskatchewan Association

on Human Rights, who encouraged them to prepare and present a brief on antigay discrimination to the provincial government.

[ZFS News, v. II no. 3 (March 1973) p. 3.]

March 17

Saskatoon

A dance was held to celebrate the opening of a new rented facility for the *Gemini Club* located at 124A 2nd Avenue North. The centre sponsored a library and information phone line. General drop-ins were held on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and a lesbian drop-in was often held on Friday evenings. The group sought new members through newspaper advertisements. The Saturday night dances and socials were popular and profitable providing the organization the financial resources for political and social service activities. The club shared an office floor with the Saskatoon Women's Centre, which facilitated dialogue and cooperation with feminist women. Several of these came out as lesbians.

[“News of the Gay: Saskatoon: Gay centre opens,”
The Body Politic, no. 8 (1973) p. 19.]

July

Montreal

Long Time Coming, Canada's first lesbian periodical, began publishing.

July 17

Saskatoon

Representatives of Regina's two gay organizations visited Saskatoon to work with SGA on a joint brief to the provincial government.

[ZFS Newsletter, v. 2 no. 7 (July 1973)]

August

Saskatoon

Bruce Garman of SGA requested that City Council proclaim a Gay Pride Week, stating that “this week is set apart by gays to demonstrate their pride in their sexuality and their desire to live their lives without fear of discrimination and oppression.” City Council rejected the request and Pride was celebrated with a picnic at Cranberry Flats

on September 2.

["Saskatoon won't be gay," *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* (SSP), (August 14 1973) p. 4.]

August 14

Saskatoon

SGA presented a brief to Ned Shillington, Executive Assistant to Attorney-General Roy Romanow, on behalf of the ZFS and the USHA. The brief called for the amendment of the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights, the Fair Employment Practices Act, the Fair Accommodations Practices Act and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Shillington said the proposed changes were long overdue and that Romanow "felt positive" about the brief.

[Bruce Garman, "The Brief: Another first for Sask?" *ZFS Newsletter* v. 2 no. 2 (September 1973) p.1.]

August 25

Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (SHRC) recommended the expansion of anti-discrimination legislation, including prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. It was the first Canadian human rights commission to call for the inclusion of sexual orientation in human rights laws.

[SSP, (August 25 1973) p. 3.]

October 6-7

Quebec City

The first Canadian conference of gay organizations was held.

November 21-23 Saskatoon and Regina

A prominent American lesbian couple, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, undertook speaking engagements in Saskatchewan. The couple were founding members of the early American lesbian organization Daughters of Bilitis and authors of a bestselling book *Lesbian/Woman*. They spoke at the U of S Regina campus on November 21st and at the Saskatoon campus on the 23rd and did several interviews with the local media.

[Beth Foster, "Lesbians dispel myths," *The Sheaf*, (November 30 1993) p. 3. / *Community Women's Centre Newsletter (Regina)* (December 1993)]

1974

January 23

Saskatoon

Two hundred and fifty attended a debate sponsored by the U of S Students' Debating Society entitled *Gay is Good for God and Man*. Peter Millard and Beth Foster spoke for the motion. The Rev. Michael Horban and Hetty Clews spoke against. There were gasps when Millard, a tenured professor of English, identified himself as gay.

[Diana Rogers, "Gay, God, man (and woman) in sexual battle," *The Sheaf*, (January 29 1974) p. 3.]

February 11

Winnipeg

Richard North and Chris Vogel were married by a Unitarian—Universalist minister.

February 20-23

Saskatoon

Gateway Players presented a production of *The Boys in the Band*, Mart Crowley's groundbreaking play about a group of gay men in New York City. The play was directed by Ian C. Nelson and Ron Jevons. Some local activists decried what they saw as the play's unliberated stereotypes of dysfunctional homosexuals. In a letter of protest Peter Millard called it "Agony in the closet."

[Peter Millard, "Misfacts," *The Sheaf*, (February 20 1974) p. 11.]

March 12

Saskatoon

The Western Producer, the weekly farm newspaper, refused to print a classified ad from the ZFS. The same ad had been printed in the *StarPhoenix* for almost two years without a problem. The Society filed a complaint with the SHRC and the complaint was investigated. The Commission ruled that the ad refusal was not a breach of the Human Rights Code because sexual orientation was not included in the act. This was one of the first times that a Canadian human rights



Bruce Garman and unidentified man at the newly opened Gemini Club of the Zodiac Friendship Society at 124A 2nd Avenue N, 17 March 1973. Saskatchewan Archives Board, Neil Richards fonds, photograph S-B 13400.



1977 poster advertising a Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights march on the Legislature. Artist unknown. SAB, Neil Richards fonds, A821-IX-2.

commission actively investigated a complaint of anti-gay discrimination.

[“Prairie paper won’t print ad,” *The Body Politic*, no. 14 (1974) p. 4.]

April 25 **Regina**

Saskatoon MLA John Richards (Independent Socialist) presented a petition to the legislature calling for the inclusion of sexual orientation in human rights legislation and the next day asked Attorney-General Roy Romanow the government’s intentions. Romanow replied that the government was considering the matter but had not made a decision.

[“Gay rights in legislature,” *Gay West (Saskatoon)*, no. 1 (1974) p. 4.]

May **Saskatoon**

SGA and the ZFS established a legal defence fund for Darlene Case, a local lesbian involved in a custody battle for her two children. At the time there was no Canadian precedent for a LG parent gaining or retaining child custody. In his judgment (Court of Queen’s Bench. Case v Case - July 1974) Justice McPherson wrote “I greatly fear that if these children are raised with their mother, they will be too much in contact with people of abnormal tastes and proclivities.”

[“Defence fund established,” *Gay West*, no. 1 (1974) p. 1.]

May 18-19 **Saskatoon**

SGA hosted the first conference of Prairie gay activists. Delegates attended from Winnipeg and Edmonton to discuss electoral strategies, counseling, the role of lesbians and community cooperation.

[“Western gays hold conference,” *The Body Politic*, no. 14 (1974) p. 4.]

November **Saskatoon**

Attorney-General Roy Romanow told a bear pit session of the Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights that “we should move slowly in some areas of human rights as there may be a backlash.”

[“Protection for gay people,” *The Sheaf*, (November 15 1974)]

1975

January **Saskatoon**

The ZFS and SGA officially merged to become the Gay Community Centre of Saskatoon (GCCS).

[*Gay West*, no. 2 (1975) p. 11.]

January 24-26 **Montreal**

Beth Foster represented the GCCS at the 2nd annual National Lesbian Conference held in Montreal.

[*Gay Community Centre of Saskatoon. Newsletter*, (February 1975)]

February 6 **Toronto**

John Damien was fired from his job as a racing steward by the Ontario Racing Commission because he was homosexual. His long and unsuccessful fight for reinstatement was the first Canadian battle against job discrimination to be widely publicized.

February 24 **Saskatoon**

The U of S Debating Society hosted a debate on gay marriage. Norman Naylor, the Unitarian Minister who had married Richard North and Chris Vogel in Winnipeg, spoke in support. United Church minister Brian Thorpe opposed the motion. The affirmative side won 44 -10.

[“Gay marriages?” *Gay West*, no. 2 (1975) p. II. / “Clergyman who married gays to debate on campus,” *The Sheaf*, (February 18 1975)]

March **Regina**

In order to purchase its Smith Street premises the Regina club officially incorporated as the Atropos Friendship Society. The house was purchased towards the end of 1975. Two directors co-signed the mortgage.

[*Perceptions*, no. 34 (1987) p. 3-5.]

April 1 **Regina**

The University of Regina Students’ Union

and CUPE Local 1486 signed the first labour agreement in Saskatchewan prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. The second contract with this provision was signed between the SHRC and CUPE Local 1871 on August 1 1976.

[Saskatchewan Gay Coalition. Lesbians and Gay Men: A Minority without rights (Brief). 1978.]

June 10 **Saskatoon**

In Saskatchewan's first public gay demonstration about twenty men and women demonstrated in front of the *StarPhoenix* to protest the paper's refusal to print an advertisement submitted by the GCCS. The ad reported the results of a poll the group had taken of candidates running in the current provincial election. Although it continued to refuse to print the ad the newspaper did run a story and photo of the protest on its front page.

["First prairie picket held," *The Body Politic*, no. 19 (1975) p. 6. / Vern Greenshields, "Gay community protests ad decision," *SSP*, (June 11 1975)]

June 18 **Regina**

Peter Millard presented a brief to the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee on Immigration Policy on behalf of the GCCS. The brief called for the removal of restrictions on homosexual people visiting or immigrating to Canada.

["Ignored again," *Gay West*, no. 2 (1975) p. 5.]

Summer **Saskatoon**

A federal Opportunities for Youth grant of \$7,200 was awarded to a GCCS project titled *Community Understanding*. The project employed four people - Doug Hellquist, Anne Lawrence, Elizabeth (Lesley) Noton, and Doug Wilson - to produce educational materials about sexual diversity.

["OFY grant for Saskatoon," *Gay West*, no. 2 (1975) p. 9.]

September 19 **Saskatoon**

The U of S student paper *The Sheaf* printed a small ad: "Anyone interested in participating

in a campus gay organization. Contact Doug Wilson, Box 203 College of Education."

[*The Sheaf*, v. 66 no. 18 (September 19 1975) p. 2.]

September 22 **Saskatoon**

Graduate student Doug Wilson was suspended from supervising student teachers in the public school system by the U of S Dean of Education following his identification with a proposed campus gay group. The decision was publicly endorsed by University President Dr. R.W. Begg. A major legal and political action began that attracted national media coverage and the support of numerous gay organizations, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) and many individuals. Some events connected to the Doug Wilson case are listed below. Interested readers should consult Valerie Korinek's "'The Most openly gay person for at least a thousand miles': Doug Wilson and the politicization of a province 1975-83," *Canadian Historical Review*, v. 84 no. 4 (December 2003) p. 517-83.

[Chris Mushka, "Wilson declared unfit to supervise," *The Sheaf*, (September 26 1975) / Jim Duggleby, "U of S restricts lecturer," *SSP*, (September 30 1975) / "Begg supports decision to limit teacher," *SSP*, (October 1 1975) p. 3.]

September 26 **Saskatoon**

Doug Wilson lodged a complaint with the SHRC and requested an investigation. The Commission accepted the complaint and when attempts to negotiate a settlement failed the commission announced it would launch a formal inquiry. The U of S sought an injunction to prevent the inquiry.

["Romanow doubtful over rights commission's jurisdiction," *Regina Leader-Post (RLP)*, (November 10 1975) p. 3. / "Decision to be challenged," *RLP*, (December 9 1975) p. 3.]

October 1 **Saskatoon**

Two hundred and fifty attended a campus meeting organized by the Committee to Defend Doug Wilson. The Committee

announced its goals as the reinstatement of Wilson as a supervisor of student teachers, and a university policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

[Judith Varga, "MLA supports Wilson issue," *The Sheaf*, (October 3 1975)]

October 7 **Saskatoon**
The Sheaf published a special four-page supplement dealing with gay liberation. GCCS volunteers prepared most of the copy.

[*The Sheaf*, (October 7 1975)]

October 11-13 **Saskatoon**
The first national Gay Community Services Conference was held in the city. Delegates discussed the provision of social services and education efforts by the LG community.

["Gay community seeks assistance of agencies," *SSP*, (October 14 1975) p. 33.]

October 18 **Saskatoon**
The SFL amended its constitution to prohibit discrimination based on marital status and sexual orientation.

["Discrimination: A Teacher fights back," *The Body Politic*, no. 21 (1975) p. 1.]

Autumn **Saskatoon**
Three Saskatoon NDP constituency associations passed motions urging the NDP government to include sexual orientation in the province's human rights legislation. The Saskatchewan Young New Democrats also voiced support.

["Support from New Democrats in Saskatchewan," *The Body Politic*, no. 21 (1975) p. 7.]

Winter **Saskatoon**
Peter Millard convened a meeting to re-establish a gay campus organization. The Gay Academic Union (GAU) was established and operated until September 1982 when it was replaced by Gays and Lesbians at the U of S (GLUS).

1976

February 5

Justice F. W. Johnson of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench ruled that 'sex' in the Fair Employment Practices Act referred to gender, not sexual orientation and that the SHRC had exceeded its jurisdiction in accepting a complaint from Doug Wilson. Wilson chose not to appeal the decision.

["Wilson case ruled outside limits of rights group," *SSP*, (February 5 1976)]

March 22

Saskatoon

The U of S University Council debated the recommendations of a committee established to investigate the need for antidiscrimination policies at the University. After long and bitter debate the Council decided that the U of S should not use sexual orientation in decisions on hiring or assignment of duties, including appointments of dons in residences.

[Peter Millard, "Assault on the ivory tower," *The Body Politic*, (June 1976) / "Report outlaws discrimination," *The Sheaf*, (March 26 1976) p. 3.]

March 28

Saskatoon

The opening night of the Gay Community Centre's new club at 310 20th Street East was disrupted by thirty youths who attacked patrons.

["Two injured during brawl," *SSP*, (March 29 1976)]

April 7-11

Saskatoon

Gateway Theatre presented a production of Neil Simon's comedy *The Gingerbread Lady* directed by Ian Nelson. The production won four awards at the Theatre Saskatchewan drama festival in Regina later in the month. The *Leader-Post* reported Nelson's praise for actor Bill Hyslop's portrayal of Jimmy Perry, the lead's homosexual sidekick: "The part was so foreign to him. He couldn't believe that people could act that way and still be human beings."

["Gateway does justice to Simon's humor (Review)," *SSP*, (April 8 1976) / "They had gay old times at Gateway," *RLP*, (April 26 1976) p. 7.]

1977

1977

Regina

The *Odyssey Club* discontinued its BYOB policy and began operating under special occasion liquor permits. Since only one permit was allowed each week, socials with liquor were usually only held on Saturdays.

[Hockley]

1977

Regina

Gary McDonald submitted the first academic thesis on a LG subject to a Saskatchewan university. His psychology MA thesis at the U of R was entitled *The Relationship between sex-role stereotypes and attitudes toward women and male homosexuality in a non-clinical sample of homosexual men*.

February

Toronto

The Body Politic, Canada's national gay newspaper, marked the fifth anniversary of the GCCS with a feature describing Saskatoon as having 'one of the biggest gay centres in the country.'

[Tom Warner, "Saskatoon," *The Body Politic*, (February 1977) p. 11.]

February 8-10

Saskatoon

The GAU presented three nights of LG themed films at Place Riel Theatre. The program included *Fox and His Friends*, *If*, and *Sunday Bloody Sunday*.

[*Gay Community Centre of Saskatoon. Newsletter*, (February 1977) p. 1.]

March 9

Saskatoon

The GCCS appointed a committee to review the structure and operations of the Centre. The group had become paralyzed by personality conflicts and differing visions of the Centre's mandate and organizational structure.

[*Saskgaytoon* (newsletter of the GCCS), (April 1977) p. 1.]

March 12

Regina

The Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights sponsored what was called "the largest gay rights demonstration ever held on the Prairies" at the Saskatchewan Legislature. One hundred and twenty-five protested the government's lack of action on human rights amendments.

["Gays stage protest," *RLP*, (March 14 1977) p. 4. / "Marchers protest for human rights," *The Carillon*, (March 17 1977)]

May 9

Ottawa

Private Barbara Thornborrow was questioned by the Canadian Armed Forces about her lesbianism. She decided to go public and fight officials who wished to expel her as a sexual deviate.

June 25

Ottawa

Parliament passed an amended Immigration Act removing homosexuals from the list of inadmissible classes.

June 29

Toronto

A Gallup Poll reported that 52% of Canadians believed homosexuals should be protected against discrimination.

June 29 - July 3

Saskatoon

Towards a Gay Community, the fifth national conference of lesbians and gay men, attracted delegates from across the country. The plenary sessions held at the U of S were raucous and bitter. The special conference guest was Private Barbara Thornborrow, who was at the time threatened with expulsion from the Canadian Armed Forces. The conference featured a large march for LG rights through downtown Saskatoon. An ambitious cultural and social program included an art exhibition, book displays at the University and public libraries, film screenings, and a cabaret and dance.

["Gay rights conference," *Saskatoon Commentator*, (June 29 1977) p. 12. / Doug McGee, "Gays march through Saskatoon... protection demanded," *SSP* (July 2 1977) p. 20.]



Towards a Gay Community. Poster for the 1977 Saskatoon conference of the National Gay Rights Coalition. Designer: Denis Nokony.
SAB, Neil Richards fonds, A821 IX-15.



Protest march during the 1977 Saskatoon conference of the National Gay Rights Coalition. Photograph by Neil Richards.
SAB, Neil Richards fonds, photograph S-B 13437.

/ Mark Stobbe, "Gays Unit," *The Sheaf*, (July 5 1977) p. 1.]

August 14 **Regina**

A special general membership meeting amended the constitution of the Atropos Friendship Society renaming it the Gay Community of Regina (GCR).

[Hockley]

December **Regina**

Discussions in Regina led to the establishment of the Saskatchewan Gay Coalition (SGC), an alliance of groups who wished to "effect political, social and educational action to ensure full human rights for all gay men and lesbians in Saskatchewan." The coalition aimed to be non-sexist and feminist. Early organizers included Kay Bierwiler, Wiesia Kolansinka, Susan Langer, Terry Nelson, Marg Taylor and Doug Wilson. The organization folded in 1982.

["New groups formed: Saskatchewan Gay Coalition," *The Body Politic*, (February 1978) p. 13.]

December 15 **Quebec City**

Quebec's National Assembly amended the province's Charter of Rights to include sexual orientation, becoming the first province to prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gays in housing, employment and accommodations.

1978

January **Saskatoon**

The GAU presented a three night gay film series at Place Riel Theatre screening *Death in Venice*, *Gay USA*, and *In the Best Interests of the Children*.

[*Gay Blade* (Newsletter of the GCCS), (January 1978) p. 3.]

January 31 **Regina**

American comedian Gale Gordon starred in a touring production of *Norman, Is That You?* at the Regina Inn's Stage West dinner theatre.

The comedy exploits the misadventures of an Ohio drycleaner who visits New York City to discover that his son is a homosexual living with another man.

[Ken Cuthbertson, "Gordon as superb in flesh as on TV (Review)," *RLP*, (February 1 1978) p. 8]

February **Saskatoon**

The SGC established a newsletter *Gay Saskatchewan* that grew from a small list of thirty contacts to over 2,100 subscribers by 1982. The newsletter was later titled *Grassroots*. It included news of LG political and social events, editorials, classified advertisements and letters from readers.

February 3 **Toronto**

The House of Bishops of the Anglican Church affirmed that lesbians and gays are entitled to equal protection under the law with all other Canadian citizens.

April **Saskatoon**

The U of S Greystone Theatre presented a production of Simon Gray's *Butley*. The play presents a day in the life of a caustic English professor who is being left by both his wife and the young protégé to whom he has become homosexually attached.

[J. Dalton, "Butley...disappointed or perplexing," *The Sheaf*, (April 4 1978) p. 14.]

April 21 **Saskatoon**

Outrageous was among the first Canadian gay films to be shown in the city. The movie played at the Broadway Theatre with an X rating. The Broadway Theatre has continued to be the chief venue for the screening of independent LG films up to the date of this compilation.

[Nancy Russell, "Outrageous (Review)," *SSP*, (April 25 1978) p. 14.]

May **Prince Albert**

The Prince Albert Gay Community Centre was established. The group advertised in the *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, operated a phone

line and held social evenings on Friday evenings in a private home.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 1 no. 4 (May 1978)]

May 19–22 Saskatoon

A Prairie Gay Conference hosted by the SGC attracted about one hundred. A proposal for a fall prairie gay cultural event was advanced at the conference. The first Metamorphosis celebration was held later in the year. (See below).

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 1 no. 5 (June 1978)]

July 1 **Moose Jaw**

Two hundred and fifty people organized by the Coalition to Answer Anita Bryant marched to protest the American singer's appearance at a Canada Day rally. The singer had been invited to the city by the Moose Jaw Fellowship on Evangelism. At the time Bryant was the most well known American campaigner against LG rights. The march and protest rally was peaceful and included members from the SGC, and from Saskatchewan student, gay and feminist groups.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 1. no. 6 (July 1978) / "Bryant concert without incident," *SSP*, (July 3 1978) p. 11.]

October 6-9 Saskatoon

The first Metamorphosis cultural festival was held on the Thanksgiving weekend with featured performers Ferron from Vancouver, Blackberri from San Francisco and Michael Gordon from Regina. A highlight was a large march and rally at City Hall. This first Metamorphosis was so successful that it became an annual event promoting positive aspects of lesbian and gay life on the prairies. The Metamorphosis weekends usually included art and crafts displays, a parade or march, educational workshops, films, dances, coffeehouses, concerts, and a Thanksgiving feast. The earlier Metamorphoses attracted both women and men. Although there were always events for male participants, the event

in the later 1980s was organized and chiefly staffed by women who formed the majority of the participants. The event was presented annually until 1989 and was restaged in 2001 and 2002.

[Robin Hardy, "Prairie festival soars to success," *The Body Politic*, (November 1978) p. 9.]

November Regina

A group of politically active lesbians and gay men formed the Regina Gay Community to advance political and educational work in the city. The group joined the Saskatchewan Gay Coalition and presented a number of events in cooperation with the Gay Community of Regina.

[Hockley]

November 18-19 Regina

The NDP provincial convention debated and for the first time approved (by a counted vote) a resolution to prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, marital status, sexual orientation or handicap. Premier Allan Blakeney in his wrap-up address dampened expectations of action declaring it would “require a good deal of thought to see what the appropriate role of government is.”

[Marsha Erb, "NDP supports homosexual rights," *SSP*, (November 20 1978) p. 27.]

1979

January Saskatoon

The Saskatoon and District Labour Council passed a resolution calling for the province's human rights legislation to be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 2 no. 3 (March 1979)]

January 12 **Saskatoon**

The GCCS celebrated the opening of its new rented premises in the basement at 245 – 3rd Avenue South. Alderman George Taylor attended the opening.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 2 no. 2 (February 1979)]

/ "Gay community centre opens," *The Sheaf*,
(January 11 1979) p. 1.]

February 21

Regina

Kay Bierwiler, Brian Gladwell and Doug Wilson of the SGC met with Attorney-General Romanow for the first time since 1974 to discuss their brief *Lesbians and Gay Men: A Minority Without Rights*. They reported that Romanow was unwilling to commit himself and was in no way encouraging. He mentioned a hot debate in the NDP caucus and that if human rights protections were granted to the LG community those rights might exclude teachers and childcare workers.

["Coalition meets with Attorney-General," *Gay Saskatchewan*, (March 1979) / "Attorney-General urges group to continue pressure," *The Body Politic*, no. 51 (March/April 1979) p. 13.]

February - March

Saskatoon

The GAU presented its third LG film series at Place Riel Theatre. The series included *The Children's Hour*, *A Bigger Splash* and *Word is Out*.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 2 no. 3 (March 1979)]

February - March

Regina

Dick Collver, Conservative party leader, jumped on a flippant comment to a reporter by Brian Currie, president of the GCCS. Currie had mused about the statistical possibility of there being a gay cabinet minister. Collver demanded in the Legislature that the Premier answer the charge noting that homosexuals were easily blackmailed. Blakeney called Collver's comments contemptible and added that he had not surveyed the cabinet - "I know the cabinet ministers well, but not that well."

[Rudy Lukko, "Gay spokesperson just assumes one minister is homosexual," *RLP*, (February 28 1979) p. 14. / "Premier attacks Collver rumor of gay minister," *Globe and Mail*, (March 1 1979) p. 9. / "Dick Collver's charge causes second thought," *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, (March 3 1979) p. 2.]

March 29

Saskatoon

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo presented an evening of classical dance parodies at the Centennial Auditorium. Les Trocs are a New York based all male company who satirize ballet's icons and conventions in cross-dressed performances. Years later the company visited Regina on November 1 1995 to perform at the Saskatchewan Centre for the Arts.

[Eva Schacherl, "Les Ballets Trockederos (Review)," *SSP*, (March 30 1979) p. 17.]

April 21

Regina

The NDP government decided not to extend human rights protections to lesbians and gays. Reports indicated that it had been deterred by public opposition and by a fear that it would be seen as protecting one of their own after the Collver gay cabinet member charges. In response the SGC organized a protest demonstration at the Legislature on May 5.

["Homosexuals not included in addition to rights code," *RLP*, (April 21 1979) p. 8.]

September 4

Saskatoon

An arsonist set fire to the GCCS during the night causing over \$10,000 in damages. The Centre reopened on September 15 but the cost of repairs weakened the organization's financial situation.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 2 no. 10 (October 1979) / "Arson confirmed in gay centre fire," *SSP*, (September 5 1979) p. D7.]

September 14

Prince Albert

A Board of Reference ordered the reinstatement of teacher Don Jones who had been dismissed for being gay. Jones had been an elementary teacher in Smeaton for three years when two local adult men charged that he had made passes at them. The Nipawin School Board dismissed him on the grounds of immorality, alleged mental instability and unprofessional conduct. Although Jones stated he was willing to resign if he was

reinstated he requested the hearing to clear his name. The Board of Reference rebuked the School Board's arbitrary process of dismissal, stating that it was not convinced that an indication of homosexual behavior was grounds for dismissal or that an admitted homosexual would be automatically rejected by the local community.

[*After Stonewall*, no. 10 (Spring 1980) p. 3-4.]

Fall Saskatoon

The Winnipeg based journal *After Stonewall* resumed publication in Saskatoon after two of its collective members, Walter Davis and Bill Fields, moved to the city. The new Saskatoon collective included Amy Gottlieb, Wiesia Kolasinka and Doug Wilson. Number 9 was the first issue published in Saskatoon.

November 2-4 Saskatoon

Three Saskatoon NDP constituency organizations again submitted resolutions to the party's annual convention again pressing for human rights protections.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 2 no. 11 (November 1979)]

November Fort Qu'Appelle

Eighty-four people attended a one day workshop organized by the United Church of Canada to examine issues relating to homosexuality in the church and society.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 2 no. 12 (December 1979)]

November 25 Prince Albert

The Prince Albert Gay Centre celebrated the official opening of its first rented facility at 4- 241 10th Street East. The small rented apartment was the site of Saturday night socials presented by the *Zodiac Club* and of the group's information phone line. The facility was also frequently open on a drop in basis Wednesday through Friday.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, v. 2 no. 12 (December 1979)]

1980s

1980

1980 Saskatoon

The city's first commercial gay club *After Midnight* was established at 102 Avenue B South (at 22nd Street) in late 1980. It was managed by David Allen and first operated as an after hours club. By 1982 it had been renamed *Numbers* and operated as a private members' club. *Numbers* attracted a significant portion of the clientele of the Gay Community Centre, increasing the financial difficulties facing that organization.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, (October 1980) / *Gay Times*, no. 1 (May/June 1982)]

January 20 Saskatoon

The Native Gay Group presented a native dinner and social at the GCCS.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, (March 1980)]

March - April Saskatoon

The GAU presented a weekly film series at Place Riel Theatre screening *August and July*, *A Special Day*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, and *Victim*.

[GAZE, (March 1980)]

April Regina

The Regina Gay Community hosted the annual prairie conference of lesbians and gays. The Saturday dance was described as "probably the largest in Regina history."

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, (Summer 1980)]

May 2 Ottawa

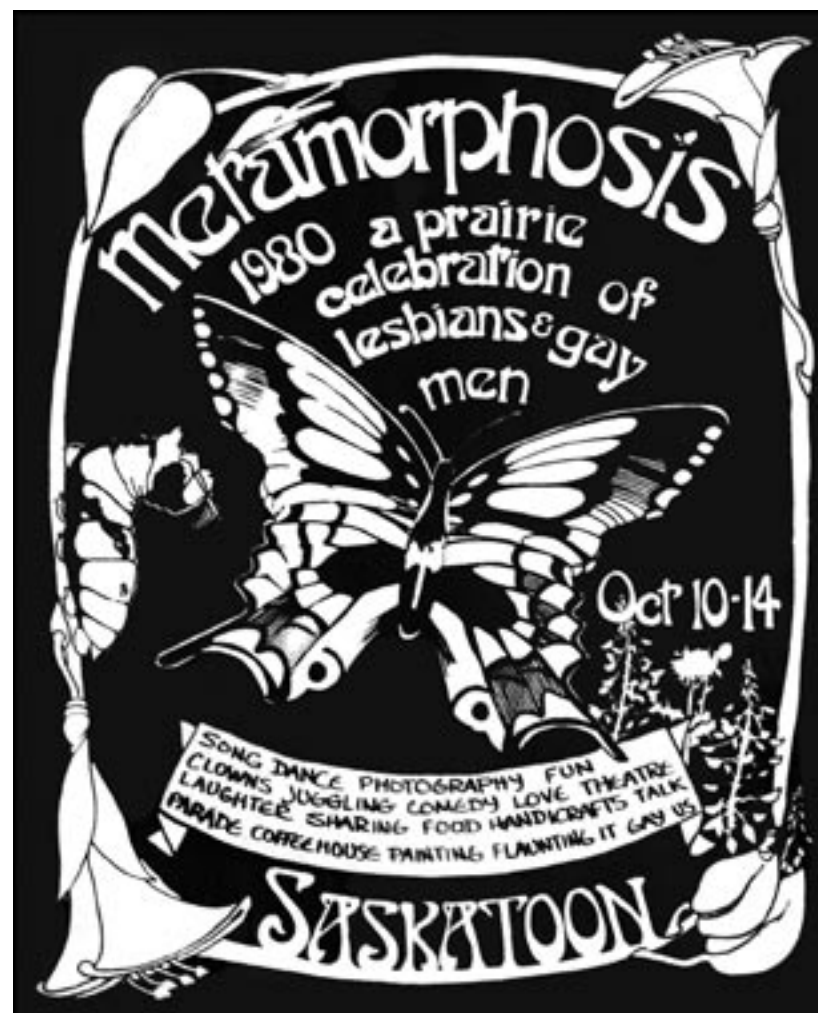
Conservative MP Pat Carney introduced the first private members' bill to include sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act.

June 2 Ottawa

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers ratified a contract including a non-discrimination clause protecting lesbians and



The Boys in the Band. Poster from the February 1974 Saskatoon production by Gateway Players.
 Courtesy: Saskatoon Gateway Players Archives.



Poster for the Metamorphosis Festival Oct 10-14 1980.
 Designer unknown.
 SAB, Neil Richards fonds, A821 VII-14-C.

gay men. This was the first contract with a federal agency to include such protection.

July 5

The national convention of the Liberal Party adopted a resolution to include sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act.

August

The General Council of the United Church of Canada approved a study document entitled *In God's Image: Male and Female*. The document advocated acceptance of gays and lesbians into the ministry and said that premarital and extramarital sex might be acceptable under certain circumstances.

August

Regina

The Gay Community of Regina sold its Smith Street house and moved to rented premises at 2069 Broad Street. The Broad Street club initially operated under special occasion permits and was originally open only on Friday and Saturday nights. In 1981 the club was officially renamed *Rumours*. For some time it also operated *Den's Garage* as an after hours club in an adjacent building.

[*Perceptions*, no. 34 (1987) p. 4.]

October 7

Saskatoon

The USSU presented Craig Russell in concert at the Centennial Auditorium. The celebrated female impersonator was the star of the Canadian hit movie *Outrageous. The Sheaf* described Russell as "a very special talent for a very special audience."

["Boys will be girls," *The Sheaf*, (October 2 1980) p. 13. / "Impersonator Craig Russell," *SSP*, (October 8 1989) p. D1.]

1981

January

Saskatoon

Charlotte Rochon received employee leave as a lesbian parent from One Sky (Saskatchewan Cross-Cultural Centre) under terms of the

agency's contract with CUPE Local 3012.

[*Gay Saskatchewan*, (Feb-March-April 1981)]

January 29

Ottawa

A joint Parliamentary committee rejected an amendment to add sexual orientation to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

April 10-25

Saskatoon

Persephone Theatre presented Ira Levin's *Deathtrap*, a comedy-laced chiller which includes revelations of bisexuality.

["Persephone's *Deathtrap* 'a whodunit,'" *Saskatoon Commentator*, (April 15 1981) p. 3.]

July

Regina

The GCR held its first Miss Rumours drag pageant. Club drag competitions have continued up until the date of this compilation (2005) with the winners now receiving the titles Miss and Mr. Gay Regina.

[Hockley]

August 25

Ottawa

The Macdonald Commission on RCMP wrongdoing reported that the force had a longstanding program to collect information on homosexuals.

November

Saskatoon

Gay and Lesbian Support Services (GLSS) opened in November and continued to operate until 1987. It provided telephone counseling /information, self-help groups, and a meeting space for LG organizations. The first office was at 217-116 3rd Avenue South (Ross Block). GLSS published a newsletter *Gay Times* during 1982.

[*Perceptions*, no. 1 (1983)]

November 29

Saskatoon

Singer-composer David Sereda performed in concert at the U of S Convocation Hall.

[*The Sheaf*, (November 26 1981) p. 11.]

1982

March Saskatoon

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre facility was closed and its library was transferred to GLSS. GLCCS continued to hold mixed and women's dances at the Hungarian Hall until the end of the year. The organization cleared its accumulated debts and disbanded in 1983.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 2 (March 2 1991) p. 5.]

March Regina

The Gay Community of Regina obtained a permanent liquor license allowing *Rumours* to serve alcohol throughout the week.

[Hockley]

April 26

The Progressive Conservatives won a landslide victory in the province's general election capturing 55 of 64 seats. Because many Conservative MLAs seemed opposed to what they described as 'special rights', hopes dimmed for legislative protections against antigay discrimination.

September 3-5 Saskatoon

Homecoming Dance, a 10th anniversary celebration of Saskatoon's first gay dance in 1972 was presented by GLSS.

[*Gay Times*, v. 1 (May/June 1982) p. 4.]

September Saskatoon

Gays and Lesbians at the University of Saskatchewan (GLUS) replaced the GAU. One of its first projects was to sponsor an October 4 visit by Ed Jackson of the *Body Politic* collective who was on a national tour to promote *Flaunting It*. For many years GLUS hosted socials on campus and in private homes and presented guest speakers, films and dances. It ceased operation in 2002 when many of its goals and activities were assumed by the USSU LGB Centre.

[*Gay Times*, no. 4 (Nov/Dec 1982)]

November Regina

A small periodical entitled *Lesbian Information Note* was established by two Regina women. A third woman Jean Hillabold soon undertook primary responsibility for its production issuing it under the titles *Lesbian Newsletter* (1983-1985) and then *Labyris News* (from 1985).

[*Lesbian Newsletter*, (June 1984)]

November 12 Saskatoon

LG members of the United Church of Canada held the city's first AFFIRM meeting at St. Thomas-Wesley Church.

[*Gay Times*, no. 4 (Nov/Dec 1982)]

1983

February 9 Regina

The Lesbian Association of Southern Saskatchewan (LASS) was established to "create an alternative space for lesbians." The principal activity of the group has been monthly lesbian potluck suppers. During the initial period these non-alcoholic suppers were held at the Regina Women's Community Centre, the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project and the Cathedral Neighborhood Centre. Later the events were usually held in members' homes and have continued to the date of this compilation.

[*Lesbian Newsletter*, (June 1984)]

March Regina

The Lavender Social Club was formed to improve social opportunities for Regina and area lesbians. Its main focus has been the organization of women's dances and events usually in rented halls and more recently at the Broad Street facility of the Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina (GLCR). The group is still active in 2005.

[*Lesbian Newsletter*, (June 1984)]

March **Saskatoon**
Perceptions was formed with the amalgamation of *Gay Times*, the newsletter of GLSS, and *GAZE*, the newsletter of the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. The new independent magazine was formed to communicate news, ideas and opinions within the LG community. At first it was focused on Saskatoon but gradually expanded its view to the whole prairie region. At the time of this compilation the magazine was Canada's longest continuing LG publication and had subscribers and drop-off points across the prairies. Hundreds of volunteers have participated in the writing, production and distribution of the magazine. Gens Hellquist has headed the editorial collective during most of its history.

[*Perceptions*, no. 1 (March/April 1983)]

May - June **Saskatoon**
Mary Murphy of the Saskatoon Public Library and Neil Richards of the University of Saskatchewan Library prepared *Out on the Shelves. A Selection Guide to Lesbian and Gay Fiction*. The Canadian Library Association published two editions of the guide.

[*Perceptions*, no. 2 (May/June 1983) p. 2.]

May 6 **Saskatoon**
Lesbian historian Frances Rooney presented a slide show *Finding Lesbian History* at the Saskatoon Public Library. The show was also presented in Regina with sponsorship from LASS.

[*Perceptions*, no. 2 (May/June 1983) p. 14.]

June 2-3 **Saskatoon**
The Mendel Art Gallery presented a retrospective of the work of the celebrated American experimental film director Kenneth Anger. The artist attended the event.

[*Perceptions*, no. 2 (May/June 1983) p. 5.]

June 25 **Saskatoon**
Gasoline was set alight at the front and back

doors of *Numbers* club shortly after midnight. The club was safely evacuated and there was little damage to the building. Patrons chased down and apprehended a suspect who was later acquitted in a jury trial for arson. The presiding judge said that the defendant was a very lucky man.

[*Perceptions*, no. 3 (July/August 1983) p. 9.]

July 4 **Saskatoon**
Peter McGehee performed his autobiographical comedy *Beyond Happiness: the Intimate Memoirs of Billy Lee Belle* at the Bassment.

[*Perceptions*, no. 4 (September/October 1983) p. 5, 7.]

September 2 **Saskatoon**
Numbers moved to 493A 2nd Avenue North and reopened with an appearance by Mr. Leather. The club was very popular among gay men.

[*Perceptions*, no. 4 (September/October 1983) p. 3.]

December 9 **Regina**
Deca-Dance, a private dance club opened upstairs at 2300 Dewdney Avenue. It closed in February 1984.

[Hockley]

December 13 **Saskatoon**
A group initiated discussions about working with the Community Health Unit on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The ad hoc group included Roger Carriere, Barb Clay, Erin Shoemaker, and Malcolm Spencer.

[*Perceptions*, no. 6 (January/February 1984) p. 7.]

1984

February 24-26 **Regina**
Helping Ourselves, a conference on women's health, included a workshop entitled *Lesbians: Double Discrimination*. A concert held in conjunction with the conference

featured performances by Noele Hall and Moon Joyce.

[*Lesbian Newsletter*, (February 1984)]

March 10 Regina

The Gay Community of Regina and the Regina Health Unit sponsored *Fight Fear with Facts*, a health forum held at *Rumours*. The event included sessions on AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and alcohol and drug abuse.

[*Perceptions*, no. 7 (March/April 1984) p. 5.]

April 27 - May 12 Saskatoon

Persephone Theatre presented *Cabaret*, the Kander and Ebb musical set in Berlin at the time of the Weimer Republic.

["Director defends cabaret characters," *SSP*, (April 23 1984) p. A11.]

April 26 Saskatoon

Over 100 attended *Can We Talk?*, an evening devoted to LG health issues at the Frances Morrison Library. The event was organized by the ad hoc committee on GL health issues with the aid of the Saskatoon Community Health Unit. The event included presentations on women's health, nutrition, exercise, AIDS and STDs, blood donation policies, and mental health concerns.

[*Perceptions*, no. 8 (May/June 1984) p. 3, 4.]

May 14 Saskatoon

A meeting established the Lambda Sports Group to coordinate sport and recreation activities, in particular softball and volleyball. On September 30 the Saskatoon Prairie Athletic Association was formed to continue this work.

[*Perceptions*, no. 8 (May/June 1984) p. 2. /
Perceptions, no. 11 (1984) p. 5.]

May 15 Saskatoon

The a capella review *The Return of the Quinlan Sisters* was presented at the Broadway Theatre. The three Quinlans were Marie Quinlan (Peter McGehee), Fiji Champagne

(Peggy Robinson) and Peaches O'Cod (Wendy Coad). The trio had first performed their act at benefits for the Saskatchewan Gay Coalition in the early 1980s. They moved to Toronto in 1982 and from there undertook several Canadian tours.

[*Perceptions*, no. 8 (May/June 1984) p. 17. /
"The Quinlan Sisters (Review)," *SSP*, (May 16 1984) p. C1.]

Fall Saskatoon

Big Sisters changed their policy to permit lesbians to become Big Sisters.

[*Perceptions*, no. 11 (1984) p. 11.]

Fall Saskatoon

GLSS received a federal grant to hire three workers, Gens Hellquist, Sheri McConnell and Doug Robertson, for a community development project addressing the needs of the lesbians and gay men.

[*Perceptions*, no. 11 (1984) p. 11.]

September 22 Saskatoon

Punch & Judy, a multi-media look at clothing as entertainment, was presented by designer Robert Fenwick and director Ruth Smillie at Persephone Theatre.

["Clothes made to entertain," *SSP*, (August 18 1984) p. D12.]

November 2-4 Regina

The provincial NDP convention passed a resolution calling for the amendment of the Human Rights Code to add sexual orientation, family status and political conviction as prohibited grounds of discrimination. Another resolution called for an open-ended antidiscrimination clause in the Code.

[*Perceptions*, no. 12 (1985) p. 8.]

November 10 Saskatoon

Zorro's, a new private member's club for gays, opened above Wayne's Interior Furniture at 249A 2nd Avenue South. It operated on Friday and Saturday evenings but closed in early 1985.

[*Perceptions*, no. 11 (1984) p. 11.]

November 11

Regina

A chapter of Dignity, an organization for Catholic lesbians and gay men, was established.

[Hockley / *Perceptions*, no. 34 (July 22 1987) p. 4.]

November 13

Regina

The Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights presented a brief to Conservative cabinet members urging the amendment of human rights legislation. Attorney-General Gary Lane responded that he didn't think protecting homosexuals was something that Saskatchewan people wanted and described homosexuality as an affront to nature. Lane indicated that such legislation would not be supported by the Tory caucus.

[*Perceptions*, no. 12 (1985) p. 8.]

December

Winnipeg

Perceptions reported the death from AIDS of Gary McDonald. Born in Melville in 1941 the psychologist began his long involvement with gay liberation when he helped organize the first Regina campus gay organization in 1973.

[*Perceptions*, no. 14 (1985) p. 7.]

1985

1985

Toronto

Stubblejumper Press published Peter McGehee's *Beyond Happiness: the Intimate Memoirs of Billy Lee Belle*.

1985

Saskatoon

David Carpenter published *Jewels*, a novella that relates the strange and unexpected adventures of Julian Fairfax, an aging and closeted librarian in Saskatoon.

January 27

Regina

The city's first gay volleyball practice was held at Sheldon-Williams Collegiate organized by the Gay Athletic Guild, with the support of the GCR.

[Hockley]

January 30

The SHRC proposed at a press conference that the provincial Human Rights Code should be amended to include a definition of discrimination which would be open-ended to bring it into compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

[*Perceptions*, no. 13 (1985) p. 8. / "Changes to Human Rights Code sought," *SSP*, (January 31 1985) p. A3.]

March

Saskatoon

The Ukrainian National Federation Hall refused to accept a booking by GLSS although many other successful LG events had been held there by groups not having the word Gay in their titles. The problem was eventually resolved and the hall continued to be a popular site for LG socials and fundraising events.

[*Perceptions*, no. 17 (1985) p. 24.]

March 1-3

Calgary

Regina and Saskatoon teams attended the third annual Western Cup volleyball tournament.

[*Perceptions*, no. 13 (1985) p. 13.]

March 13

Regina

The GCR purchased a building at 1422 Scarth Street for \$94,500.

[*Perceptions*, no. 34 (July 22 1987) p. 4.]

April

Saskatoon

The Ritz Hotel was sold and torn down. In the early 1970s gays selected its Apollo Room bar as their community drinking venue.

[*Perceptions*, no. 15 (1985) p. 3. / "Ritz Hotel, Apollo Room pass into city history," *SSP*, (April 24 1985) p. D11.]

April 17

Regina

Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms came into force. Gary Lane, provincial Justice Minister, released a discussion paper *Compliance of Saskatchewan Laws with the Canadian Charter of Rights* which noted that the province's Human

Rights Code was not open-ended like the Charter on grounds of discrimination.

[*Perceptions*, no. 12 (1985) p. 9.]

April 29 **Regina**

Justice Minister Gary Lane replied to an opposition question dealing with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code: "I understand from the provisions, or the comments of the Leader of the Opposition, that he wanted it open-ended. That may well mean, in fact, preventing discrimination by virtue or reason of sexual orientation. That is not a change we are prepared to make."

[*Perceptions*, no. 16 (1985) p. 11.]

May 22-25 **Saskatoon and Regina**

BC lesbian novelist Jane Rule undertook a speaking tour of Saskatchewan. On May 22 she spoke at the Neil Balkwill Centre in Regina and on May 23 attended a reception sponsored by *Perceptions*. On May 25 she participated in a panel on women's sexuality at the Saskatchewan Writers Guild annual meeting in Saskatoon.

[*Perceptions*, no. 15 (1985) p. 22.]

June 14 **Saskatoon**

L'Anti-Troupe de Regina presented Michel Tremblay's *Hosanna* in French at the Persephone Theatre.

[*Perceptions*, no. 17 (1985) p. 27.]

Summer **Saskatoon**

The Saskatoon Gay History Group received a Saskatoon Heritage Activity Grant of \$400 to document the city's LG history. The grant was used to photograph gay sites and to present a panel discussion at the 1985 Metamorphosis.

[*Perceptions*, no. 15 (1985) p. 15.]

Summer **Saskatoon**

A study was conducted on the possible establishment of a Saskatoon chapter of the Metropolitan Community Church. A pastor named Judy lead study sessions and worship

services at the Unitarian Centre.

[*Perceptions*, no. 17 (1985) p. 29.]

August 17 **Saskatoon**

The StarPhoenix reported that Saskatoon's first AIDS case was receiving care at the University Hospital.

["University Hospital treating AIDS patient," *SSP*, (August 17 1985) p. A1.]

August 24 **Saskatoon**

The body of 44 year old child psychologist Marvin Klepsch was found bound and beaten in a field north of Sutherland. It was widely believed in the LG community that he was a victim of gay bashing. The lengthy police investigation seemed to many more focused on investigating the gay community than in finding the killer.

["Gays claimed focal point of Klepsch investigation," *SSP*, (October 1 1985) p. A7. / *Perceptions*, no. 27 (1986) p. 9.]

September **Regina**

The GCR's *Rumours* club opened for business at its new location in the warehouse district. The club's opening had been delayed by legal difficulties and opposition from neighboring businesses. It was initially open every night except Sunday. Attendance and revenues declined as some members considered the new location dangerous and too distant from downtown. After patrons were gay bashed in 1991 the Club hired a security firm to protect members on weekends.

[Hockley / *Perceptions*, no. 18 (1985) p. 11.]

September 22 **Regina**

The Regina Public Library Theatre screened *The Times of Harvey Milk*, a cinematic portrayal of San Francisco's first openly gay city councillor. The RPL Film theatre has continued to program a wide variety of LG themed films up to the date of this compilation.

[*Perceptions*, no. 18 (1985) p. 5.]

September 26

Regina

Saskatchewan Health Minister Graham Taylor announced the establishment of a special consultation committee on AIDS.

[Sheila Robertson, "Province to act on AIDS," *SSP*, (September 27 1985) p. 1.]

October

Ottawa

The Parliamentary Committee on Equality Rights released a report titled *Equality for All*, which recommended that discrimination based on sexual orientation be prohibited.

October

Saskatoon

The Photographers Gallery presented *Personal Mythologies. New Polaroids by Evergon*. This exhibition of homoerotic 40 x 80 inch colour polaroids was also presented at Regina's Mackenzie Gallery in 1987.

[*Perceptions*, no. 19 (1985) p. 3-5. / *Perceptions*, no. 31 (1987) p. 15.]

October 12-13

Saskatoon

Approximately 250 attended the 1985 Metamorphosis. Workshops included a panel on local gay history with Winnipeg historian Lyle Dick. The concert held at Third Avenue United Church featured Heather Bishop, Tracy Riley and Louise Rose.

[*Perceptions*, no. 18 (1985) p. 3-5.]

December

Prince Albert

Perceptions published a story about the six-year-old Prince Albert Gay Community Centre.

[*Perceptions*, no. 20 (1985-1986) p. 3-4.]

December 18

Tom Schuck, a Weyburn lawyer appointed to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, declared that gays and lesbians should not be covered by the Canadian Human Rights Act. He also publicly disagreed with a parliamentary committee's recommendation that the RCMP and Armed Forces lift their ban on homosexuals stating that not permitting such discrimination would allow

teenagers to consider a gay lifestyle a viable alternative. Ken Norman, a former tribunal member, suggested that Schuck should zip his lip on matters of policy, and that his statements had put him in an untenable conflict of interest and undermined the credibility of the tribunal.

[Brian Laghi, "Discrimination against gays supported," *SSP*, (December 18 1985) p. A1.]

1986

1986

Little Big Man directed by Arthur Penn was one of the year's top grossing films. Of particular interest was actor Robert Littlestar's portrayal of Littlehorse, a transgendered Native American who was well accepted by his peers. This was one of the first popular recognitions of a tradition of sexual diversity among Plains Indian nations.

1986

Toronto

Ontario amended its Human Rights Code to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

January 22 and 29

Saskatoon

GLUS and the Saskatoon Public Library presented a film series *Equality for All* that included *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*, *Pink Triangles* and *In the Best Interest of the Children*.

[*Perceptions*, no. 21 (1986) p. 7.]

January 27

Regina

AIDS Regina was incorporated. The organization issued its first newsletter in June 1986. The group eventually evolved into the organization AIDS Programs South Saskatchewan, which still operates at the date of this compilation.

[*Perceptions*, no. 34 (July 22 1987) p. 5.]

February

Battleford

Our Family, a Catholic monthly published by the Oblate Fathers, printed a lengthy feature article titled "*A Psychoanalytic Look at Homosexuality and AIDS*" authored by Dr. Melvin Anchell. The decision of editor Father Albert Lalonde to publish the article was criticized in several letters that complained of the article's inaccuracies, stereotypes and intolerant tone. In response to much protest, including a letter of opposition from the SHRC, the Oblate Provincial Father Gerald Wiesner made a retraction. In the October 1986 issue he apologized "for the over-all tone of the article, for its one-sided compassion, and for its crude and unaesthetic quality." Wiesner stated that the article could "easily lead to distortion of fact, and potentially foster hatred and discrimination."

[*Perceptions*, no. 23 (1986) p. 11-12. / "A letter from the publisher" *Our Family*, v. 37 no. 9 (October 1986) p. 38. / "Firing of editor sparks dispute," *SSP*, (February 25 1987) p. A10.]

February 12

Saskatoon

A. A. Bronson and Felix Partz of the celebrated Toronto art collective *General Idea* presented a selection from their video works at the Mendel Gallery.

[*Perceptions*, no. 21 (1986) p. 15.]

March

Regina

The GCR established a human rights committee with a mandate to achieve equal legal status for lesbians and gays. The committee was chaired by a former GCR president Kerry Barrett. The group conducted a letter writing campaign to federal MPs and sent a petition with 500 signatures to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. In April the committee presented a policy paper to the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union. This was adopted and the SGEU amended its own constitution to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Committee also authored and lobbied for resolutions

passed by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, the Canadian Labour Congress and the National Union of Provincial Government Employees.

[*Perceptions*, no. 36 (October 21 1987) p. 3-4.]

April 23

Saskatoon

A committee met at the home of Roger Carriere to approve bylaws, elect the first officers and to discuss objectives for AIDS Saskatoon. The organization has continued to operate up to the date of this compilation.

[*Perceptions*, no. 23 (1986) p. 31.]

April 27

Regina

The Regina Public Library Film Theatre presented a documentary series on women including *In the Best Interest of the Children*, a film examining the challenges faced by lesbians in keeping and raising their children.

[*Perceptions*, no. 23 (1986) p. 7.]

May 12

Saskatoon

REAL (Realistic, Equal, Active for Life) Women held a public event hosted by their Saskatchewan representative Cecilia Forsyth. Gwen Landolt, one of Real Women's national founders, addressed the meeting. A literature table included pamphlets calling homosexuality a psychological disorder, describing homosexuals as a medical threat, and stating that a goal of the gay rights movement was to seduce the young.

[*Perceptions*, no. 24 (1986) p. 23, 25.]

May

Saskatoon

GLSS held its first dance at the Parktown Hotel's disco. The event was a great success attracting over 270 and the Parktown became the venue of choice for LG /AIDS fundraising dances. The events were very lucrative for the sponsoring organizations but the hotel management complained that gays arrived too late on event nights limiting the profit from bar sales. The hotel

later became reluctant to rent to gay groups citing the problem with liquor revenue and concerns that the club was becoming known as a gay venue.

[*Perceptions*, no. 35 (September 9 1987) p. 13.]

June Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Archives Board accepted the donation of a large collection dealing with the history of lesbians and gays in Saskatchewan and Canada. The Neil Richards Fonds includes newspaper clippings, newsletters and flyers, posters, organizational records, and subject files. The collection has been supplemented by subsequent donations.

[*Perceptions*, no. 25 (1986) p. 20, 22.]

June 29 Saskatoon

GLSS moved its office to the Community Aid Resource Centre at 136 Avenue F South.

[*Perceptions*, no. 25 (1986) p. 10.]

July 23–26 Saskatoon

Over 1200 Mennonites meeting in Saskatoon debated whether homosexuality is a sin. A resolution asking that a place for gays and lesbians be found within Mennonite congregations was hotly debated. The motion was overwhelmingly defeated. Lynn Keenan, a lesbian delegate from Denver, said it was long overdue to raise the issue in the church.

["Mennonites reject homosexual issue," *SSP*, (July 26 1986) p. A8.]

September Saskatoon

Father Mike Macdonald sought others interested in forming a chapter of Dignity, the international organization of gay and lesbian Catholics.

[*Perceptions*, no. 26 (1986) p. 10.]

Fall Saskatoon

Brazen Huzzy was established to promote the work of female performers in Saskatoon. The group presented several concerts in

1987 and 1988 .The group also organized women's dances to raise funds to subsidize the concert events.

[*Perceptions*, no. 40 (April 13 1988) p. 21.]

October 10–12 Saskatoon

The 1986 Metamorphosis weekend included guest speaker Eilert Frerichs, University of Toronto chaplain, and a film program at the Place Riel Theatre. The concert featured musicians Kris Purdy and David Ramsden and Toronto comic Sheila Gostick.

[*Perceptions*, no. 26 (1986) p. 14.]

October 20

Grant Devine's Conservative party lost the popular vote in the province's general election but maintained office. LG activists were encouraged by the significantly larger NDP opposition of 25 MLAs (most from urban constituencies) who were viewed as potentially more sympathetic to LG goals.

1987

1987

Manitoba and Yukon added sexual orientation to their Human Rights Codes.

1987 Prince Albert

The Prince Albert Gay Community Centre closed.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 1 (January 17 1990) p. 9.]

February 5–13 Saskatoon

The U of S Drama Department presented a production of John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me*. The play is based on the life of Colonel Redl, a homosexual officer in the Austro-Hungarian army who is blackmailed into spying for Tsarist Russia.

["World of spies, homosexuals overlap in Greystone thriller," *SSP*, (January 31 1987) p. A11.]

March 9 **Saskatoon**
Svend Robinson, MP for Burnaby and NDP justice critic, gave a lecture at the U of S on sexual orientation and human rights. He sought support for his private members' bill to include sexual orientation in the federal Human Rights Code.

[*Perceptions*, no. 32 (April 29 1987) p. 9-10. / "Robinson supports homosexuals," *SSP*, (March 10 1987) p. B8.]

March 16 **Saskatoon**
Seventeen lesbians and gay men established the Saskatoon Committee for Gay & Lesbian Rights. The group aimed to lobby for LG rights at both the federal and provincial levels and to encourage activity against the AIDS epidemic.

[*Perceptions*, no. 32 (April 29 1987) p. 23.]

April **Regina**
Madeleine (later Madisun) Browne and Mitch Spiralstone resumed the publication of a lesbian newsletter in Regina calling their new publication *Second Wave*. The newsletter received some financial support from LASS. The first issue reported that a lesbian phone line had been operating in Regina since 1985 with support from the Lavender Social Club.

[*Second Wave*, v. 1 no. 1 (April 1987)]

April 24-26 **Regina**
Second Wave announced *Just for Us*, a weekend lesbian conference featuring workshops and a concert by Noele Hall and Tracey Riley.

[*Second Wave*, v. 1 no. 1 (April 1987) p. 15.]

May 15 **Regina**
The Regina Students Homophile Society was established. The small group held weekly drop-ins and coffee houses at the U of R.

[Hockley / *Perceptions*, no. 34 (July 22 1987) p. 4.]

May 27-28 **Saskatoon**
A two-day symposium was held at the University Hospital to provide advice

on AIDS programs to the provincial government. Provincial Health Minister George McLeod opened the meeting noting that although the province then had only 17 reported cases of AIDS, the disease posed a real danger and that the province's rural character would not protect it. The delegates recommended that AIDS should be presented as a health problem not as a judgment or result of moral deficiency, and that anti-AIDS campaigns should avoid scare tactics and be based on appeals for personal and social responsibility. The delegates were divided in their views on anonymous testing and mandatory tracing of sexual partners as means of AIDS reduction.

[*Perceptions*, no. 33 (June 10 1987) p. 24-26. / "Sask to avoid scare tactics, give facts on AIDS: McLeod," *SSP*, (May 29 1987) p. A8.]

June 19 **Saskatoon**
Lucie Blue Tremblay, a rising Canadian star on the women's concert circuit, performed at Club 23 Below.

[*Perceptions*, no. 33 (June 10 1987) p. 15.]

June 20 **Saskatoon**
The annual convention of the Sask NDP debated and passed a resolution establishing a party position on AIDS. The resolution called for the rapid institution of a public education program, financial support for community based groups and their representation on advisory bodies, access by patients to treatments, and the protection of the rights of all affected. The resolution also called for the provision of an anonymous HIV testing procedure to encourage testing among those who might be deterred by the 'confidential' system.

[*Perceptions*, no. 34 (July 22 1987) p. 33.]

July 15-25 **Saskatoon**
The AKA Gallery presented *Better Blatant Than Latent*, Dik (later Duncan) Campbell's exhibition investigating the types of closets inhabited by gay men and their costs.

[*Perceptions*, no. 34 (July 22 1987) p. 15.]

July 20

Regina

Justice Minister Bob Andrew told reporters that Saskatchewan would not follow Manitoba's example in providing human rights protections to homosexuals. He declared there were more important problems such "as farmers who cannot pay their bills and are being foreclosed upon." Ron Kruzeniski, the SHRC chief, stated: "gays should not be discriminated against because of some factor that is not relevant to their getting an education, getting a job or getting a place to rent."

[Tom Blackwell, "Province won't push for law protecting homosexuals," *RLP*, (July 22 1987) p. A8.]

July 31 - August 2

Saskatoon

AFFIRM, an organization for gays and lesbians in the United Church of Canada, held its annual national conference in Saskatoon. Thirty delegates discussed strategies for the upcoming General Council in Victoria where the ordination of openly gay clergy was to be debated.

[*Perceptions*, no. 35 (September 9 1987) p. 5.]

August 1 & August 22

Saskatoon

Numbers hosted two benefit drag shows for AIDS Saskatoon. The shows were organized by Rodger Jeffrey (Amii L. Nitrato) and Jim Stevenson with performers from Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton.

[*Perceptions*, no. 35 (September 9 1987) p. 22.]

August 4

Saskatoon

City Councillor Morris Chernesky declared that Saskatoon should institute mandatory testing for HIV, starting with municipal employees. "I would like to know who does and doesn't have AIDS." Another councillor Pat Lorje enquired whether Chernesky was having sex with city employees. Dr. Paul Gully, Saskatoon's medical officer, stated that such testing would probably be illegal and likely to discourage responsible sexual behavior.

[Deanna Herman, "At-risk groups would shun mandatory testing: MD," *SSP*, (August 5 1987) p. A8.]

August 15

Regina

AIDS Regina's first executive director Nils Clausson hosted an open house at its first office at 2221- 4th Street East. The group had received a \$58,150 grant from the federal Health Department for AIDS education and prevention programs.

[*Perceptions*, no. 35 (September 9 1987) p. 32.]

September 14

Regina

After repeated attempts, the GCR Human Rights Committee was finally able to schedule a meeting with Justice Minister Bob Andrew. Andrew did not show up at the scheduled meeting but sent a ministerial assistant to listen to the group's representatives.

[*Perceptions*, no. 36 (October 21 1987) p. 3-4.]

September 27

Saskatoon

Gary Kinsman, a member of the Toronto *Rites* collective and the Canadian Committee against Customs Censorship, gave a talk entitled *Sexuality, Images and Censorship* at the Photographer's Gallery.

[*Perceptions*, no. 35 (September 9 1987) p. 19.]

October

Saskatoon

Perceptions published an article on the Narrow Way, a Christian group whose advertisements in the *StarPhoenix* offered to "break the chains of gayness."

[*Perceptions*, no. 36 (October 21 1987) p. 8.]

October 1

Saskatoon

AIDS Saskatoon opened its first office at 309- 220 3rd Avenue South after receiving federal funding of \$66,253 and a supplemental grant of \$7,000 from the province.

[*Perceptions*, no. 36 (October 21 1987) p. 30.]

October 9-12

Saskatoon

Metamorphosis celebrated its 10th anniversary with keynote speaker Yvette Perreault, co-author of *Stepping Out of Line*:

A Workbook on Lesbianism and Feminism. Entertainment included Jitterbug Perfume, Tracey Riley and Deb Roemyn.

[*Perceptions*, no. 35 (September 9 1987) p. 6-7.]

October 10 **Saskatoon**

Regina writer Jean Hillabold launched *Secrets of the Invisible World*, a collection of lesbian short stories at the 1987 Metamorphosis festival. A second revised and expanded edition by was published by Lilith Publications in 1988.

This book and most of her other lesbian and erotic writings have been published under the nom de plume Jean Roberta.

October 16-17 **Saskatoon**

Homosexuality was a focus of a weekend conference of Victorious Women, an organization connected to defeated PC MLA Gay Caswell. Conference speakers included Vonda Kowalski of the Committee to Defend the Family, John Caswell (husband to Gay), who as a former hospital orderly suggested an AIDS cover-up, and Saskatchewan Pro-Life President Tom Schuck who argued that equality for gays would be discrimination against Christians. The conference presented its Woman of the Year Award to Chantel Devine, wife of the premier, for "her work on behalf of the family" and a Pro Family award to Saskatchewan Minister of Human Services Grant Schmidt who was cited for his opposition to gay adoption.

[*Perceptions*, no. 37 (December 1 1987) p. 3-5. / "Sexual orientation laws 'endorse immorality,'" *SSP*, (October 19 1987) p. C12.]

October 29 **Regina**

Grant Schmidt stated, "I do not believe any homosexual should be allowed to adopt children in this province." Opposition NDP Social Services critic Glenn Hagel replied that Schmidt's comments expressed "an intolerance that is simply not acceptable in a free society."

["Homosexuals in Saskatchewan can't adopt children says Schmidt," *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, (October 30 1987) p. 13. / "Denying gays right to adopt may violate charter: prof," *SSP*, (October 30 1987) p. A3.]

October 30 **Regina**

Grant Schmidt called homosexuality "a deviant lifestyle" and drawing an analogy of to thieves maintained that employers should have the right not to hire homosexuals. "Would you want to have a confirmed thief on the premises?" Schmidt also claimed that it was unlikely that a gay couple could form a Christian home.

[Earl Fowler, "Employers entitled to reject gays, Schmidt claims," *SSP*, (October 31 1987) p. A1.]

November 1 **Saskatoon**

The Coalition for Human Equality (CHE) was formed to respond to homophobic comments by Grant Schmidt. The group's long term goals were to amend provincial human rights legislation, to support federal Charter developments, and to provide public education on human rights issues relating to lesbians and gays. The next day the group held a press conference with spokespersons Erin Shoemaker and Peter Millard. Millard declared, "asking Grant Schmidt to be Minister of Social Services was like asking Idi Amin to head Amnesty International."

[*Perceptions*, no. 37 (December 1 1987) p. 3-5, 30-31. / "Schmidt's critics fear retribution," *SSP*, (November 3 1987) p. A3.]

November 18 **Saskatoon**

A comedy performance at Louis's Pub at the U of S by comedy duo Lambert and James prompted a complaint by student Shawn Mooney to the University's Sexual Harassment officer. Mooney and others had found the group's performance homophobic. The director of Place Riel initially refused to include homophobia in the Place Riel screening policy for live acts although it did at the time forbid racism and sexism. The policy was eventually amended in the spring

of 1988.

[*Perceptions*, no. 39 (February 24 1988) p. 30. /
Perceptions, no. 42 (June 29 1988) p. 6. /
"Place Riel ignoring homosexual rights; new
group claims," *SSP*, (March 4 1988) p. A8.]

November 24 Regina and Saskatoon

Simultaneous news conferences were held to protest the antigay rhetoric of the Conservative government. Regina speakers included Kerry Barrett of the GCR, Ron Kruzeniski of the SHRC, and representatives of the SFL, the Regina Civil Liberties Association and the Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women. Speakers in Saskatoon included Peter Millard of CHE, Rev. Frederick Sellers of the United Church, Dr. Myles Genest of the U of S Psychology Department and poet Patrick Lane.

[*Perceptions*, no. 37 (December 1 1987) p. 30-31. / "Sask red-necked, cruel province," *SSP*, (November 25 1987) p. A3.]

November 27 Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Association for Responsible Conduct was established to "scrutinize prostitution and homosexuality." Members included physician Dr. Art Hindmarsh, Dr. Chris Gerrard, head of the Association of Independent Church Schools and Rev. Eldon Boldt of Circle Drive Alliance Church.

["Responsible conduct group set up," *SSP*, (November 27 1987) p. A3.]

November 27 Saskatoon

Brazen Huzzy Concert Productions presented a Saskatchewan Women's Night at Club 23 Below. Performers included Brenda Baker, Donna Caruso, Noele Hall and Jan Harvey.

[Event flyer – SAB NR]

December Saskatoon

GLSS terminated their phone line and other activities due to a lack of volunteers.

[*Perceptions*, no. 37 (December 1 1987) p. 16.]

December Saskatoon

The PWA (Persons With AIDS) Network

of Saskatoon was established with the goals of supporting persons affected by AIDS, promoting positive attitudes, and casting off of the role of victims.

[*Perceptions*, no. 37 (December 1 1987) p. 23.]

1988

January 20 Regina

Health Minister George McLeod announced that the names of residents testing positive for HIV must be reported to public health officers. The decision was criticized by AIDS Regina and AIDS Saskatoon who both advocated an anonymous testing system. They described McLeod's announcement as a political decision likely to deter individuals from volunteering for HIV tests. The policy change was also opposed by Pat Atkinson, NDP health critic and Dr. John Conly of the University Hospital Department of Infectious Diseases.

[*Perceptions*, no. 39 (February 24 1988) p. 34. / "Positive AIDS antibody test must be reported," *SSP*, (January 21 1988) p. A3.]

January 21-22 Regina

The Regina Presbytery of the United Church of Canada presented a two day workshop *Breaking Our Silence: The Church's Calling Amidst the AIDS Crisis* at Wesley United Church.

[Event flyer – SAB NR]

January 30 Saskatoon

Open Your Hearts, a gala fundraising event to benefit AIDS patients, raised \$2,700 at the Ukrainian Hall.

[*Perceptions*, no. 38 (January 13 1988) p. 19.]

February 12-14 Fort Qu'Appelle

The Prairie Christian Training Centre, a training facility of the United Church, hosted *Finding Ways to Care*, an conference on identifying ways of countering homophobia and heterosexism.

[*Perceptions*, no 38 (January 13 1988) p. 20.]

February 29

Regina

A PWA Coalition was formed to improve the quality of life of people living with AIDS in the Regina area.

[AIDS Regina Newsletter, (March 1988)]

March 1

Regina

Premier Grant Devine reacted to news of MP Svend Robinson's declaration of his homosexuality by comparing homosexuals to bankrobbers. "I hate to think a member of Parliament can stand and in essence be promoting a lifestyle with young people watching...I guess I would say the same about bankrobbers. For whatever reason they have to take from people which is illegal and in my view immoral. I still have compassion but I don't condone the activity." Devine's comments were picked up by the national media and provoked much criticism.

[Vern Greenshields, "Devine critical of Robinson's homosexual lifestyle," *SSP*, (March 2 1988) p. A1. / "Gays, crime comparison 'despicable'," *SSP*, (March 2 1988) p. A6.]

March 3

Ottawa

Laurier Lapierre, a former CBC broadcaster, came out during a Parliament Hill reception for the gay rights group EGALE: "If you allow anyone to determine who you are supposed to be, you may end up like Grant Devine, the Premier of Saskatchewan, and that's a fate not to be visited on anyone."

["Author Laurier LaPierre declares homosexuality," *Moose Jaw Times-Herald*, (March 4 1988) p. 2.]

March

Saskatoon

Telecable Ten cancelled the appearance of an American anti-gay rights campaigner whose views on homosexuals had been described as hateful. Paul Cameron had been invited to visit with the Conservative party caucus in Regina on a speaking tour of Saskatchewan. On March 28 Dr. Paul Gully, Saskatoon's Chief Medical Officer, debated Cameron on a Telecable Ten special. Gully argued that Cameron's data was skewed to support

anti-gay views. The moderator reported that Cameron had been expelled from the American Psychological Association and rebuked by professional and judicial bodies for his activities. Place Riel and St Thomas More College at the U of S refused to provide space for Paul Cameron events citing his antagonistic approach and concerns that he derived his material from "a foundation of hate."

[*Perceptions*, no. 40 (April 13 1988) p. 23-24. / Dale Eisler, "Quarantine urged for AIDS carriers," *RLP*, (March 4 1988) p. A3. / "Telecable cancels appearance of man critical of gays," *SSP* (March 8 1988) p. A3. / "Health officer disputes gay basher's data," *SSP*, (March 25 1988) p. A8. / "Anti-gays speaker denied city platforms," *SSP*, (March 28 1988) p. A3.]

March 26

Saskatoon

The StarPhoenix ran a three article feature by reporter Kathryn Warden on homosexuality in the province. The articles focused on gays and their family relationships and how they were impacted by homophobia. Included with the articles was a series of questions and answers on sexual orientation.

[*SSP*, (March 26 1988)]

April 30

Saskatoon

An ad hoc group Artists for Human Rights staged a City Hall rally that attracted 250 to protest the Devine government's attacks on lesbians and gays. Speakers included writers David Carpenter and Patrick Lane, representatives of CARFAC (Canadian Artists Representation), the U of S Women's Centre, the Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union, the United Church, Saskatoon Community Clinic and the International Socialists. NDP MLA Anne Smart declared that the government has "descended politically to the level of schoolyard bullies."

["Gay rally," *SSP*, (May 1 1988) / Astrid Egger, "Saying no to hatred," *Briarpatch*, (June 1988) p. 2-3.]

May

Perceptions reported a flurry of negative remarks about homosexuality made in the Legislature and at recent public events by PC leaders including Premier Grant Devine, Justice Minister Bob Andrew, Privatization Minister Graham Taylor and MLAs Lloyd Muller and Gerry Muirhead.

[*Perceptions*, no. 41 (May 18 1988) p. 22.]

May

Regina

During a provincial by-election in Regina-Elphinstone the Committee to Protect the Family distributed literature supporting PC candidate Myrna Petersen and attacking the NDP and Liberal parties for advocating 'specialrights' for homosexuals. One pamphlet titled *Is Family a Dirty Word* supported the criminalization of homosexuality. The campaign manager for the winning NDP candidate dismissed the publication as hate literature.

[Murray Mandryk, "Pro-PC literature may damage Conservative campaign," *RLP*, (May 2 1988)]

May 2

Saskatoon

Speaking Out, a half hour radio show for and about the gay community began on the city's community radio station. The show's first host Shawn Mooney presented interviews, short stories, music and community announcements.

[*Perceptions*, no. 43 (August 10 1988) p. 21.]

May 9

Regina

Gay Information Services began operating a phone line Monday and Thursday evenings.

[*Perceptions*, no. 41 (May 18 1988) p. 31.]

May 28

Saskatoon

The Sunshine Friends presented their second AIDS benefit *Singing in the Sunshine* at the Ukrainian Hall. The drag event included a reception, buffet, show and dance.

[*Perceptions*, no. 41 (May 18 1988) p. 16.]

June 16-17

Saskatoon

Artists for Human Rights presented *The Devine Comedy*, two nights of satire, music and comedy "to laugh Saskatchewan back to sanity," at 25th Street Theatre. The event featuring Don Kerr, Donna Caruso, David Carpenter and others was organized to challenge the provincial government's antigay rhetoric and policies.

[*Perceptions*, no. 42 (June 29 1988) p. 17. / "Devine government ridiculed in send up," *SSP*, (June 20 1988) p. A3.]

June 25

Saskatoon

A masquerade dance, *The Bankrobbers' Ball*, was presented at the Ukrainian Hall as a response to Grant Devine's comparison of homosexuals to bankrobbers.

[*Perceptions*, no. 43 (August 10 1988) p. 36.]

June 25

Regina

The Board of Health rejected a request for \$15,000 from AIDS Regina to distribute an AIDS information pamphlet to Regina homes.

[*Perceptions*, no. 43 (August 10 1988) p. 28.]

August

Saskatoon

Perceptions interviewed Erin Shoemaker about her work as AIDS Saskatoon's first coordinator. In 1988 the group was providing services to ten people at various stages of HIV infection and offering a support group to family members.

[*Perceptions*, no. 43 (August 10 1988) p. 6]

August 25-26

Saskatoon

Club 23 Below presented the *Fabulous Sirs*, an a capella musical duo. The *Sirs* (Peter McGehee and Fiji Robinson) continued the act they had first performed as the *Quinlan Sisters*.

[*Perceptions*, no. 43 (August 10 1988) p. 13. / "Saskatoon samples Fringe festival," *SSP*, (August 25 1988) p. B1.]

October 9 **Saskatoon**

Brazen Huzzy presented Winnipeg guitarist and vocalist Kris Purdy at the Legion Hall at Metamorphosis 1988.

[*Perceptions*, no. 44 (September 21 1988) p. 14.]

November 1 **Saskatoon**

Krolik Fashion Fur Ltd. published an ad in the *StarPhoenix* apologizing to AIDS Saskatoon for refusing to rent them an office in a building they owned. The apology had been negotiated by the SHRC after a complaint from the group.

["AIDS group gets apology for snub," *SSP*, (November 2 1988) p. A6.]

November 12 **Regina**

Rumours presented an AIDS benefit featuring drag performances by Stella and Lorelei.

[*Perceptions*, no. 44 (September 21 1988) p. 14.]

1989

1989 **Moose Jaw**

Diana Wieler published *Bad Boy*, a young adult novel concerning hockey violence and teen friendship. Sixteen 16 year old A .J. becomes the troubled bad boy of the Moose Jaw Cyclones hockey team when he discovers his best friend and teammate is gay. The book won the Governor General's award for children's fiction.

1989 **Regina**

Rumours was renamed *The Scarth Street Station* in early 1989 when the name *Rumours* was registered by a Saskatoon business. Regulars now usually referred to the club as The Station.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 1 (January 18 1989) p. 7.]

January **Regina**

Activists formed EGALE (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere) Regina to replace a short-lived chapter of CHE. The group initially undertook to lobby MLAs and to coordinate a special issue of Saskatchewan's

independent magazine *Briarpatch*.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 1 (January 18 1989) p. 4. / Sexual orientation. A special issue of *Briarpatch* v. 18. no. 8 (October 1989). Included contributions by Joanne Abrahamson, Glen Brown, Shauna Checkley, Gens Hellquist, Peter Millard, Doug Wilson, and Ralph Wushke.]

January 26 **Saskatoon**

CBC TV presented a forum at Holy Cross Collegiate entitled *Should Homosexuals Be Ordained?*

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 1 (January 18 1989) p. 12-13.]

January 28-29

Members of the Imperial Court of Edmonton visited Saskatoon to perform at *Numbers* and to discuss sponsoring a sister court in Saskatoon. Local drag performers elected a board on February 5.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 2 (March 1 1989) p. 5.]

February 19 **Saskatoon**

Gay activist Peter Millard received the John Stratychuk award from the Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights for his contributions to human rights. At the time Millard was the spokesperson for CHE.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 3 (April 12 1989) p. 5.]

March 2 **Regina**

EGALE Regina held a public event *A Celebration of Our Rights* to publicize the need for human rights protections. Speakers included City Councillor Doreen Hamilton and NDP Finance critic Ned Shillington. Statements of support were presented by the Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women, the SFL, the Anglican and United Churches, and two of the candidates for the Saskatchewan Liberal Party leadership.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 3 (April 12 1989) p. 6.]

March 4 **Saskatoon**

A rental booking for an International Women's Day dance was cancelled on short notice by St. Joseph's Church Hall. The

Catholic hall had been advised by Bernadette Mysko of Alliance for Life that "the dance is known to be for lesbians." The dance was moved to Club 23 Below and attended by 250 women.

[Jim Burgoyne, "Coalition denies lesbianism reason dance cancelled," *SSP*, (March 4 1989) p. A3. / "Women's group unhappy with lesbian label, ponders legal action," *SSP*, (March 11 1989) p. D15.]

March 20-22 Regina
AIDS Regina produced of *As Is*, William Hoffman's award-winning play about AIDS, at the Venue. Douglas Hicton's production was seen by 480.

[Kevin O'Connor, "AIDS play is a poignant examination," *RLP*, (March 21 1989) p. F7.]

March 24-26 Calgary
Saskatoon sent two co-ed teams to the Apollo Western Cup volleyball tournament.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 3 (April 12 1989) p. 10.]

March 25 Saskatoon
Dennis and Ruthie were selected the first Mr. and Ms. Gay Saskatoon at a pageant and dance at the Holiday Inn attended by 130. The judges included NDP MP Chris Axworthy and String Bean the clown.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 3 (April 12 1989) p. 10.]

April 12 Regina
Perceptions reported that Lyndon Surjik, an openly gay student, had been elected Finance Vice-President of the University of Regina Students' Union. Surjik was also involved on the boards of the GCR and EGALÉ Regina. Before coming out he served as URSU President in 1986.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 3 (April 12 1989) p. 6.]

April 18 Regina
EGALÉ Regina held a media conference to respond to Social Services Minister Grant Schmidt's recent claim that treating gay couples as families was "contrary to the rules of Allah, God and the Great Spirit."

Speakers included EGALÉ's Evanna Simpson, Lyndon Surjik from the GCR and Rev. Dr. Richard Hordern of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 4 (May 31 1989) p. 8-9. / "Gay couples aren't families: Schmidt," *SSP*, (April 15 1989) p. A3.]

April 23 Saskatoon
CHE elected a new board including Ben Blanchette, Sally Boyle, Henry Scheer, Erin Shoemaker, Don McNamee and Peter Millard. Guests at the annual general meeting included NDP MP Chris Axworthy, newly elected Sask Liberal leader Lynda Haverstock and NDP MLAs Peter Prebble and Ann Smart.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 4 (May 31 1989) p. 6.]

June 17 Saskatoon
Midnight Carousel Ball, Saskatoon's first coronation ball was held at the Manhattan Ballroom. The Imperial Court of the Prairie Lily (ICPL) was officially recognized and Ghedo and Miss K were crowned Emperor I and Empress I. The ICPL worked to raise funds for PWA support.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 4 (May 31 1989) p. 15.]

June 19 Regina
City Council proclaimed the weekend of June 21-25 Lesbian/Gay Pride Weekend by a vote of 6-4. After much furor (Councillors reported receiving death threats) a special meeting was called a week later to rescind the proclamation. The attempt to rescind failed when Councillor Joe McKeown refused to give the unanimous consent necessary. According to McKeown: "Hate mongering, in my mind, has no place in this city."

[Therese Macdonald, "Council backs lesbian/gay proclamation," *RLP*, (June 20 1989) p. A3. / Therese Macdonald, "Gay proclamation survives," *RLP*, (June 24 1989) p. A1.]

June 24-25 Regina
Regina's first LG Pride weekend included a barbecue, worship service and a mixed dance

at the Core Ritchie Centre.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 1 (May 31 1989) p. 24.]

July 4

Regina

The PC government introduced amendments to the Human Rights Code that did not include sexual orientation. Justice Minister Bob Andrews told the media “that it isn’t a priority. Maybe it will be for someone else?” The NDP opposition did not propose amendments or publicly criticize the government’s inaction. Some NDP MLAs stated that they had promised the LG community legislative protections when they next formed government.

[Neil Scott, “Gays ignored; rights advocate criticizes govt,” *RLP*, (July 6 1989)]

August 4-6

Ravenscrag

The Spring Valley Guest Ranch advertised a gay only *Ranch Rendezvous* weekend in the Cypress Hills. This became a popular annual event attracting visitors from across the West for a weekend of country fun. The weekends were presented in each of the next 15 years (to 2003).

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 4 (May 31 1989) p. 5.]

October 6-28

Saskatoon

Dik Campbell presented *Pressing: Reading the Signs*, an exhibition of multimedia works at the AKA Gallery. The show examined homophobia in the media and the concept of personal privacy. The exhibition was attacked in a letter writing campaign.

[*Perceptions*, v.7 no. 7 (October 4 1989) p. 15.
/ “An Atmosphere of violence,” *SSP*, (October 21 1989) p. Prism12.]

October 8

Saskatoon

The 1989 Metamorphosis event was scaled back due to organizational burnout. The weekend concluded with a catered banquet featuring NDP MP Svend Robinson, Toronto poet Ian Young and Vancouver comedian Jackie Hegadorn. The Metamorphosis organization disbanded in 1990. The event

was restaged in 2001 and with less success in 2002. (See below)

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 6 (August 23 1989) p. 15.]

October 14

Saskatoon

The ICPL and the Persons Living With AIDS (PLWA) Network presented *Festival of Friends*, a fundraising night of performances at the Ukrainian Hall.

[*Perceptions*, v. 7 no. 7 (October 4 1989) p. 15.]

December

Saskatoon

City Council waded into a controversy over an exhibition of homoerotic photographs by Ottawa artist Evergon being held at the Mendel Art Gallery. After Terry Goudy of Christian Counselling Services protested the display and its availability to children Councillor Mark Thompson said a warning notice should be posted. Councillor Morris Chernesky declared the city shouldn’t be funding art that is considered offensive.

[“Art Display Restriction Sought,” *SSP*, (December 4 1989) p. A3. / Elizabeth Philips, “Evergon but not forgotten,” *NeWest Review*, v. 15 no. 5 (June/ July 1990)]

1990s

1990

1990

Regina

Gail Bowen published *Deadly Appearances*, the first in her popular Joanne Kilbourn mystery series. In her first outing Joanne learns some queer truths about political life in the Queen City.

May

Saskatoon

A Saskatoon chapter of Integrity, a group for lesbians and gays in the Anglican Church, was established.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 4 (May 30 1990) p. 10.]

May 18

Regina

The second Mr. & Miss Gay Regina pageant was held at the Performing Arts Centre.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 3 (April 11 1990) p. 23.]

June 1-3 Swift Current

Delegates to the provincial conference of the United Church of Canada overwhelmingly rejected a petition asking the church to ban homosexuals from ministry.

["Delegates uphold policy," *Swift Current Sun*, (June 4 1990) p. 1.]

June 1-2 **Saskatoon**

The People's Video Centre and AKA Gallery presented *Power to Disbelieve*, a program of eleven videos by Canadian and international female curated by Nikki Forrest and Josephine Mills.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 5 (July 11 1990) p. 21.]

June 16 **Saskatoon**

The ICPL held its second Coronation Ball *Rainbow Cabaret: A Family Reunion* at the Granite Curling Club.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 3 (April 11 1990) p. 25.]

June 18-24 Regina

Regina's Pride Week controversy. When its request for a civic proclamation was rejected, the Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee purchased a full-page ad in the *Leader-Post* outlining Pride's history and the legal situation of lesbians and gays. The ad included the names of 111 individuals and groups who had contributed to its cost. Police Chief Ernie Reimer refused to issue a parade permit stating that it wasn't appropriate to parade one's sexual orientation and that he couldn't justify assigning police resources to the event. The march from College Avenue to the Legislature went forward without a permit and marchers stayed on the sidewalk for most of its length. Members of the Pride Committee subsequently filed complaints against the city, Mayor Doug Archer, Chief Reimer, and the *Leader-Post* in connection with the week's events. The SHRC declined to pursue most of the complaints, since sexual orientation was not yet a prohibited ground of discrimination.

[“Lesbian and Gay Pride Week (Ad),” *RLP*, (June 16 1990) p. C14. / *Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 5 (July 11 1990) p. 8-9. / *Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 7 (October 10 1990) p. 9.]

August 4-11 **Vancouver**

Saskatchewan athletes participated in *Celebration' 90: Gay Games III* including the Regina Monarchs (a men's volleyball team), a provincial women's ice hockey team, a men's softball team from Saskatoon, as well as individuals competing in badminton, croquet and swimming.

[*Perceptions*, v. 5 no. 5 (July 11 1990) p. 7.]

August 25 **Saskatoon**

The AKA Gallery presented *Quarantine of the Mind*, a performance work by Toronto artist David MacLean. The piece examined the psychological quarantine of gay men forced back into the closet by AIDS. MacLean performed the work again at Regina's Neutral Ground Gallery on September 15.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 6 (August 29 1990) p. 15.]

October 15 - November 2 Saskatoon

AIDS Awareness, a joint community effort to inform Saskatoon about the facts and fallacies of AIDS was sponsored by 30 University and community groups. The centerpiece was *VISUAL AIDS*, a touring international exhibition of AIDS posters. Other events included a public address by AIDS activist June Callwood, two theatre productions, library exhibits, film and video screenings, lectures and conferences dealing with Christian responses and pastoral care.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 6 (August 29 1990) p. 10-11. / "Community launches major AIDS awareness campaign," *Saskatoon Mirror*, (October 19 1990) p. A3. / "AIDS teaching valuable lesson, Callwood says," *SSP*, (October 23 1990) p. A12.]

October 18-20 Regina

AIDS Regina presented two AIDS themed plays, Harvey Fierstein's *On Tidy Endings* and Christopher Durang's *Seeking Wild*, at the U of R Arena Theatre.

[Event flyer – SAB NR]

October 22 **Saskatoon**

David Dombowsky of Citizens for Social Justice requested that City Council prevent a showing of safer sex videos for gay men in a room at the Saskatoon Public Library. The event was sponsored by GLUS as a contribution to the *AIDS Awareness* program. Councillor Mark Thompson supported the request declaring that he found any portrayal of homosexuality offensive. Chief Librarian Sandra Anderson, after initially suggesting to GLUS that they might seek a rental elsewhere, defended their right to rent a library room for the program. Her decision was supported by the Library Board and the Saskatoon Community Health Unit who provided public health nurses to serve as hosts. The presentation on October 26 drew a packed crowd of 100 – mostly gay men but also a few who were opposed to the event or merely curious about the controversy.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 8 (November 21 1990) p. 7-8. / "Thompson fails to stop 'erotic' AIDS film," *SSP*, (October 23 1990) p. A10. / "Board backs AIDS film," *SSP*, (October 25 1990) p. A7.]

October 30 **Saskatoon**

Fifty parents protested to the Saskatoon Catholic School Board about videos being used to educate students about AIDS, including one that portrayed a gay priest with AIDS.

["AIDS video content upsets parents," *SSP*, (October 31 1990) p. A13.]

November 1 **Saskatoon**

Ralph Wushke succeeded Erin Shoemaker as executive director of AIDS Saskatoon. Wushke was a Lutheran minister, a journalist and a founding member of EGALÉ Regina.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 8 (November 21 1990) p. 10.]

November 22 **Regina**

Holly Near, American singer-composer and activist for peace and justice performed, for the Regina Guild of Folk Arts.

[*Perceptions*, v. 8 no. 7 (October 10 1990) p. 27.]

December 16 **Saskatoon**

Uriel and Friends, a concert of classical music to benefit persons living with AIDS, was presented at St. John's Anglican Cathedral. This was the first of four annual musical AIDS benefits organized by Uriel (Rick) Kreklewich before his death in 1994.

[Event flyer – SAB NR]

1991

1991 **Regina**

Coteau Books published *The I.Q. Zoo*, a collection of gay short stories by Peter McGehee. The cover was illustrated by Dik Campbell. This was the first gay themed book to be published by a Saskatchewan commercial publisher.

February **Saskatoon**

25th Street Theatre presented a production of *Being At Home With Claude*, Quebecois playwright Rene-Daniel Dubois's play about obsessive love and sexual violence.

["Actor O'Shea delivers in demanding role (Review)," *SSP*, (February 25 1991) p. C3.]

March **Saskatoon**

Gens Hellquist convened meetings to plan Gay & Lesbian Health Services (GLHS), a new organization to address the mental, social, emotional and physical health needs of gay men and lesbians.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 6 (September 25 1991) p. 7.]

March **Regina**

Neutral Ground presented *Real Men/Real Women: A Photo Study of What Is Not*. The exhibition displayed photographic portraits of subjects who were asked to dress as a member of 'the opposite sex' and then express her or his personality.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 3 (April 24 1991) p. 20.]

March

Regina

The SHRC notified representatives of the Regina Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee that it had found probable cause to justify their 1990 complaints against Police Chief Ernie Reimer for rejecting a Pride parade permit.

[Therese Macdonald, "Gays claim parade victory," *RLP*, (March 22 1991) p. A1.]

March 14

Regina

The collective of *The Carillon*, the U of R student newspaper, voted not to run an article on safer sex for gay men that had been distributed by Canadian University Press. After public criticism from AIDS Regina, other Canadian student newspapers, and from U of R students, the collective decided to publish an eight page LG supplement. After more editorial difficulties this supplement was finally published on April 11. Inside the *Carillon's* year-end issue was a photo of the collective members titled "Homophobes Pause for Photo."

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 4 (June 12 1991) p. 12. / Muriel Draaisma, "Carillon won't run sex item," *RLP*, (March 20 1991) p. B8.]

April

Saskatoon

Representatives of AIDS organizations, reserves, tribal councils and addiction centers met to discuss AIDS in aboriginal communities and the possibility of establishing a Feather of Hope Society in Saskatchewan.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 3 (April 24 1991) p. 10.]

April 7

Saskatoon

Peter McGehee performed a reading from *Boys Like Us*, an autobiographical first novel, at the Saskatoon Public Library.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 2 (March 6 1991) p. 19.]

May 18

Regina

An ceremony inducting Baron I and Baroness I of Regina at the Scarth Street Station marked the establishment of the Imperial Court

organization in Regina. The Regina court is operated by the Regal Social Association of Regina (RSAR). Their Imperial Court of the Sovereign Body – Golden Wheat Sheaf Empire is still operating in 2005. The drag performers use their events as fundraisers for student bursaries and to support LG, AIDS and other charities.

[Hockley]

June

Saskatoon

The Saskatoon Community Health Unit presented an award to Neil Richards for his work in organizing the 1990 AIDS Awareness campaign.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 4 (June 12 1991) p. 12.]

June

Regina

Neutral Ground Gallery presented *Imagined Self*, a multimedia installation examining sexual and gender identity by Nikki Forrest.

[Greg Beatty, "A Look from the margins (Review)," *RLP*, (June 19 1991) p. C5.]

June 22

Regina

One hundred people marched in the city's second Pride march. The Pride committee was again refused a civic proclamation and a parade permit. Marchers shouted, "We're here, we're queer, we're not about to disappear."

[Maureen MacNeill, "Mixed views on parade," *RLP*, (June 24 1991) p. A3.]

August

Saskatoon

Saskatoon's second annual Fringe Festival included a local production of Lanford Wilson's AIDS themed play *A Poster of the Cosmos*. Many productions with gay, lesbian, queer and feminist themes have been presented by local and touring groups at subsequent Saskatoon Fringes.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 5 (August 14 1991) p. 21.]

August 30 - September 2 Regina

The Regina Zephyrs Sports Group hosted its first annual Golden Crown Tournament for gay and lesbian volleyball. The tournament was designed to accommodate all levels of playing skill.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 5 (August 14 1991) p. 2.]

September 7-14 Regina

The Imperial Court of the Golden Wheat Sheaf presented its first Coronation Ball at the Scarth Street Station. Dale and Anita Lay were crowned first Emperor and Empress of Regina.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 5 (August 14 1991) p. 17.]

Fall Saskatoon

Peter Millard, chair of the U of S English Department, taught English 893.3, an examination of social attitudes towards homosexuality in literature. This was the first gay studies course offered at the U of S.

[Elizabeth Dunleavy, "Homosexuality and literature," *The Sheaf*, (September 19 1991)]

September 25 Saskatoon

A meeting established The Bridge City Men's Chorus, a choral group for gay men. Founders included Bruce Garman, Ron Knoll, Neil Thomlinson and Ralph Wushke. After its first full-length concert in May 1993, women asked to join and the chorus decided to become a LGB community chorus. The name was changed to the Bridge City Chorus for the 1993-94 season. The chorus was still active in 2005. The first musical director was David Carlin. Subsequent musical directors were Elaine Thaller (1993 - 1995), Marie Jolly (1995 - 2000), Naomi Friesen (2000 - 2004), and Carole Courtney (2004 -).

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no.1 (February 5 1992) p. 6.]

September 25 Kindersley

Stephen Millard described his experiences as a gay sports reporter at a small town

Saskatchewan paper.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 5 (September 25 1991) p. 5.]

October 6 - November 17 Saskatoon

The Photographers Gallery presented *Hesitations: Reminders and Contradiction*, Montreal artist David Williams' exploration of AIDS angst in gay men.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 5 (September 25 1991) p. 7.]

October 21

The NDP won a landslide victory in the province's general election. During the campaign the Conservatives presented themselves as the only party willing to stand up for 'family values'. In Regina Churchill Downs PC candidate Rev. John Bergen claimed that homosexuals would bring an end to civilization and called for mandatory HIV testing and AIDS free restaurants. In Saskatoon Riversdale PC candidate Gay Caswell equated homosexuality with pedophilia and claimed that the NDP would close churches and jail pastors if they preached a traditional biblical perspective on perversion. The Coalition in Support of the Family led by Dale Hassett distributed 170,000 copies of a forty page booklet entitled *The Real Issues. Where Do They Stand?* that attacked what were claimed to be the positions of the Liberal Party and the NDP on homosexuality and abortion.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 7 (November 6 1991) p. 8-9. / Randy Burton, "Morality campaign takes shape," *SSP*, (September 28 1991) p. A3.]

November 21-23 Regina

Guy Michaud directed a production of Victor Bumbalo's AIDS themed play *Adam and the Experts* for AIDS Regina.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 7 (November 6 1991) p. 2.]

November 23 Saskatoon

GLHS received a federal grant for \$99,260, a first of its kind in Canada, for a two year project to promote a better understanding

of LG issues by counsellors and social service/health agencies. The organization was initially co-chaired by Antonia Botting and Michael McCoy and was still operating in 2005.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 7 (November 6 1991) p. 10. / "Support groups for gays get funding from Ottawa," *SSP*, (November 23 1991) p. A6.]

December 4 **Saskatoon**

Daryl Lubiniecki, general manager of the Saskatoon Blades hockey club, responded to a reporter's question about AIDS in sport. "The doctors have told me the highest risk is in the gay community. I think that we're free of those types of people here. I don't think we have people with weak wrists in this dressing room." The comments unleashed a flurry of AIDS media coverage including editorials and letters critical of Lubiniecki. At the Blade's next home game AIDS Saskatoon and artist/athlete Grant Shilling handed out condoms in 'Blade Guard' covers that said 'AIDS is not a weak wrist issue.'

[James Parker, "Heroes and Aids," *SSP*, (December 5 1991) p. B1. / Ken Juba, "Blade guards serve to burst the bubble of ignorance," *SSP*, (December 9 1991) p. B1.]

December 18

Perceptions reported the AIDS related death of Les McAfee, a founding member and driving force of EGALE, the national organization fighting for changes in human rights law. McAfee was born in Quinton (SK) in 1951 and was a graduate of the U of R.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 8 (December 19 1991) p. 12.]

1992

January **Saskatoon**

GLHS opened its doors at 300-241 2nd Avenue South with two half-time paid employees – Gens Hellquist and Sheri McConnell. GLHS resumed the phone line service previously operated by GLSS. By the spring of 1993 eleven groups were operating out of the

GLHS facility.

[*Perceptions*, v. 9 no. 8 (December 18 1991) p. 9.]

February 10 **Saskatoon**

The U of S College of Law Guest Speakers Committee presented Christopher Kendall who spoke on the topic *Homophobic legal education and the non-accommodation of difference*. Kendall was the first openly gay president of a Canadian law students' association.

[Event flyer – SAB NR]

March 27-30

The Saskatchewan conference of the United Church passed a resolution after much debate asking that ten pulpits in Saskatchewan be opened to self-identified lesbian and gay ministers over the next three years.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 4 (June 10 1992) p. 8. / "Church wants gay, lesbian ministers," *SSP*, (June 1 1992) p. A1.]

April 24-27 **Saskatoon**

The National Film Board presented its feature documentary *A Kind of Family* at the Broadway Theatre. The film explored the relationship of gay Winnipeg City Councillor Glenn Murray and his HIV positive foster son Mike. Murray spoke at the Saskatoon premiere. The film was later presented on June 18 at the Regina Public Library.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 2 (March 18 1992) p. 20.]

May 1 **Saskatoon**

Ferron performed at the Broadway Theatre in support of her latest album *Phantom Center*.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 2 (March 18 1992) p. 20.]

June **Saskatoon**

Perceptions reported the death of Bob Mike (Okemawassiss) of the Beardy's reserve near Duck Lake. Mike had traveled thousands of kilometers to aboriginal communities telling his story of living with AIDS. In 1999 Good Earth Productions produced an educational

video entitled *The Story of Bob Mike* (available at the U of S Education Library).

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 5 (June 29 1992) p. 5. / Warren Goulding, "Bobby Mike finally found peace at home," *SSP*, (July 13 1996) p. C1.]

June 10 **Saskatoon**

Gens Hellquist of GLHS and Kelly Faber, manager of *Numbers*, met with Police Chief Owen Maguire to discuss concerns over a perceived increase in gay bashings and inadequate police response.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 4 (June 10 1992) p. 9.]

June 10-14 **Saskatoon**

The final Coronation Ball of the Imperial Court of the Prairie Lily was held at Syd's Garage. The Saskatoon court disbanded in early 1993 after a period of burnout and internal conflicts.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10. no. 3 (April 29 1992) p. 12.]

June 27 **Regina**

Common Ground hosted a Pride potluck and dance at Wesley United Church featuring entertainment by Cajun dance band Louisiana Jane, singers Noele Hall, Janet Harvey and comedian Sandy Rapley.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 5 (June 10 1992) p. 14.]

June 30 **Saskatoon**

CHE sponsored a concert at the Broadway Theatre by the American musical duo Romanovsky & Phillips, "self-professed ambassadors of homosexuality."

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 4 (June 10 1992) p. 7.]

August **Toronto**

The Ontario Court of Appeal ruled in Haig and Birch v Canada that the federal government's failure to include sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act was discriminatory. Justice Minister Kim Campbell introduced an amendment to the act in December but Parliament was soon dissolved for a general election.

August **Saskatoon**

Ian C. Nelson directed a production of Harvey Fierstein's *On Tidy Endings* at the Saskatoon Fringe Festival.

["Play about AIDS touches heart," *SSP*, (August 5 1992) p. D1.]

September **Saskatoon**

In response to the Haig and Birch v Canada decision SHRC Chair Theresa Holizki announced that the Saskatchewan commission was now prepared to accept complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 6 (September 16 1992) p. 11. / "Gay ruling praised," *RLP*, (September 3 1992) p. A9.]

September 5 **Saskatoon**

Numbers held its tenth anniversary party at 493A – 2nd Avenue North.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 5 (July 29 1992) p. 7.]

September 26 **Toronto**

Gay rights activist Doug Wilson died with AIDS. In 1982 Wilson moved to Toronto where he worked as a race relations advisor to the Board of Education. In 1988 he became the first openly gay candidate from a major party to contest a federal election when he ran for the NDP in Toronto-Rosedale. He was a co-founder of *Rites* magazine and of AIDS Action Now. Shortly before his death he completed *Labour of Love*, the third volume of the *Boys Like Us* trilogy that was begun by his partner Peter McGehee.

["Gay rights activist, Doug Wilson, 42, dead," *SSP*, (September 29 1992) p. A4.]

September 27 **Regina**

The Adelfoi Inter-denominational Bible Fellowship held its first Holy Communion service at the Scarth Street Station. The Christian group had been founded in June with the help of Anglican priest Rev. Helena-Rose Houdcroft, who provided ministry with the permission of the Right Rev. Eric Bays, Anglican Bishop of Qu'Appelle.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 8 (December 9 1992) p. 13.]

October 15

Regina

The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal overturned a decision of Queen's Bench Justice Ross Wimmer which had prevented the SHRC from proceeding with a formal inquiry into the 1990 refusal of a parade permit to members of the Regina Pride Committee.

[Bill Daskoch, "Inquiry can proceed," *RLP*, (October 16 1992) p. A1.]

October 4

Regina

AIDS Regina hosted an exhibition of eleven AIDS memorial quilts.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 6 (September 16 1992) p. 13.]

October 9

Saskatoon

Poet Sean Virgo hosted a literary evening *Out of the Margins: Writing by People with AIDS* at the National Film Board Theatre.

[Event Program – SAB NR]

October 9-11

Regina

AIDS Regina presented Guy Michaud's *Ryan's Hope*, a play about a teenager confronting AIDS in his family.

[Bernard Pilon, "Education key to AIDS play," *RLP*, (October 10 1992) p. D5.]

October 14-15 Saskatoon and Regina

Vancouver writer Patrick Roscoe, author of *God's Peculiar People*, performed at the Saskatoon Public Library and the following day at the Regina Public Library.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 6 (September 16 1992) p. 6.]

October 14 - November 15 Saskatoon

The Photographers Gallery presented *100 Years of Homosexuality*, an exhibition of photographs by Canadian LG artists. The show was curated by Doug Townsend and included Saskatchewan artist Dik Campbell. A 42-page catalogue documented the exhibition.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 7 (October 28 1992) p. 2.
/ "Exhibit challenges myths about homosexuality," *SSP*, (October 31 1992) p. C2.]

November

Ottawa

The federal court lifted the ban on homosexuals serving in the Canadian Armed Forces.

November

Saskatoon

Numbers hosted a *Leather Fact and Fantasy* event including afternoon workshops and evening shows of 'leather theatre' by performers from Vancouver, Seattle, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg.

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 7 (October 28 1992) p. 12.]

November 12

Saskatoon

Donna Greschner, newly appointed SHRC Chief Commissioner, wrote an open letter to Justice Minister Bob Mitchell urging that the Human Rights Code be amended quickly to include protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, economic status and family status. She described these protections as long overdue and needed to ensure that "Saskatchewan regains its historic lead role in human rights legislation."

[*Perceptions*, v. 10 no. 8 (December 9 1992) p. 10. / "Greschner seeks protection for gays, lesbians," *SSP*, (November 14 1992) p. A1.]

December 1

Saskatoon

U of S art student Christopher Lefler and a group of protestors attempted to disrupt a Day Without Art AIDS event at the U of S Convocation Hall.

["Protestors say gay, lesbian rights need protection," *SSP*, (December 2 1992) p. A14.]

December 5

Saskatoon

Big Brothers announced the lifting of its ban against gay men. According to a new policy gay men could apply to become Big Brothers but were asked to indicate their sexual orientation on volunteer profiles given to parents for approval.

["Big Brothers drop gay restriction," *SSP*, (December 5 1992) p. A3.]

December 14 **Saskatoon**

After being rejected by the Red Cross during an attempt to donate blood, Jason Roy complained to the SHRC about the wording on questionnaires designed to weed out homosexual men as blood donors.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 1 (January 27 1993) p. 11. / "Gay activist takes issue with blood donor form," *SSP*, (January 26 1993) p. A4.]

1993

1993 **Regina**

Oscar Wilde & Company, was established by Nils Clausson and Guy Michaud as a theatre company that would "give a voice to those in our society – gays, people with AIDS, street youth – who were either marginalized or found others speaking for them." Many plays, including several written and/or directed by Michaud, have been presented including productions at Regina Pride celebrations, Cathedral Village Arts Festivals and at the Saskatoon Fringe Festival. The company still operates exists at the date of this compilation.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 5 (July 30 1997) p. 21.]

January 25 **Saskatoon**

The Saskatoon YMCA changed its 'married couples' rate to a 'couples' membership rate that included co-habiting same-sex couples after a request from Sheri McConnell who sought a family membership for her partner and herself.

[*Perceptions*, v.11 no. 2 (March 10 1993) p. 12.]

February 6 **Calgary**

An Angus Reid poll recorded that 52% of Albertans and 55% of Saskatchewan and Manitoba residents believed that gays and lesbians should be protected from discrimination.

[*Calgary Herald*, (February 6 1993) p. A1.]

February 16
SHRC chief Donna Greschner published a

personal viewpoint in several newspapers advocating legislation to prohibit discrimination of the basis of sexual orientation.

[Donna Greschner, "Amendments important step towards equality," *Melfort Journal*, (February 16 1993) p. 5.]

February 25 **Regina**

The throne speech announced the amendment of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code. Bill 38 was introduced on March 17 to extend human rights protections to lesbians and gays.

[Randy Burton, "Throne speech promises renewal," *SSP*, (February 26 1993) p. A1.]

February 25 - March 10 **Saskatoon**

Persephone Theatre presented the world premiere of Jim Bartley's *Stephen and Mr. Wilde*, a speculative play based on the few facts known about Oscar Wilde's visit to Toronto in 1882.

["Play about Wilde boldly innovative," *SSP*, (March 1 1993) p. D2.]

February 28 **Saskatoon**

The Bridge City Men's Chorus gave their first public performance at Uriel's fourth annual musical AIDS benefit at St. John's Anglican Cathedral.

[Event flyer – SAB NR]

March **Saskatoon**

The SHRC decided that *Your MLA Doesn't Want You to Read This*, a pamphlet mailed to 150,000 homes did not constitute hate literature. The pamphlet claimed that 95% of male homosexuals reported having over 1000 different sexual partners per year. At the time Section 14 of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Act prohibited the publication of material which exposed individuals or groups to hatred and ridicule or otherwise affronted their dignity.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 2 (March 10 1993) p. 10. / "Anti-gay rights letter reviewed," *RLP*, (February 5 1993) p. A9.]



First Four Miss Diva's, 2002: From left, Roxy Diva, Korrie O'Graphy, China White and Crystal Clear.



Three Mr. Diva's, 2002: From left, Les Bian Fingers, Richard Everhard and Nikolai Yousuckoff.

Used with permission of the photographer: Debra Marshall.



Stephen & Mr. Wilde. Program cover from Persephone Theatre's 1993 premiere production of the play by Jim Bartley. Courtesy: University of Saskatchewan Archives, M.L. Wittlin fonds, MG 245. Production files. Persephone Theatre.

March 10

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities annual convention opposed proposed human rights changes. One delegate objected to SARM's intervention claiming they "should stick to rats, roads, grain, graders and railways."

["Rural politicians oppose homosexual rights plan," *SSP*, (March 11 1993) p. C10.]

March 22

Saskatoon

Winnipeg lesbian artists Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan performed at the *Rampant Marshmallow Meltdown* cabaret presented by the AKA Artist Run Centre.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 2 (March 10 1993) p. 22.]

March 29

Saskatchewan's Catholic bishops issued a joint pastoral letter which was seen as implicitly agreeing to proposed legislative changes to the province's Human Rights Code. While reaffirming the Catholic Church's position on homosexual activity as immoral the bishops wrote that human beings should be treated equally and that every mark of unjust discrimination against people with homosexual tendencies was to be avoided.

["Dear Catholic People of Saskatchewan," *Prairie Messenger*, vol. 70 no. 6 (April 5 1993) p. 3. / "Gays receive church support," *SSP*, (March 27 1993) p. A1.]

April

Weyburn

Ray Bailey, a former leader of the Western Canada Concept Party, helped to organize *Speak Up Canada* to oppose 'the gay agenda.' The group sponsored a protest rally of about 100 people in Weyburn.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 3 (April 21 1993) p. 12. / "Mitchell defends gay legislation," *RLP*, (April 3 1993) p. A4.]

April 8

Regina

The executive council of the SFL voted unanimously to express public support for Bill 38.

[SFL Press Release April 8 1993 – SAB NR]

April 13-16

Saskatoon

The Moose Jaw Women in Education group submitted a resolution in support of spousal benefits for LG teachers to the spring council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. The Moose Jaw Catholic Teachers' Association presented a resolution in opposition. The Council voted to have the STF executive study the proposal and bring back a recommendation.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 3 (April 21 1993) p. 11. / "Gay teacher benefit issue handed back to executive," *SSP*, (April 17 1993) p. A3.]

May 1

Saskatoon

The Bridge City Men's Chorus presented their first concert *Wine, Men & Song* at the Terrace Room of the Bessborough Hotel as a benefit for GLHS and AIDS Saskatoon.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 3 (April 21 1993) p. 2.]

May 3

Regina

One hundred prayed at the Legislature for divine intervention to defeat Bill 38. During the following month ads opposing the bill were published in several newspapers and petitions were distributed calling for a referendum. Inside the Legislature a number of Conservative MLAs spoke about the sinfulness and unnaturalness of homosexuality.

[Randy Burton, "Govt may change bill on homosexual rights," *SSP*, (May 4 1993) p. A2.]

June 6

Saskatoon

AIDS Saskatoon staged Prairie Walk '93, the city's first AIDS fundraising walk.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 3 (April 21 1993) p. 13.]

June 11

Moose Jaw

The Moose Jaw Times-Herald interviewed local lesbians and gays about life in 'the Jaw.'

[Ted Wyman, "It's tough to be gay in Moose Jaw," *Moose Jaw Times-Herald*, (June 11 1993) p. 3.]

June 12 Regina

The United Church Saskatchewan Conference placed advertisements in Regina and Saskatoon dailies announcing its support for Bill 38 and its solidarity with gay and lesbian people: "The time for justice is always now!"

[*RLP*, (June 12 1993) p. A11.]

June 18-27 Saskatoon

Saskatoon presented its first Pride celebration in more than ten years. Events included an art exhibit at AKA Gallery, films at the Broadway Theatre, a Christian church service and the presentation of the city's first GALA awards for LG community service.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 5 (July 28 1993) p. 5-6. / JoLynn Sheane, "Gay pride week first in decade," *SSP*, (June 23 1993) p. A6.]

June 19-20 Moose Jaw

It's In To Be Out, the city's first Pride event, featured a dance at the Elk's Lodge and a picnic at Happy Valley Park.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 4 (June 9 1993) p. 12.]

June 22 Regina

Bill 38 was passed by a vote of 31-10 in the Saskatchewan Legislature. Saskatchewan became the seventh province to include sexual orientation in its human rights legislation. The bill was supported by thirty NDP members and the lone Liberal member and opposed by the ten member Conservative caucus. The Conservatives tried unsuccessfully to amend the legislation to prohibit gay adoptions, recognition of same-sex relationships, and access to spousal and family benefits.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 5 (July 28 1993) p. 11. / "Embattled gay rights bill passes," *RLP*, (June 23 1993) p. A8.]

July

The Coalition in Support of the Family purchased ads in thirty-five papers promoting a petition supporting a provincial referendum on gay rights.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 6 (September 15 1993) p. 9. / "Anti-gay petition may come up short," *SSP*, (August 26 1993) p. A6.]

July Saskatoon

The SHRC negotiated an agreement with *The Western Producer* in which the farm paper ended its longstanding policy of rejecting classified ads that seemed to involve homosexuality. Complainant Jim Markow had tried to place an ad seeking "a buddy to share hiking, canoeing and northern outdoor activities."

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 5 (July 28 1993) p. 12.]

July Regina

Hugh Owens, a Regina corrections officer, filed a complaint with the SHRC that the new human rights law had made the Bible hate literature. The Commission rejected the complaint.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 7 (October 27 1993) p. 11. / "Bible doesn't violate code," *RLP*, (August 26 1993) p. A12.]

July 22 Regina

Health Minister Louis Simard announced a program for anonymous HIV testing in Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon.

[Bill Daskach, "New AIDS policy adopted," *RLP*, (July 23 1993) p. A3.]

August 8-14 Saskatoon

Dik Campbell presented *Assume Your Position*, a media/site-specific exhibition as part of series of public access works organized by AKA Artist Run Centre. Campbell's project involved the creation and placement of artworks by the victims of gay bashings at the sites at which they had been attacked. A documentation of the project was later exhibited in March 1998 at the U of S *Breaking the Silence* conference.

[Project flyer – SAB NR]

September Saskatoon

GLHS received federal funding for a rural outreach program including a 1-800 number.

The organization reported handling over 5,000 calls since the fall of 1992.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 7 (October 27 1993) p. 13.]

September

Average Good Looks, a Winnipeg visual artists' collective, presented a month long advertising campaign in five prairie cities including Regina and Saskatoon. Billboards featured photos of individual gays and lesbians as well as same-sex couples with the caption "Gays & Lesbians, Your Family."

[Gregg Beatty, "Art placed in the public eye," *RLP*, (September 7 1993) p. C5.]

October

Regina

The 1993 synod of the Anglican diocese of Qu'Appelle included a session on Christian understandings of lesbian and gay ordination. Several gays and lesbians described their lives in the church to the approximately 270 delegates.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 7 (October 27 1993) p. 10.]

October 2

Saskatoon

Numbers reopened at a new location in the Avenue Building at 110 – 220 Third Avenue South.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 6 (September 15 1993) p. 2.]

October 25

Saskatoon

Jim Stevenson died after a long battle with AIDS. As Miss K he helped to establish drag performances as gay entertainment in Saskatoon and raised much-needed funds for PLWA support.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 8 (December 8 1993) p. 14.]

November

Saskatoon

Christopher Lefler, a graduate student in the U of S Art Department, included an installation work in *Staging Identities*, an exhibition at the University's Gordon Snelgrove Gallery. The work included

correspondence with a prominent official who he believed to be lesbian and who had labeled her responses personal and confidential. The Art Department removed the work and when Lefler replaced it, the University suspended him, withdrew his scholarship and banned him from campus. This attempt at political outing aroused much controversy but limited support in the LG community. The controversy continued in 1994 when Lefler was awarded \$9,500 by the Saskatchewan Arts Board, which he said he would use to publish his correspondence with the official. Facing opposition attacks and public complaints NDP Minister Carol Carson initially defended the independence of the Arts Board but later asked it to reconsider the grant. The Arts Board eventually rescinded the grant claiming it had questions about the legality of Lefler's project.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 2 (March 9 1994) p. 6-7. / *Perceptions*, v. 12 no.4 (June 8 1994) p. 10. / "Outing outrages gays," *SSP*, (February 17 1994) p. A3. / "University expels fine arts student for 'defamatory' art," *SSP*, (May 17 1994) p. A3. / "Expelled student's grant decried," *SSP*, (May 18 1994) p. A12. / "Carson wants 'outing' artist's grant pulled," *RLP*, (May 26 1994) p. A4. / "Arts Board rescinds Lefler's grant," *SSP*, (June 14 1994) p. A3. / Jim Russell, "A Gaze blank and pitiless as the sun," *Fuse Magazine*, v. 18 no. 2 (1994) p. 7-10.]

November 19-21

Saskatoon

CLUB Saskatoon hosted *A Gathering of the Clan II*, a weekend of workshops and performances by Western Canadian leather men and friends.

[*Perceptions*, v. 11 no. 8 (December 8 1993) p. 13.]

1994

1994

Saskatoon

Family members of gays and lesbians began meeting in 1994. The group organized itself as PFLAG Saskatoon in 1996. The group is still active in 2005.

[PFLAG Saskatoon –PFLAG Regina flyer (2005) - SAB NR]

January

A Maclean's/CTV poll reported that 56% of Canadians said they would be fine if one of their children turned out to be gay. In Saskatchewan 32% took that position.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 1 (January 24 1994) p. 13.]

January 24

Saskatoon

AIDS Saskatoon held its first art/celebrity auction at the Mendel Art Gallery. This auction became an annual event and has continued successfully up to the date of this compilation.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 1 (January 24 1994) p. 21.]

January 25 - February 5

Saskatoon

Dancing Sky Theatre presented Angus Ferguson's production of *Plague of Innocence*, an AIDS themed play by Noel Grieg.

[Event flyer - SAB NR]

January 29

Regina

Pink Triangle Community Services (PTCS) was established to promote healthier living in the LG community, and to address homophobia in the city. Brad McDougall was the group's first spokesperson. The group is still offering phone line information and support in 2005.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 5 (July 27 1994) p. 13.]

February 5

Moose Jaw

The Lesbian and Gay Social Club of Moose Jaw presented its first event of 1994, *It's In to Be Out*, at the Prairie Oasis Motel.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 1 (January 24 1994) p. 23.]

April 14

Regina

Regina lawyer Lorna Nystuen ruled in a SHRC Board of Inquiry that Police Chief Ernie Reimer had violated the rights of Elisabeth Geller and Lyndon Surjik to freedom of expression and assembly when he refused to issue a permit for Regina's 1990 Pride Parade. No restitution was ordered. On

April 22 Reimer announced his resignation as police chief.

[Neil Scott, "Permit refusal violated rights," *RLP*, (April 15 1994) p. A5. / "Police chief unrepentant," *RLP*, (April 20 1994) p. C8.]

April 14

Regina

Jack Gooshen, PC MLA for Maple Creek, voiced opposition to proposed amendments to the Labour Standards Act that would extend the definition of spouse to those in same-sex relationships and give them equal access to bereavement and injury/illness leave. The NDP Labour Minister said the changes were being made to ensure that the wording of the act did not violate human rights legislation.

[Dave Traynor, "Worries act amendment assists gays," *RLP*, (April 15 1994) p. A4.]

May 5-18

Saskatoon

Persephone Theatre presented Ed Graczyk's *Come Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*, a play in which many secrets are revealed at the 20th anniversary reunion of a James Dean fan club.

["Convincing cast can't save shallow play," *SSP*, (May 9 1994) p. C10.]

May 9

Saskatoon

For the first time since 1973 City Council was asked to proclaim Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. The request was defeated on a 5 to 5 vote. Ten days later members of the Saskatoon Pride Committee filed a complaint with the SHRC. The Commission accepted the complaint and sought to negotiate a resolution.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 4 (June 8 1994) p. 9. / "Council rejects lesbian, gay pride day," *SSP*, (May 10 1994) p. A3. / "Nixing gay day proclamation subject of rights complaint," *SSP*, (May 18 1994) p. A12.]

May 25 **Regina**

The *Leader-Post* reported that members of the Conservative Party were angry with the SHRC for reprinting an article promoting tolerance of lesbianism.

[“Article draws fire from PCs,” *RLP*, (May 25 1994) p. A4.]

July **Saskatoon**

Numbers club was renamed *Diva’s* and continued business at the same location in the Avenue Building. The club is still operating there at the date of this compilation.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 5 (July 27 1994) p. 24.]

July 2 **Saskatoon**

Don McNamee, a fixture of Saskatoon’s early gay community died. He was the production coordinator for many of the early issues of *Perception*. During the late 1980s and early 1990s he was the chief workhorse of CHE.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 2 (July 27 1994) p. 12.]

July 14-17 **Saskatoon**

The *Viper Bar and Grille* opened at 69 – 24th Street East. *The Viper* opened as a gay men’s dance bar. It lasted less than a year as a predominately gay venue and then struggled for a short time as a generally straight nightclub.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 4 (June 8 1994) p. 2.]

August **Saskatoon**

The SHRC reported that it had not received many complaints of antigay discrimination one year after it had been prohibited by legislation. In response Conservative justice critic Don Toth said he was concerned that the Commission had become an advocate for gay rights, which he said his party still strongly opposed.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 6 (September 14 1994) p. 14. / “Controversial act hasn’t added more complaints,” *RLP*, (August 6 1994) p. A4.]

August 5 **Regina**

Mertz’s Bar & Grill, a commercial gay establishment, opened at 1326A Hamilton

Street. The club folded at the beginning of 1995.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 5 (July 27 1994) p. 2.]

September **Prince Albert**

Jim O’Sullivan, a warden at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary, said that condoms were being discreetly handed out to prisoners in an effort to control AIDS. “Homosexual activity is still forbidden, but if you do it, use a condom.”

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 6 (September 14 1994) p. 13.]

September **Saskatoon**

Café Browse opened its doors to Saskatoon’s LG community. The restaurant/bookstore founded by Colleen Wiegiers and Penny Skilnick hosted many book readings and signings, poetry and musical nights. It sold feminist and LG books from its shelves and through mail order. The business was located at 269 3rd Avenue South. The café closed in the summer of 1998.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 6 (September 16 1998) p. 4.]

September 9 **Saskatoon**

GLHS hosted the first meeting of the Circle of Two-Spirits, a support group for “all gay and lesbian people who identify as native.”

[*Perceptions* v. 12 no. 6 (September 14 1994) p. 19.]

October **Prince Albert**

The Coalition in Support of the Family claimed to have mailed out 20,000 leaflets to homes in northern Saskatchewan. The publication attacked the NDP for providing ‘special rights to gays.’ In response to complaints SHRC chief Donna Greschner said that as untrue and distasteful as some of the leaflet’s comments were, they did not meet the standard of proof to legally constitute hate literature.

[Greg Urbanski, “Right-wing group defends controversial flyer,” *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, (October 15 1994) p. 1. / Eric Nelson, “Controversial flyer isn’t hate literature,” *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, (November 8 1994) p. 3.]

October Prince Albert

A dozen lesbians and gay men met to discuss the formation of a local LGB group. The group adopted the name Lambda North.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 8 (December 7 1994) p. 13.]

October - November Saskatoon

The AKA and Photographers Gallery presented *Men in Relationships*, an exhibition examining connections between males.

[Colleen MacPherson, "Gay relationships steal show," *SSP*, (October 17 1994) p. B3.]

November Regina

Oscar Wilde & Company premiered Guy Michaud's *Broken Dreams*.

["Giving AIDS a human face," *RLP*, (November 28 1994) p. C3.]

November 15 Saskatoon

Two dozen people met at GLHS with two officers of the City Police Morality Squad and representatives of the Sexual Assault Centre to express concerns that gay bashings had surged in Saskatoon. The police representatives denied any knowledge of a problem.

[*Perceptions*, v. 12 no. 8 (December 7 1994) p. 11. / "Gay-bashing said on rise in city," *SSP*, (October 12 1994) p. A5.]

1995

January Regina

The Gay Community of Regina elected a new board of directors which began to re-examine the organization's mandate. A board spokesperson said that the new mandate was to involve all groups in the city with the GCR, to enrich Regina's cultural life, to relocate closer downtown and to provide more options besides the group's nightclub. It was reported that there had been a serious drop in patronage at the Scarth Street club.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 2 (March 8 1995) p. 12.]

January 9 Saskatoon

GLHS instituted a toll-free line to better serve those outside the city.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 1 (January 25 1995) p. 11.]

March Saskatoon

GLHS received an operational grant of \$15,000 from the Saskatchewan government, the first time that a LG organization had received provincial funding for programming within the LG community.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 2 (March 8 1995) p. 13.]

March 23 Saskatoon

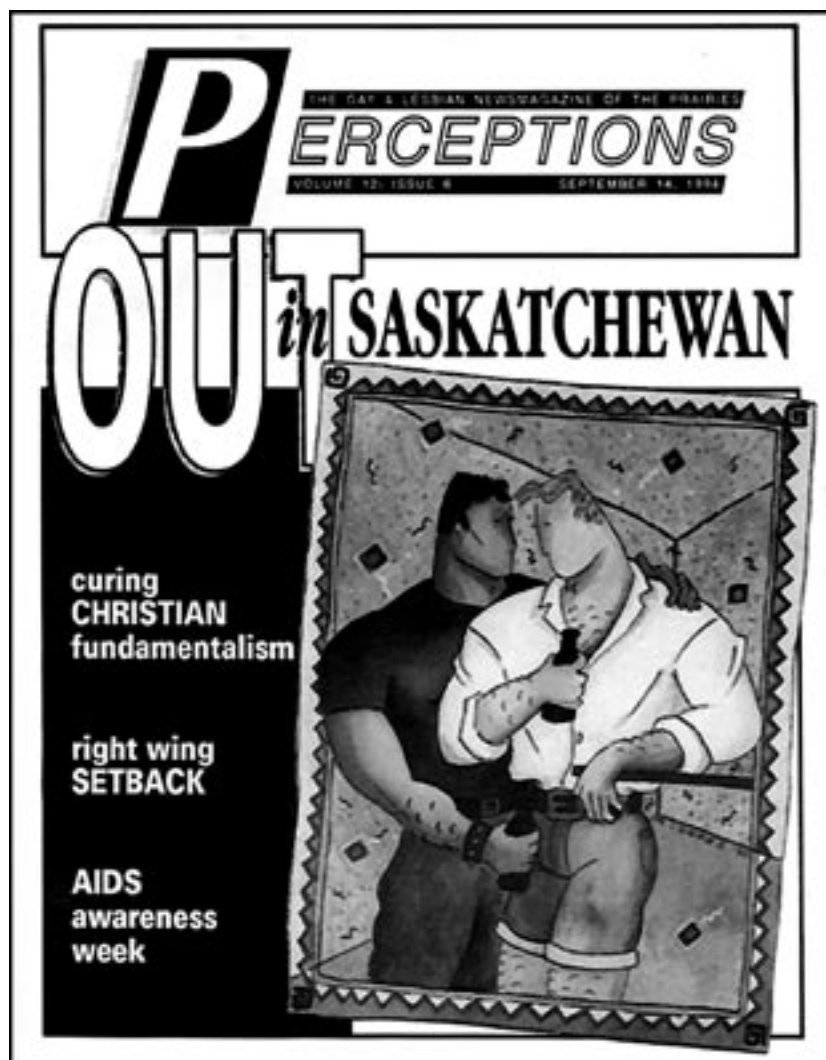
The U of S established the Peter Millard scholarship, Canada's first university-administered scholarship for work in lesbian and gay studies. Millard, the chair of the English Department, was a leader of several of Saskatoon's early LG organizations.

["Gay scholarship fund first at U of S," *SSP*, (March 23 1995) p. A3.]

March 25 Saskatoon

Peter Millard was presented the first Doug Wilson Award established by GLUS to recognize important contributions to the improvement of LG life at the U of S. The Doug Wilson Award has been awarded annually up to the date of this compilation (2005) first by GLUS and after that group's demise in 2002 by the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union. The earlier presentations featured addresses by national figures in the LG movement including Glen Murray (later mayor of Winnipeg), Janine Fuller (manager of Vancouver's Little Sisters Bookstore) and Alberta activist Delwin Vriend.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 2 (March 8 1995) p. 2.]



Perceptions v. 12 no. 6, 1994. Cover illustration by Dik (later Duncan) Campbell.



Sensible Shoes News. Cover of the April 2005 issue.

March 23 - April 1

Saskatoon

The U of S Drama Department produced Martin Sherman's *Bent*. The play explores the experiences of homosexual men persecuted during the Third Reich.

[Cam Fuller, "Play looks at hidden holocaust," *SSP*, (March 22 1995) p. D1.]

April

Regina

Sensible Shoes News: Your Monthly Guide to Regina's Lesbian Community was established by Madeline (later Madisun) Browne and Mitch Rank (aka Spiralstone). The publication aspired "to build a strong sense of community among Regina and district lesbians, providing information on upcoming events and a forum to explore feminist ideas." The publication featured book and film reviews, advertisements, advice columns and opinion pieces. The newsletter was still being published in 2005.

[*SSN*, (April 1995)]

April 7-9

Saskatoon

An ad hoc group of artists entitled Positively Queer presented *Virtuous Reality*, a festival of video and film by "transgendered, twin-spirited, bisexual, lesbian and gay artists" at the Mendel Art Gallery. Reform MP Jim Hart attacked the Canada Council for providing funding to the event.

["MP's remark on funding gay festival called stupid," *SSP*, (April 8 1995) p. B14.]

April 24

Saskatoon

City Council adopted a new policy on proclamations. All non-profit or charitable groups were to routinely get proclamations from the City Clerk so long as they did not promote hatred, involve illegal activity, or contain inflammatory, obscene, or libelous statements. On June 6 City Council approved a proclamation of Gay Pride Day under the new policy.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 5 (July 26 1995) p. 12. / "New policy would ok 'gay pride'," *SSP*, (April 24 1995) p. A3. / "Council approves gay pride week," *SSP*, June 6 1995) p. A8.]

May

The Supreme Court ruled in the case of Jim Egan and Jack Nesbit, two BC gay men who had sought the right to claim a spousal pension under the Old Age Security Act. The Court ruled against them noting that while their treatment by the government was discriminatory it was constitutional. However all nine judges agreed for the first time that sexual orientation was a protected ground under the Charter and that protection extends to the partners of gay men and lesbians.

June 14-17

Regina

Lesbian and Gay Pride Week included film screenings at the Regina Public Library including *The Sum of Us* and *Strawberry and Chocolate*.

[*SSN*, (June 1995)]

June 21

The provincial general election returned the NDP with a comfortable majority. During the campaign Conservative Leader Bill Boyd said his party supported repealing antigay discrimination protections "because it's wrong." Some Conservative candidates used a campaign pamphlet from the Coalition in Support of the Family that accused Liberal leader Lynda Haverstock of having "extreme moral views opposing the family" and Premier Roy Romanow of being guilty of "regularly mocking traditional values and morality." The Conservatives won five seats.

[Randy Burton, "Tory hopeful causing stir," *SSP*, (June 9 1995) p. A3. / Bonny Braden, "Boyd would try to repeal gay rights protection," *SSP*, (June 14 1995) p. A6.]

July

Regina

MOSAIC, Regina's annual multicultural festival, was adapted by lesbians and gays who presented their own Queer Pavilion featuring pink triangle passport stamps, and quiche and other gay food delicacies.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 5 (July 26 1995) p. 11.]

July 14 **Saskatoon**

City Council approved a grant of \$1,000 to GLHS over the objections of Mayor Henry Dayday.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 5 (July 26 1995) p. 11. / "Dayday objects to grant to gays," *SSP*, (July 5 1995) p. A6.]

July 25 **Regina**

City Council rejected a \$10,000 grant request from Pink Triangle Community Services to establish an office and an information line on the grounds that it was "a new initiative."

[Brian Foden, "Competition tough for civic grants," *RLP*, (July 26 1995) p. A4.]

August 6-13 **Saskatoon**

Former Saskatoon resident David Harrison performed his one-man play *FTM: A Transsexual Journey from Female to Male* at the Saskatoon Fringe. Harrison, originally known as Catherine, used his own experiences in transitioning as the basis of his theatrical work.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 5 (July 26 1995) p. 27. / "Harrison's FTM a Fringe must-see," *SSP*, (August 8 1995) p. B1.]

September **Regina**

The Regina Catholic School Board banned posters for AIDS Regina's AIDS Walk. A school board consultant said the posters contained nothing objectionable but that there was a fundamental difference in philosophy between AIDS Regina and the Catholic school system.

[Kevin O'Connor, "Board sticks to AIDS decision," *RLP*, (September 23 1995) p. A3.]

October **Saskatoon**

The Saskatoon Foundation awarded GLHS \$3,400 to hire staff for recreational programming.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 7 (October 25 1995) p. 13.]

October 28 **Saskatoon**

At the fall Convocation of the U of S Neil Richards was presented the first President's

Service Award for exceptional contributions by non-academic staff. Richards was cited for his contributions to AIDS awareness and to LG visibility and activism.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 7 (October 25 1995) p. 10.]

November 24-26 **Regina**

Reel Womyn's Movie Madness Weekend presented a three day lesbian themed film program at 2266 Smith Street.

[*SSN*, (November 1995)]

December **Regina**

SSN announced the first Regina meeting for a lesbian moms and kids group.

[*SSN*, (December 1995)]

December **Regina**

SSN published an ad for Berkana Books, a women's bookstore located in the YWCA basement.

[*SSN*, (December 1995)]

1996

1996 **Ottawa**

The federal government amended the Canadian Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation.

January **Regina**

SSN printed an advertisement for Buzzword Books at 2926B – 13th Avenue. This independent bookstore featured a section of LG literature and sold a variety of LG magazines. The store is still operating in 2005.

[*SSN*, (January 1996)]

February-March **Saskatoon**

The Mendel Art Gallery presented a touring exhibition of works of Canadian painter Attila Richard Lukacs. The exhibition included many of the homoerotic images of skinheads and soldiers that had catapulted him to art stardom in Berlin.

["Beauty, cruelty merge in odd ways," *SSP*, (February 3 1996) p. C16.]

February 3

Saskatoon

The Bridge City Chorus presented a concert *Zing! Zing! Zing! Went My Heart Strings* with special guests the Edmonton Vocal Minority.

[*Perceptions*, v. 13 no. 8 (December 6 1995) p. 2.]

February 22

Saskatoon

U of S Chaplain Colin Clay received the second Doug Wilson Award. Clay's gay advocacy began in the 1970s when he opposed Anita Bryant's homophobic views at a Moose Jaw rally. Bryant's supporters tried without success to have Clay dismissed from his university position.

["Clay receives award for support of gays," *SSP*, (February 22 1996) p. A9.]

April 15 – May 7

Regina

Queer City Cinema presented *Coming Out to a Theatre Near You*, Regina's first queer film and video festival. This first of what became a biennial festival curated by Gary Varro featured fifty-five films from six countries. The festival was presented at the Dunlop Art Gallery and received support from the Canada Council and the Saskatchewan Arts Board (SAB). The SAB funding was criticized by Conservative MLA Ben Heppner.

[Greg Beatty, "Queer City Cinema," *RLP*, (April 27 1996) p. D2.]

May 4

Regina

Saskatoon's Bridge City Chorus performed a benefit concert for Pink Triangle Community Services at Wesley United Church.

[*Perceptions*, v. 14 no. 3 (April 24 1996) p. 11.]

May 6

The Saskatchewan AIDS Network, a coalition of provincial AIDS organizations, launched *Saskatchewan Has AIDS*, a campaign to highlight the effects of AIDS and to encourage more action by governments. The campaign included billboards, bus signs, television and newspaper advertisements.

[*Perceptions*, v. 14 no. 3 (April 24 1996) p. 10.]

May 9

Saskatoon

Saskatoon District Health presented GLHS with its Stanley J. Stead Health Promotion Award for significant contributions.

[*Perceptions*, v. 14 no. 4 (June 5 1996) p. 13.]

May 17-18

Regina

Oscar Wilde & Company presented Guy Michaud's play *Zack* at the Schumiatcher Theatre. The love story of two gay teens was later presented at the Regina Cathedral Village Arts Festival and at the 1997 Saskatoon Fringe Festival.

[Nick Miliokas, "Play is truly satisfying experience," *RLP*, (May 18 1996) p. D6.]

May 19-22

Saskatoon

Over two thousand visited a display of panels from the Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt held at the Granite Curling Club. Forty-two panels memorialized losses to AIDS in Saskatchewan. An interprovincial conference on HIV/AIDS was held in conjunction with the exhibition.

[Katherine Lawrence, "The Lonely battle with AIDS," *SSP*, (May 18 1996) p. C11. / "Quilt panels honor victims of AIDS," *Saskatoon Sun*, (May 19 1996) p. 37.]

June 16-23

Saskatoon

The city's Lesbian and Gay Pride Week included a dance, a screening of *The Celluloid Closet* at the Broadway Theatre and a reading by lesbian novelist Karen Tulchinsky at Cafe Browse.

[*SSN*, (Summer 1996)]

Summer

Regina

SSN published an ad from Madeline Browne announcing the establishment of her own law firm "proud to be the first openly lesbian lawyer serving the LGBT communities in Saskatchewan."

[*SSN*, (Summer 1996)]

August 31 - September 1 Regina

DIGNITY Canada, an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics, held its national House of Delegates meeting in Regina.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 6 (September 11 1996) p. 9.]

September Regina

Oscar Wilde & Company presented Guy Michaud's *Forgotten*, a play about street youth, to benefit Pink Triangle Community Services.

[*SSN*, (September 1996)]

September 10 Regina

James McNinch organized the first practice of what became Regina's Prairie Pride Chorus. McNinch had sung with the Bridge City Chorus before taking a job in Regina. Vernon McCarthy was the first artistic director. Subsequent music directors were Lori Erhardt and David L. McIntyre. The chorus has been a mixed voice LG community choir since its inception and is still performing at the date of this compilation.

[*Perceptions*, v. 14 no. 6 (September 11 1996) p. 12.]

September 11 Regina

A meeting established Gays, Bisexuals, and Lesbians at the University of Regina (GBLUR). The group is still operating in 2005.

[*SSN*, (September 1996)]

October Saskatoon

The SHRC ruled that there were probable grounds to justify Christopher Lefler's complaint that his freedom of expression had been restricted by the U of S but rejected his complaint that he had been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation. The University indicated that it was not willing to negotiate a settlement.

[*Perceptions*, v. 14 no. 7 (October 23 1996) p. 14. / U of S reluctant to settle student artist's complaint," *SSP*, (October 12 1996) p. A3. / "Gay artist appeals human rights commission decision," *SSP*, (November 8 1996) p. A9.]

October Swift Current

Four people in the Swift Current area formed the South-West Gay, Lesbian Bisexual Support and Social Group and placed advertisements in two local newspapers.

[*Perceptions*, v. 14 no. 8 (December 4 1996) p. 12.]

October 25 Regina

The Wyrld Sisters, a Winnipeg feminist folk trio, performed for the Regina Folk Music Guild.

[*SSN*, (October 1996)]

November 16 - December 13 Regina

Neutral Ground presented Gary Varro's *Gaynada*, an installation work that evoked an exposition pavilion from a fictitious country of gay white males.

[Greg Beatty, "Fictitious country of gay males makes point of exclusivity," *RLP*, (November 30 1996) p. D2.]

December 1 Regina

A World AIDS Day commemoration at the Mackenzie Art Gallery featured a display of memorial quilts, music by the Regina Symphony Chamber Players, and the first public performance of the Prairie Pride Chorus.

[Jason Matity, "AIDS Day marked," *RLP*, (December 2 1996)]

1997

January Saskatoon

The U of S Department of Educational Foundations offered a fourth year class titled *Gay and Lesbian Issues in Education*. Seventeen students registered for the course allaying the fears of instructor Don Cochrane that the course title might deter students.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 1 (January 29 1997) p. 10.]

February 8 Saskatoon

The Bridge City Chorus hosted Regina's Prairie Pride Chorus and Calgary's Rocky

Mountain Singers at a concert and dance at the Ukrainian Hall. This was the first concert length performance by the Prairie Pride Chorus.

[SSN, (February 1997)]

February 23 **Regina**
Queer Café, a showcase of the talents of Regina's LGB communities, benefited Pink Triangle Community Services. Performers included Jean Hillabold, Rae St. Claire and Jeff Staflund.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 1 (January 29 1997) p. 4.]

February 26 **Regina**
PC MLA Ben Heppner protested the availability through both AIDS Regina and AIDS Saskatoon of safer sex pamphlets that used 'explicit language.' He demanded that the government screen materials used by the two groups. AIDS Saskatoon executive director Jeff Dodds defended the publications noting that they were not paid for with government funds and that they were written in the street language used by their target audiences.

[Bonny Braden, "Taxpayers money not used for explicit AIDS pamphlets," *SSP*, (February 27 1997) p. A3.]

March **Regina**
Evelyn Rogers published *Reflections on the Good Old Days*, a reminiscence of Regina's first gay club on Smith Street. "It was our club and we loved the place...We were a family. Men and women working harmoniously together for a common cause."

[SSN, (March and June 1997)]

March 1 **Saskatoon**
Janine Fuller, manager of Vancouver's Little Sisters Bookstore and anti-censorship activist, was the guest speaker at the 1997 Doug Wilson Award ceremony. On March 2 she read from her book *Restricted Entry: Censorship on Trial* at Café Browse.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 1 (January 29 1997) p. 14.]

/ "Censorship puzzles bookstore manager," *SSP*, (March 3 1997) p. A3.]

April **Prince Albert**
Trustee Rob Ardell asked the Prince Albert School Board to amend its AIDS education package to include what he called "the true statistics on homosexuality." After presentations in opposition to Ardell's position by AIDS Saskatoon and GLHS the school board requested its administration to prepare a package with statistics on all the risk factors associated with AIDS.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 3 (April 23 1997) p. 10. / Raquel Exner, "Trustee defined as 'homophobic'," *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, (April 8 1997) p. 1.]

May 16-19 **Regina**
The Zephyrs Sports Club celebrated the fifth anniversary of its Golden Crown Volleyball Tournament with competing teams from Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Winnipeg.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 2 (March 12 1997) p. 11.]

June **Saskatoon**
The SHRC issued an opinion that the Saskatchewan government had discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation when it denied spousal benefits to Kerry Armbruster-Barrett. Armbruster-Barrett worked for the Saskatchewan Securities Commission and had married a male partner in a United Church ceremony in October 1996. He had sought payment for his partner's dental care under the terms of his employee benefit plan.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 4 (June 4 1997) p. 10.]

June 6 - July 1 **Saskatoon**
AKA Gallery presented *Drag City*, a multimedia exhibition curated by Robert Sauvey which explored the cultural significance of drag. The show included several works by local artists.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 2 (March 12 1997) p. 20.]

June 14 **Regina**
The Prairie Pride Chorus presented *Hand in Hand*, its first full-length concert and dance at The Other Side.
[SSN, (June 1997)]

July 3 **Saskatoon**
One hundred demonstrators rallied at the *StarPhoenix* building to protest an advertisement printed in the June 30 issue. The ad featured four Biblical verses, an equal sign and two stick figures holding hands with the universal symbol for 'no' superimposed. The ad was placed by Hugh Owens as a response to Saskatoon's Pride Week. The *StarPhoenix* declared they had accepted the ad because "the laws protecting people from discrimination has to be viewed against the backdrop of the freedom of speech." Nonetheless in light of "feedback from the community" it said it would not print similar ads in the future. Several individuals filed human rights complaints against Owens and the paper.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 5 (July 30 1997) p. 9-10.
/ "Protestors decry paper for running antigay ad,"
SSP, (July 4 1997) p. A3.]

September **Regina**
Sask Tel announced that it would ensure all forms of family benefits would include same-sex couples.
[SSN, (September 1997)]

September **Saskatoon**
The SHRC launched an investigation into complaints against Hugh Owens and the *StarPhoenix* after all parties rejected the commission's early resolution process. Fourteen of the original seventeen complainants agreed to have their complaints carried forward by Jeff Dodds, Gens Hellquist and Jason Roy.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 6 (September 10 1997) p. 9. / "Commission to examine complaints against SP," SSP, (August 22 1997) p. A3.]

October 19 **Saskatoon**
St. Thomas-Wesley United Church celebrated its declaration as an affirming United Church congregation with a service and potluck supper. The decision to become the first Saskatoon congregation to welcome and affirm lesbians and gays was made after two years of study and discussion.
[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 7 (October 22 1997) p. 11.]

November 6 **Saskatoon**
The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union officially opened a LGB Centre on campus. The Centre was the brainchild of Alona Leverick and Scott Blythe who saw it as a centre for education, support and advocacy. Blythe was appointed the first coordinator. It continues to operate at the date of this compilation as the USSU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Centre.
[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 6 (September 10 1997) p. 11. / "U of S opens first lesbian gay bisexual centre," SSP, (November 5 1997) p A3.]

1998

February **Saskatoon**
The Saskatoon Teachers Institute presented its first workshop on LG issues, including a panel of LG youth. The workshop was attended by eighty teachers, administrators and school board trustees.
[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 2 (March 18 1998) p. 9.]

February **Regina**
Provincial government employees were notified by the Public Service Commission that benefit plans had been amended effective September 30 1997 to give the same benefits to all unmarried persons in a long-term spousal relationship as were given to married employees and their spouses and children. SHRC Chief Commissioner Donna Scott noted, "it shows that there is recognition that denial of same-sex benefits is considered to be discriminatory on the basis of sexual

orientation.”

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 3 (April 29 1998) p. 13.]

February 19

Saskatoon

GLHS celebrated the opening of new offices in the Avenue Building at 220 – 3rd Avenue South. The organization sponsored a concert at the Broadway Theatre with singers Heather Bishop and Kim Kuzak on February 20.

[*Perceptions*, v. 15 no. 18 (December 3 1997) p. 20.]

March 7

Saskatoon

Brian Rolfes and Brad Berg of Toronto celebrated a Holy Union ceremony at St. Andrew’s Chapel at the U of S. Guests included many NDP MLAs and cabinet members. Rolfes’ father was a former NDP cabinet minister and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 2 (March 18 1998) p. 19.]

March 21

Saskatoon

The U of S College of Education hosted the first *Breaking the Silence-Gays and Lesbians in Our Schools* conference. The conference became an annual event under the leadership of its founder Dr. Don Cochrane. Subsequent conferences (some noted below) featured several high profile speakers and attracted educators from across the Prairies. The first conference was closed by Minister of Education Pat Atkinson who offered her support to the delegates. The 1998 conference was attended as well by an official of REAL Women who claimed that schools should be teaching about the “cures for homosexuality” she knew were available.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 3 (April 29 1998) p. 19. / “Sask. Schools ill-prepared to deal with gay students,” *SSP*, (March 23 1998) p. A1. / Bernadette Richards, “Breaking Silence,” *Saskatchewan Bulletin (STF)*, (April 1 1998) p. 3.]

March 21

Saskatoon

Delwin Vriend of Edmonton was the guest speaker at the fourth annual Doug

Wilson Award presentation. Vriend was then awaiting the positive decision of the Supreme Court of Canada to his challenge to Alberta’s refusal to provide human rights protections to lesbians and gays.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 1 (January 21 1998) p. 13. / “Gay activist honored,” *SSP*, March 23 1998) p. A5.]

April

Saskatoon

The Saskatoon YWCA announced Erin Scriven as their Young Woman to Watch at its annual Women of Distinction banquet. Scriven was cited for her work with LG organizations.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 3 (April 29 1998) p. 13.]

April 4

A policy convention of the Saskatchewan Party rejected a motion to abolish the SHRC. A resolution sponsor Reg Hoegel from Lloydminster said of the commission - “It’s primarily used by radical leftists and radical gay movements.”

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 3 (April 29 1998) p. 12. / “Proposal quashed,” *SSP*, (April 6 1998) p. A3.]

April 4

Saskatoon

Edmonton drag artist Darrin Hagen performed scenes from his play *The Edmonton Queen-Not a Riverboat Story* at Café Browse.

[Jenny Gabruch, “Drag taught queen how to be a man,” *SSP*, (April 4 1998) p. C5.]

April 20

Regina

SFL President Barb Byers and several trade unionists established an ad hoc working group to advance the rights of lesbians and gays in the workforce and in unions.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 4 (June 10 1998) p. 12.]

April 25

Saskatoon

The Imperial Court of Regina and AIDS Saskatoon presented a benefit show and dance at the Ukrainian Hall.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 2 (March 18 1998) p. 9.]

May 2 Regina

The Prairie Pride Chorus presented *Camp Songs*, a concert and dance with the Bridge City Chorus at the Regina Performing Arts Centre.

[SSN, (May 1998)]

May 13 Saskatoon

The SHRC decided that there was probable cause to believe that Hugh Owens and the *StarPhoenix* had violated the Human Rights Code by purchasing and printing an anti-homosexuality ad in 1997. Neither Owens nor the newspaper wished to negotiate a settlement with the complainants.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 4 (June 10 1998) p. 11. / "SP ad discriminated against gays, human rights commission rules," (May 30 1998) p. A3.]

May 15-18 Edmonton

Both the Prairie Pride Chorus and the Bridge City Chorus attended the Canadian Gala Chorus Festival, a gathering of Canadian LGB choirs.

[SSN, (May 1998)]

May 27-30 Regina

Queer City Cinema 2, the city's second gay film and video festival, featured an appearance by Toronto filmmaker and writer Bruce LaBruce.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 3 (April 29 1998) p. 2.]

June 28 - July 4 Saskatoon

The Saskatoon Pride Week included a variety night and awards ceremony and at dance both held at the Albert Community Centre.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 4 (June 10 1998) p. 10.]

July Prince Albert

The Prince Albert Right to Life Association circulated a petition supporting MP Tom Wappel's private members' bill that would restrict marriage to a single male and a single female. The group claimed to have gathered over 400 signatures.

[Lori Coolican, "Petition aims to define marriage," *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, (July 10 1998) p. 3.]

July 24 - July 31 Regina

The city's first full length Pride week featured the *Q Ball* dance, the *Buffalo Gays Invasion* (queers at the Regina exhibition), coffee houses, drag shows and Regina's first community service awards. City Council refused to grant the Pride Committee a civic proclamation on the grounds that a 1990 bylaw gave the city discretionary power in issuing proclamations considered "of a sexual or politically sensitive nature." Attempts by the mayor and some council members to amend the restrictive bylaw aroused opposition. At a September 21 council meeting presentations prompted a motion to prohibit the mayor from making any proclamations for anyone at any time. The vote on this motion was deferred to October 5. The Pride committee sought support from other community groups and staged a rally before the October meeting. The City Council eventually voted by a slim majority to preserve the practice of civic proclamations and to remove the obstacles to the official recognition of Pride Week.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 5 (July 29 1998) p. 10. / *Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 7 (October 28 1998) p. 9.]

July 25 Regina

Hugh Owens purchased an advertisement in the *Leader-Post* to run during Pride Week. The ad reprinted four Biblical verses traditionally used to condemn gays and lesbians. The newspaper defended publishing the ad on the grounds that it championed freedom of expression. Representatives of the Regina Pride Committee lodged human rights complaints against both Owens and the newspaper.

[Colleen Silverthorn, "Ad upsets gay group," *RLP*, (July 27 1998) p. A3.]

July 31 - August 3 Ravenscrag

The Spring Valley Guest Ranch hosted its 10th anniversary gay Ranch Rendezvous in the Cypress Hills.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 3 (April 29 1998) p. 29.]

August 27

Saskatoon

CUPE Local 1975, representing over 1,800 employees at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, ratified a contract that recognized the rights of same-sex partners to spousal benefits.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 5 (September 16 1998) p. 12.]

October

Regina

The Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina (GLCR) decided to move its facility back downtown after thirteen years in the warehouse district. It selected a building at 2070 Broad Street. The renovation of the building faced many obstacles and delays before it officially opened in the summer of 1999.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 7 (October 28 1998) p. 13.]

October 15

Edmonton

Representatives from Saskatchewan were among 60 delegates attending *Working Out! West, Solidarity and Pride*, a conference sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress.

[*SSN*, (December 1998)]

November 30

Saskatoon

City Council decided to unilaterally wrap up complaints about the city's refusal to proclaim a Gay Pride Week in 1994. The Council agreed to donate \$2,000 to the United Way to give to a group promoting non-discrimination against LG people. The money was accepted by GLHS. On December 5 the city placed an ad in the *StarPhoenix* declaring the city's opposition to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 8 (December 9 1998) p. 9. / "City hopes grant quells gay complaint," *SSP*, (December 2 1998) p. A3.]

1999

January 4-31

Saskatoon

The U of S Library hosted *25 Lives: Out and Proud*, the 25th anniversary exhibition of the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives. The show featured portraits of 25 influential Canadian lesbians and gay men. The Regina Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee presented the show at the Neutral Ground Gallery from March 17 to March 24. The CLGA National Portrait Collection presently includes portraits of Saskatchewanians Gens Hellquist, Peter Millard, Neil Richards and Doug Wilson.

[*Perceptions*, v. 16 no. 8 (December 9 1998) p. 12. / Sheila Robertson, "Diverse collection honors gay, lesbian role models," *SSP*, (January 16 1999) p. C13.]

January 16

Regina

The Lavender Social Club and the GLCR hosted the first women's dance at Brixx, the dance floor at the Scarth Street Station.

[*SSN*, (February 1999)]

February 5

Regina

Canadian playwright Brad Fraser spoke on how AIDS had affected his art at the Regina YWCA.

[*SSN*, (February 1999)]

February - March

Saskatoon

Glen Cairns starred in an English language production of Michel Tremblay's *Hosanna* presented by 25th Street Theatre.

["Cairns gives first-rate performance as Hosanna (Review)," *SSP*, (March 1 1999) p. B2.]

March 12-13

Saskatoon

The second *Breaking the Silence* conference at the U of S attracted 90. The event included a keynote address by NDP MP Svend Robinson and a presentation by Murray Warren of the Gay and Lesbian Educators of British Columbia.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 3 (April 21 1999) p. 14. / "Schools must improve welcome for homosexuals," *SSP*, (March 15 1999) p. A3.]

April Saskatoon

Dr. Ivan Yackel, Director of Education for the Saskatoon Public School Division proposed an ad hoc committee to investigate LGBT issues in the school system and to make recommendations for improvements. The committee submitted its report in June 2000 recommending mandatory training on LG issues for all division staff, enhanced curriculum and increased information in school resource centres.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 8 (December 8 1999) p. 19. / Jason Warick, "Public board tackles gay issues," *SSP*, (September 4 2001) p. A1, A3. / The Report of the Adhoc Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Issues (June 2000)]

April 1 Regina

The Fire Department informed the GLCR that it could not open its new Broad Street centre as scheduled because the building was not ready to meet the city's safety codes.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 3 (April 21 1999) p. 12.]

April 8 Saskatoon

The spring conference of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation overwhelmingly supported a resolution sponsored by Prince Albert teachers to provide same-sex spousal benefits to members.

["Same-sex partners to be eligible for STRP benefits," *Saskatchewan Bulletin (STF)*, (April 21 1999) p. 16.]

April 10 Moose Jaw

City Council approved amendments to the city's pension plans in which the definition of spouse was extended to provide for same-sex spousal entitlement.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 4 (June 2 1999) p. 20.]

April 21 - May 5 Regina

The Globe Theatre presented a production of Mary Morris's *Two Weeks with the Queen* directed by Ruth Smillie. The play relates the adventures of Colin, a young boy who is sent to England when his brother faces a life-threatening cancer. Among those Colin

meets is Griff, a gay man whose partner Ted is hospitalized with AIDS.

[Nick Miliokas, "Humour, characters highlight bitter-sweet tale," *RLP*, (April 24 1999) p. C8.]

May Ottawa

The Supreme Court ruled in *M v H* that same-sex couples should have the same benefits and obligations as opposite-sex common law couples and equal access to benefits from social programs. The Court ruled that the Ontario Family Law Act's definition of 'spouse' as a person of the opposite sex was unconstitutional.

June Moose Jaw

Father Glenn Zimmer told delegates at the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees' Association convention that they must look at ways of making schools safer places for homosexuals.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 5 (July 28 1999) p. 13.]

June Saskatoon

U of S historian Dr. Valerie Korinek received a \$39,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to research the development of lesbian and gay communities on the prairies.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 4 (June 2 1999) p. 20.]

June 8 Ottawa

MPs voted 216 to 55 to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The Liberal government declared it had no intention of legislating same-sex marriage.

June 18-26 Regina

The 1999 Pride Week included a ceremonial launch on the Scarth Street Mall attended by MLA Joanne Crofford and city councillor Fred Clipsham, an art exhibit (Homosaic), women's and mixed dances and a march from Victoria Park to City Hall. The Pride Committee announced it had dropped its human rights complaint against the city for its refusal to proclaim Pride Week in 1998

when the city administration agreed to make a retroactive proclamation. Controversy erupted when host Alex Docking of CKTV asked a Pride Committee member whether the civic Pride proclamation would pave the way for a 'Paedophiles Week.' After public protests Docking and the CKTV station manager apologized.

[Mike O'Brien, "Double win for Regina gays, lesbians," *RLP*, (June 18 1999) p. A5.]

June 23-24 Regina

Glen Wood premiered his film *Community Building* at the GLCR during Pride Week. The 115 minute work followed the troubled renovation of the community's new facility on Broad Street and included interviews with members of the community about their memories and hopes for the future.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 4 (June 2 1999) p. 19.]

July 16 Regina

An Immigration and Refugee Board panel gave a gay refugee named Eduardo permission to stay in Canada. Eduardo claimed he was a victim of homophobia in his home country El Salvador. He received help in his resettlement from members of Regina's LG communities.

[*SSN*, (September 1999)]

July 24 Regina

Hugh Owens filed a human rights complaint against the *Regina Leader-Post* when it refused to accept a new series of 'pure heterosexual' advertisements based on Biblical verses.

["*Leader-Post*, company officer face human rights complaint," *RLP*, (July 24 1999) p. A7.]

July 31 - August 7 Saskatoon

Realife Productions and AIDS Saskatoon presented *BraveHearts*, an AIDS themed play by Harry Rintoul at the Saskatoon Fringe.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 5 (July 28 1999) p. 22.]

August 23-31 Saskatoon

Lawyer Valerie Watson presided as

adjudicator of the SHRC tribunal established to judge the complaints filed in 1997 against Hugh Owens and the *StarPhoenix*.

[Kim McNairn, "Anti-gay critic a hypocrite: lawyer," *SSP*, (August 31 1999) p. A5.]

Fall Regina
Coteau Books published Brenda Baker's *The Maleness of God*, a collection of short stories. The title story concerns a Christian mother who feels torn between her love for her gay son and her allegiance to her husband and God.

September 24 - December 5 Regina

The Mackenzie Art Gallery presented *Exposed: Aesthetics of Aboriginal Erotic Art*. The exhibition presented images that celebrated and reclaimed aspects of sexuality, eroticism and desire within an aboriginal context. Artists exploring same gender-desire included Ahasiw Maskegon-Iskwew, Norval Morrisseau, and Regina native Thirza Cuthand.

[Lee-Ann Martin, *Exposed: Aesthetics of Aboriginal Erotic Art* (Regina: Mackenzie Art Gallery, 1999)]

October 22 - November 5 Saskatoon

The Queer Project, an installation event by Peterborough artist Spencer Harrison, was brought to Saskatoon by St. Thomas-Wesley United Church. Large paintings dealing with gay-bashing and its effects on LG people were installed in the church sanctuary and in other public spaces across the city. Both City Council and City Police Chief Dave Scott refused to allow installations in their buildings. When questioned on the church's objective, a spokesperson said simply: "to end the violence."

[Jillian MacPherson, "Artist battles homophobia," *SSP*, (October 22 1999) p. A4.]

November Regina

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour began a positive space campaign to promote welcoming workplaces for LGBT workers.

[*SSN*, (November 1999)]

December

Saskatoon

Perceptions reported that the Ukrainian Federation Hall had been sold to a Christian organization and would no longer be available for community rentals. The hall had been the venue for dozens of successful LG and AIDS events in the 1980s and 1990s.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 8 (December 8 1999) p. 3.]

2000s

2000

Cleis Press included *The Princess and the Outlaw*, a short story by Jean Roberta in its 2000 fiction anthology *Best Lesbian Erotica*. Other Roberta stories were included in the 2001 and 2004 editions of the series. Jean Roberta is the nom de plume of Regina educator and activist Jean Hillabold. She has contributed many works of erotic literature, including fiction and reviews, to print anthologies, journals and adult literary websites.

2000

Regina

PFLAG Regina was officially established.

[Organizational Flyer – SAB NR]

January 17

Saskatoon

The U of S Department of Women's and Gender Studies hosted two public lectures by Irish born lesbian writer and academic Emma Donoghue.

[*Perceptions*, v. 17 no. 8 1999) p. 20.]

February 25

Saskatoon

Diva's hosted its third Miss and Mr. Diva's drag competition. The first Miss Diva's title was awarded to Crystal Clear in 1998. In 1999 male impersonators joined the event and Richard Everhard became the first Mr. Diva's reigning with his partner Miss Gay Saskatoon Roxy Diva. This event has been held annually up until the date of this compilation (2005).

[Event poster – SAB NR]

March 1

Yorkton

Reform MP Garry Breitkreuz issued a press release attacking the federal government's bill amending legislation to provide the same rights and obligations to same-sex relationships as were offered to common-law relationships. "In the 1950s buggery was a criminal offence. Now it's a requirement to receive benefits."

["Reformer's comments on homosexuals cause stir," *RLP*, (March 3 2000) p. A8.]

March 18-19

Saskatoon

The third *Breaking the Silence: Gays and Lesbians in the Schools* conference featured a packed keynote address by Olympic swimming gold medalist Mark Tewksbury and a presentation by Barb Byers, president of the SFL.

[Shaun Humphries, "Tewksbury uses his status to help encourage others," *SSP*, (March 19 2000) p. A9.]

March 22

Regina

The Regina City Police Community Liaison Committee invited the GLCR to join as a partner to help ensure that the force adequately reflected the values, needs and demands of the city's communities. Mirtha Rivera, the GLCR representative, attended her first meeting March 22 and reported that Chief Cal Johnston asked whether he should participate in the Gay Pride parade.

[*SSN*, (April 2000) p.1.]

April

Regina

The Canadian Labour Congress produced a poster with portraits of unionized gay men and lesbians to raise workplace awareness of LG issues. One of the models was Donna Smith, a Regina mother, who has held leadership roles in several Saskatchewan LG groups, including the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's Solidarity & Pride Committee.

[*SSN*, (April 2000) p. 4-5.]

April 11

Ottawa

Parliament passed Bill C-23 to provide same-sex couples who had lived together more than a year the same social and tax benefits as heterosexuals in common-law relationships. The Bill amended 68 statutes relating to pensions, old age security, bankruptcies, and income tax.

April 26 - May 10

Regina

The Globe Theatre presented Terrence McNally's *A Perfect Ganesh*, a bittersweet comedy exploring homophobia and intolerance and living with illnesses such as AIDS and breast cancer.

[Nick Miliokas, "Examining the differences among us," *RLP*, (April 29 2002) p. D7.]

May

Regina

Bev Johnson, a founding member of *Illusions Regina*, a social club for transgendered persons, contributed an article to *Sensible Shoes News* concerning the status and hopes of the transgendered, especially regarding their relationships to the LG community.

[*SSN*, (May 2000) p. 1-2.]

May 8-13

Regina

Richard Truscott, director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, criticized a grant to Queer City Cinema 2000, the third biennial festival of LG film and video. The festival had received \$4,500 from the City of Regina upon the recommendation of the Regina Arts Commission. The festival was later attacked by Sask Party MLAs June Draude and Arlene Jule who objected to public money being used to sponsor "pornography." The festival had received sponsorship from the Saskatchewan Arts Board and Sask Tel. It included a film screening and panel discussion on the meanings of pornography to LG communities. Bill Whatcott's Christian Truth Activists picketed the opening night at the Regina Public Library.

[*Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 2 (March 8 2000) p. 11. / *Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 4 (May 31 2000) p. 11.]

/ "Films appall Sask Party MLAs," *RLP*, (May 12 2002) p. A4. / "Controversy continues: panelists say they're proud of gay film festival," *RLP*, (May 15 2000) p. A3.]

June 23

Regina

Heather Bishop performed with the Prairie Pride Chorus in a Pride week concert at the Shumiatcher Theatre. Pride week also featured a poetry slam, community awards, and a dance entitled *The Great Saskatchewan Party*.

[*SSN*, (June 2000) p. 10.]

June 24

Regina

The first province-wide Saskatchewan Pride parade attracted 400 marchers and 20 protestors. This was the first Pride march in Regina in over ten years. Speakers at the march rally included Regina Police Chief Cal Johnston and NDP MLA Mark Wartman. The provincial government declined to issue a proclamation for the event citing guidelines established by the Devine administration to avoid proclamations on issues of sexuality. In response members of the Saskatoon and Regina Pride committees filed complaints with the SHRC. From this date until 2005 the provincial march/parade alternated between Regina and Saskatoon Pride Weeks.

[*Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 5 (August 2 2000) p. 11. / "Police support Gay Pride parade," *RLP*, (June 24 2000) p. A5. / "Parade shows Pride," *RLP*, (June 26 2000) p. A3.]

June 26

Saskatoon

The Rainbow Flag was flown for the first time at Saskatoon City Hall. The flag raising ceremony to honor Pride Week was attended by Councillor Patricia Roe.

[Darren Bernhardt, "City hall hoists rainbow banner," *SSP*, (June 27 2000) p. A3.]

September

Regina

Regina's Imperial Court of Regina distributed \$4,500 to four Saskatchewan charities and granted five educational bursaries totaling \$2,500 at its September Coronation Ball.

[*Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 7 (October 25 2000) p. 14.]

October Saskatoon

The U of S Community/University Institute for Social Research awarded \$8,000 to GLHS to study the economic cost of homophobia..

[*Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 7 (October 25 2000) p. 12.]

October Regina

The Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay Health Initiative of Regina released a survey of service providers in the city funded by Health Canada. Spokesperson Barb Bowditch said "It's obvious from the survey that professionals and agencies are ill-equipped to address the problems of lesbians, gays and bisexuals."

[*Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 7 (October 25 2000) p. 13.]

October 12 - December 10 Saskatoon

The U of S Library presented *Wilde in Saskatchewan-A Bouquet for Oscar*, an exhibition marking the 100th anniversary of the death of Oscar Wilde.

[*Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 6 (September 13 2000) p. 11.]

October 25 Regina

Twenty-two of the 30 candidates in the October 25 civic election responded to questionnaires circulated by the Lesbian+Bi+Gay Pride Committee dealing with LG issues. Self-styled Christian activist Bill Whatcott ran for mayor on an antigay platform and finished a distant fourth with 344 votes.

[*Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 7 (October 25 2000) p. 12, 13.]

November 18 Regina

The Prairie Pride Chorus hosted a fowl supper fundraiser, their "flaming fairy fall fowl feast" at St. James United Church. The event was a success and was repeated in later years.

[*SSN*, (November 2000) p. 11.]

November 25 Saskatoon

The Bridge City Chorus presented their tenth

anniversary concert at the Cosmopolitan Senior Citizens Centre.

[*Perceptions*, v. 18 no. 17 (October 25 2000) p. 2.]

2001

January 20

Saskatchewan's two major dailies published the results of extensive polling of Saskatchewan residents on social issues. Twenty-four % of respondents said that they were bothered that openly LG people were teaching in schools and 55 % said that LG couples should not be able to adopt children. Only 2% of respondents admitted to having had sexual relations with someone of the same sex.

[*Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 1 (January 31 2001) p. 11. / Gerry Klein, "We're a happy lot," *SSP*, (January 20 2001) p. A1.]

February 8-10 Saskatoon

Queer, All Canadian, All Night Long, a selection from Queer City Cinema 2000, was presented at the Mendel Art Gallery. On February 7 Jim Pankiw, a Saskatoon Alliance MP, complained that festival sponsorship by the Canada Council was a waste of money. The opening was picketed by six Christian Truth Activists; one hundred demonstrators counter picketed in support of the screenings.

[*Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 2 (March 14 2001) p. 12. / "Controversial gay film festival making stop in Saskatoon," *SSP*, (February 2 2001) p. A3. / "Film festival called waste of tax dollars," *RLP*, (February 8 2001) p. A5.]

March 16-17 Saskatoon

The fourth *Breaking the Silence* conference at the U of S featured a keynote address by Dr. Pat Griffin titled *Changing the Game: Making Sport Safe for LGBT Athletes and Coaches*. The conference featured several presentations on sexual orientation and youth sport and recreation.

[*"Gay teachers don daily disguise," SSP*, (March 17 2001) p. A1. / "Homophobia rife in school athletics," *SSP*, (March 19 2001) p. A3.]

March 23 **Saskatoon**

The Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon hosted a one day study conference to “listen and conduct discussions around pastoral care to sexual minorities.” The event was attended by many leaders of the local Catholic community, including representatives of Catholic School Divisions, St. Thomas More College and Catholic health care providers.

[*Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 3 (April 25 2001) p. 14. / “Catholics ponder matter of faith and homosexuality,” *SSP*, (March 15 2001) p. A8.]

May 19 **Regina**

The Prairie Pride Chorus presented *Music Speaks Louder than Words*, a joint concert with Winnipeg’s Rainbow Harmony Project held at Darke Hall.

[*SSN*, (May 2001) p. 9.]

July 6 **Regina**

The provincial NDP/Liberal coalition government passed legislation to amend 24 statutes dealing with the definition of spouse in response to the *M v H* decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. These amendments ensured that same-sex couples in Saskatchewan would have the same rights and responsibilities as common-law couples in matters relating to adoption, estates, pensions and debts. Five of the Saskatchewan Party MLAs supported the amendments when their party opted for a free vote.

[*Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 5 (August 1 2001) p. 13. / Murray Mandryk, “Equality for same-sex couples,” *RLP*, (May 31 2001) p. A1.]

June 4-29 **Saskatoon**

The U of S Library presented *A Friend of Dorothy: The Marilyn Cooper Retrospective*, a tongue-in-cheek exhibition of gay themed paintings and graphics by Regina artist Duncan Campbell.

[Sheila Robertson, “Campbell creates lighter art under alter ego of Marilyn,” *SSP*, (June 23 2001) p. E4. / *Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 4 (June 6 2001) p. 2.]

June 5-13

A nationwide poll reported that in Saskatchewan and Manitoba 67% of respondents believed that homosexuals should have the same rights as heterosexuals. This was less than the national level of support of 75%.

[*Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 5 (August 1 2001) p. 28.]

June 18 **Regina**

At the request of Christian Truth Activists Mayor Pat Fiacco proclaimed June 18 Heterosexual Family Pride Day. In response the Regina Pride Committee invited supporters to pledge money to gay charities for each minute the Activists paraded.

[“Proclamation sparks anger,” *RLP*, (May 30 2001) p. A1, A2.]

June 18

Valerie Watson, the adjudicator appointed to rule on human rights complaints against Hugh Owens and the *StarPhoenix*, decided that they were guilty of violating the human rights of the three gay complainants. The newspaper accepted the ruling but Owens filed a notice of appeal. The appeal process had not ended at the date of this compilation.

[“SP ordered to pay \$1,500 in damages for anti-gay ad,” *SSP*, (June 19 2001) p. A3. / “Board fines paper, man over ad,” *RLP*, (June 19 2001) p. D8.]

June 23 **Saskatoon**

The second Saskatchewan Gay/Les/Bi Pride Parade was held in Saskatoon with Provincial Secretary and NDP MLA Pat Lorje serving as grand marshall. At the rally she presented a Gay and Lesbian Pride Day proclamation from the province for Pride 2001 and a retroactive one for the 2000 commemoration.

[*Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 5 (August 1 2001) p. 11. / “Parade among festivities planned for gay pride week,” *SSP*, (June 16 2001) p. A6.]

June 23-30 Regina

Pride Week included an art show, poetry slam, dance, community service awards and films presented by the Regina Public Library and the Saskatchewan Communications Network.

[SSN, (June 2001) p. 3.]

August 30 - September 2 Saskatoon

GLHS hosted *2001: A Health Odyssey: Building Healthy Communities*, a national conference which attracted 175 to discuss ways of addressing health issues endemic to LGBT communities. The conference included several plenaries and 44 workshops. Resolutions from the conference formed the basis of the *Saskatoon Declaration of GLBT Health and Wellness*, which called for the formation of a national organization.

[Perceptions, v. 19 no. 6 (September 12 2001) p. 11.]

September 9 Saskatoon

Bill Whatcott and the Christian Truth Activists delivered flyers to 5,000 homes urging people to keep homosexuality out of the schools. This leafleting was a response to the report by an ad hoc committee of the Saskatoon Public School Division recommending initiatives to provide a less homophobic environment.

[Perceptions, v. 19 no. 7 (October 24 2001) p. 14. / "Hateful letter sparks ire of gay-rights advocate," SSP, (September 11 2001) p. A5.]

September 12 Saskatoon

Perceptions reported the release of *The Cost of Homophobia*, a study commissioned by GLHS to determine the economic cost of homophobia. The cost to Canada was estimated to be as much as \$8 billion annually.

[Perceptions, v. 19 no. 6 (September 12 2001) p. 13.]

September 22 Saskatoon

Cheryl Loadman and Brian Nixon, openly lesbian and gay candidates, unsuccessfully

sought the NDP nomination to contest the riding of Saskatoon Idylwyld.

[Perceptions, v. 19 no. 5 (August 1 2001) p. 14.]

October 5-8 Saskatoon

After a 14 year absence Metamorphosis was revived with its traditional program of workshops, community dance, and Thanksgiving feast. A concert featuring Heather Bishop with the Bridge City Chorus was held at St. Thomas-Wesley United Church.

[Perceptions, v. 19 no. 6 (September 12 2001) p. 32.]

October 9-20 Regina

The Globe Theatre presented Darrin Hagen in his one man play *The Edmonton Queen: Not a Riverboat Story*. The play recounts Hagen's rise to fame as Gloria, a drag queen who dominates gay Edmonton in the 1980s.

[Nick Miliokas, "His and her story," RLP, (October 9 2001) p. A9.]

October 21 Regina

The Globe Theatre presented its first *Loud N' Queer* cabaret featuring poetry, prose, and comic performances by LGB artists. It was hosted by Darrin Hagen. The variety evening became an annual event on the Globe's schedule. .

[SSN, (September 2001) p. 2.]

November 15 Regina

An open meeting was held at the GLCR between members of the LG community and the Regina Police Services Cultural Relations Committee. Among the concerns presented were distrust of the police, gay bashing, park cruising and same-gender domestic violence.

[SSN, (Dec 2001)]

November 24 Regina

The Regina gay men's potluck group invited Regina lesbians to a special potluck event *Out in the Kitchen*.

[SSN, (November 2001)]

December Saskatoon

Brent Daum, local queer and AIDS activist, joined plaintiffs from Ontario, Manitoba and Nova Scotia in a class action suit against the federal government. They claimed they had been discriminated against when they were denied survivor benefits from the Canada Pension Plan after the deaths of their same-sex partners.

[*Perceptions*, v. 19 no. 8 (December 5 2001) p. 10. / "Gay partner joins battle for benefits," *SSP*, (November 28 2001) p. A3.]

December 5 Regina

The Prairie Pride Chorus performed at the annual Rotary Carol Festival at Knox-Metropolitan United Church.

[*SSN*, (December 2001)]

December 8 Saskatoon

Peter Millard, one of the pioneers in the struggle for LG rights in Saskatchewan, died.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 1 (January 30 2002) p. 8. / "Scholar, activist dies from leukemia," *SSP*, (December 10 2001) p. A3.]

2002

January 16 Saskatoon

A meeting of principals and administrators in the Saskatoon Public School Division heard a panel of speakers describing the situation of LG students and staff. Terry Pearson, the Director of Education, told the principals he expected action from them in fighting homophobia in their schools.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 1 (January 30 2002) p. 19.]

February Saskatoon

The Saskatoon Diversity Network was incorporated with a mandate to organize Saskatoon's Pride celebrations. The organization is still operating in 2005.

[*SSN*, (June 2002)]

March Saskatoon

The Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition was established. The organization located its national office in Saskatoon and appointed Gens Hellquist executive director. The organization is still operating in 2005.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 2 (March 13 2002) p. 10.]

March 15 Saskatoon

Vancouver lawyer Joseph Arvay presented the keynote address, "*Banned in British Columbia: Three Little Books about Same-Sex Families. What Will the Supreme Court Do?*" at the fifth *Breaking the Silence* conference. Arvay was the lead counsel in several important LG litigations including the Little Sisters case and the battle against LG booking banning by the Surrey School Board.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 2 (March 13 2002) p. 11. / "Teachers hear of problems faced by gay, lesbian students," *SSP*, (March 18 2002) p. A5.]

Spring Regina

Perceptions reported that Live and Let Live, a gay friendly AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) group was meeting at Knox-Metropolitan United Church.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 7 (October 23 2002) p. 9.]

April 24 Saskatoon

Steam Works Club for Men, Saskatchewan's first gay sauna, opened at 122B – 20th Street West.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 3 (April 24 2002) p. 27.]

April 24 - May 11 Regina

The Globe Theatre presented a production of Timothy Findley's *Elizabeth Rex* directed by Ruth Smillie. The play presents a sparring match of wit between Elizabeth I, who throughout her reign assumed the role of a man, and Ned Lowenscroft, a veteran homosexual actor who throughout his career had played female roles on stage.

[Nick Miliokas, "Play a coup for Globe," *RLP*, (April 25 2002) p. D1.]

April 29 - May 4

Regina

Queer City Cinema 4 featured a Transformance cabaret with trans performers, a film program and panel on youth and aboriginal transgender identities. Highlights were presented at Saskatoon's Mendel Art Gallery on May 31 and June 1.

[Nick Miliokas, "Week-long festival celebrates differences and diversity," *RLP*, (April 27 2002) p. A13. / "Supporters and protestors on hand for opening," *RLP*, (April 30 2002) p. B1.]

May

Saskatoon

GLHS representatives met with Police Chief Russell Sabo to discuss gay bashings and homophobic attitudes among police staff. GLHS volunteered to help train officers on the realities of queer life in Saskatchewan

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 4 (June 5 2002) p. 13.]

June

Regina

Regina Mayor Pat Fiocco refused to issue a proclamation for Heterosexual Family Pride Day in 2002 stating that the literature being distributed by the sponsoring organization infringed the city's proclamation bylaws.

[Sheri Block, "Regina mayor denies request for heterosexual pride day," *SSP*, (June 19 2002) p. A4.]

June 8

Regina

The Prairie Pride Chorus presented two performances of *Watershed Stories* at Government House. *Watershed Stories* is a cycle of songs composed for the choir by its musical director David L. McIntyre. The songs explore the coming out process and were based on the life stories of chorus members.

[Nick Miliokas, "The Music is based on human stories," *RLP*, (June 7 2002) p. A11.]

June 13

Regina

Brita Lind presented her second one-woman show *Women of Influence* at the Unitarian Centre.

[*SSN*, (June 2002)]

June 15-22

Regina

The Regina Pride Week included a commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the GLCR and the third annual provincial Pride parade.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 4 (June 5 2002) p. 10. / "Parade on Saturday," *RLP*, (June 21 2002) p. B1.]

June 18

Regina

The provincial government settled the complaints lodged against it by representatives of the Regina and Saskatoon Pride committees. The province paid representatives from the Pride groups in each city \$5,000 and Premier Lorne Calvert issued a public apology for not issuing a provincial proclamation when it was first requested.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 5 (July 31 2002) p. 12. / "Pride Day complaint settled," *RLP*, (June 18 2002) p. B1.]

June 21-24

Toronto

Saskatoon's Bridge City Chorus and Regina's Prairie Pride Chorus both attended GALA 2002, a festival of Canadian LG choirs. The Prairie Pride Chorus's performance of their original work *Watershed Stories* was warmly received. The piece's composition and its performance in Toronto were supported by grants from the Saskatchewan Arts Board and Saskatchewan Culture.

[*SSN*, (June 2002)]

June 28

Saskatoon

Mayor Jim Maddin presented community service awards at GLHS's annual GALA Awards banquet. The event was also attended by Police Chief Russell Sabo and Deputy Dan Wiks.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 5 (July 31 2002) p. 14.]

July 12

Toronto

The Ontario Superior Court ruled that it was a violation of the Charter of Rights and unconstitutional for Ontario to prohibit same-sex couples from marrying. The court



Members of the Regina Pride Committee at the commencement of Regina's 2001 Pride Week, on the Scarth Street Mall.



Members of the Prairie Pride Chorus perform with their musical director David L. McIntyre during Regina's 2002 Pride Week.

Photographs by Patrick Thiele. Courtesy of the Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Pride Committee of Regina.

gave Ontario two years to extend marriage rights to gays and lesbians. The provincial government declined to appeal. Federal Justice Minister Martin Cauchon did launch an appeal of the decision “to seek further clarity on these issues.”

July 24 Regina

Jon Stewart’s *The Daily Show* on the American Comedy Central Network aired a five-minute satirical report on Bill Whatcott’s fight for the heterosexual minority in “the gay capital of Regina.”

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 5 (July 31 2002) p. 9.]

August Regina

The GLCR received a third place prize for their float in the Buffalo Days Parade. A letter of complaint in the *RLP* protested that “the gay community shouldn’t flaunt their sexuality to the children of the city” and that some parents found it hard to explain the float. Another letter writer supported the float.

[*SSN*, (September 2002) / *Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 6 (September 11 2002) p. 14. / J. Rawdon Bieber, “Gay pride float belonged in parade (Letter),” *RLP*, (August 15 2002) p. B8.]

September Regina

Joanne Crawford, NDP Minister of Culture Recreation and Youth, attended Regina’s Coronation Ball and in her remarks recognized the ball as a cultural event. This was interpreted as a signal to SaskCulture which had recently turned down a funding application from GLHS on the grounds that under its guidelines there was not a lesbian and gay culture. Subsequent meetings with SaskCulture reversed this policy interpretation.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 7 (October 23 2002) p. 10.]

October Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Abuse in Lesbian Relationships reported results from a survey

of care providers. Replies were received from 53 agencies – 51 of which said they felt comfortable providing services to lesbians although many said they knew little about the issues. Although 75% considered themselves lesbian friendly only 20% had received training on lesbian issues and the majority reported no efforts to inform the lesbian community of their services.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 7 (October 23 2002) p. 4, 7.]

October 11-14 Saskatoon

Metamorphosis 2002 presented a concert featuring Winnipeg’s Wyrd Sisters at the Legion Hall. The limited response to the 2002 program persuaded organizers to discontinue the event two years after its revival.

[*Perceptions*, v. 20 no. 2 (March 13 2002) p. 12.]

October 22 Ottawa

Statistics Canada reported that in the 2001 census 34,200 Canadians identified themselves as living with a same-sex partner. Four hundred and seventy-five of these couples resided in Saskatchewan. Nationally 15% of the female couples and 3% of the male couples had children living with them.

[Darren Bernhardt, “475 Same-sex couples in Sask., census shows,” *SSP*, (October 24 2004) p. A15.]

November 4 Prince Albert

Alliance MP Brian Fitzpatrick mailed letters to his constituents opposing Bill C-250, Svend Robinson’s private members’ bill to provide protections to LG victims of hate crime. Fitzpatrick encouraged his constituents to oppose the legislation but faced charges of hypocrisy when he himself did not vote on the bill. Other Saskatchewan Alliance MPs, including Maurice Vellacott, used mail outs opposing the hate crimes legislation and the recognition of same-sex marriage.

[James Parker, “Politician draws line on hate crime law,” *SSP*, (November 4 2002) p. A3.]

December 11

Queen's Bench Justice J. Barclay rejected an appeal by Hugh Owens of the decision of the human rights tribunal concerning his purchase of newspaper ads in 1997. Justice Barclay agreed with the tribunal ruling that the Human Rights Code was a reasonable restriction of religion and expression in the Owens case.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 1 (January 22 2003) p. 12. / "Man seeks to appeal ruling for anti-gay ad printed in *SP*," *SSP*, (July 24 2002) p. A5.]

2003

January

Saskatoon

GLHS received \$47,500 from the federal Justice Department, and a supplemental grant of \$10,000 from SaskCulture, to reach out to LGBT youth in the province.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 1 (January 22 2003) p. 19.]

January 3

Toronto

A Maclean's-Global TV national poll reported significant support for same-sex marriage. Support was highest in Quebec at 65% and BC at 54%. Support in Manitoba/Saskatchewan was 42%.

[Rick Mofina, "Canadians more tolerant of gay couples," *RLP*, (January 3 2003) p. A1.]

February 10-11

Regina

Bill Whatcott appeared before a human rights tribunal headed by Prince Albert lawyer Anil Pandita to answer complaints he had discriminated against lesbians and gays when he distributed pamphlets in Regina and Saskatoon. The pamphlets claimed "sodomites" are three times more likely to sexually abuse children and that "homosexuals want to share their filth and propaganda with Saskatchewan's children." Complainants were Kathy Hamre and Brenden Wallace from Regina and James Komar and Guy Taylor from Saskatoon.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 2 (March 5 2003) p. 10. / "Barb Pacholik, "Whatcott faces human rights tribunal," *RLP*, (February 11 2003) p. B1.]

March

North Battleford

The Canada Family Action Coalition claimed to have distributed 7,500 pamphlets opposing Bill C-250, the federal bill to extend hate crimes protection to lesbians and gays. The campaign was endorsed by the Living Faith Chapel but was questioned by leaders of the local United Church and Anglican congregations.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 2 (March 5 2003) p. 19.]

March 5

Saskatoon

Perceptions celebrated its 20th year of publishing, a record for a LG magazine in Canada.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 2 (March 5 2003)]

March 18

Saskatoon

Saskatchewan's first Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) at Mount Royal Collegiate held its initial meeting attended by 19 students and teachers. At the second meeting students decided to place a GSA question box at the front of the school and to make posters to accompany the display of answers.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 3 (April 16 2003) p. 12.]

March 28

Saskatoon

Over 700 attended *The Christ Who Breaks the Boundaries of Prejudice*, a University of Saskatchewan Special Lecture presented by retired Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong. The noted liberal theologian examined arguments used by religious people to discriminate and questioned whether they had a sound basis in Christian thought. This lecture at Knox United Church was the largest public event dealing with LG issues held in Saskatoon up to the date of this compilation.

["Spong said church has to break down its prejudices," *Saskatchewan Bulletin (STF)*, (April 16 2003) p. 2.]

April

Saskatoon

The Professional Development Unit of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation

produced a resource manual on homophobia titled *Safe Schools: Breaking the Silence on Sexual Difference*.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 3 (April 16 2003) p. 8.]

April Saskatoon

Gens Hellquist was appointed to the Saskatoon Police Advisory Committee on Diversity and Constable Bernard Farbacher was appointed official police liaison to the LG community. The committee developed a diversity program that saw all Saskatoon police officers and employees receiving training on LG issues.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 3 (April 16 2003) p. 19.]

April 3 Moose Jaw

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights visited Moose Jaw and heard seven presentations on the recognition of same-sex marriage.

["Federal committee on same-sex marriage holds meeting in city," *Moose Jaw Times-Herald*, (April 5 2003) p. 3.]

April 25 Saskatoon

McNally Robinson Booksellers launched *Amuse Bouche*, Anthony Bidulka's initial mystery novel featuring Russell Quandt, Saskatoon's first and only gay gumshoe.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 3 (April 16 2003) p. 14. / Ted Hainworth, "First-rate mystery...by any standards," *SSP*, (May 10 2003) p. E20.]

June 3 Saskatoon

GLHS released a document entitled *The Human Cost of Homophobia* which indicated that 5,500 Canadians die prematurely each year as a result of homophobia. Dr. Ross Findlater, Saskatchewan's chief medical health officer, stated that the assumption that all health problems in the queer community result from homophobia "is a pretty big leap of faith." Findlater later acknowledged that his comments were ill-informed and sent the report to all medical health officers in the province.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 5 (July 23 2003) p. 12. /

Silas Polkinghorne, "Homophobia kills," *SSP*, (June 4 2003) p. A3.]

June 10 Toronto

The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld the July 12 decision of the Ontario Superior court that the existing common law definition of marriage violated same-sex couples' equality rights. Immediately after the ruling Michael Leshner and Michael Stark were married in Toronto.

June 17 Ottawa

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced that the government would not appeal the Ontario provincial court ruling. He promised legislation to legalize same-sex marriage that would also preserve the rights of religious groups to "sanctify marriage as they see it."

July Saskatoon

Perceptions reported controversy over same-sex marriage. Premier Lorne Calvert said his government had nothing in principle against it but urged LG couples to wait until federal legislation was changed before requesting marriage licenses. Sask Party Justice Critic Ben Heppner said a Sask Party government would join Alberta in opposing any changes: "if need be we would look to the notwithstanding clause." In June Saskatoon Catholic Bishop Albert LeGatt asked all Catholics to oppose same-sex marriage. Saskatoon Alliance MPs Maurice Vellacott and Lynne Yelich also voiced opposition.

[Bob Harvey, "Legalizing gay unions 'immoral': Vatican," *SSP*, (August 1 2003) p. A1, A3. / *Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 5 (July 23 2003) p. 14.]

August Tatamagouche, NS

Rev. Sally Boyle of Saskatoon was given the 2003 Volunteer Award at the annual meeting of AFFIRM United "for her 25 years of work for GLBT rights in the United Church and in society."

[<<http://www.sk.united-church.ca/acc.htm>>]

September 13 Regina

Divas 2: The Priscilla Show, a charity drag show by local performers, attracted a full house at the U of R Lazy Owl bar. This GBLUR sponsored show has been held annually since 2001 to 2005.

[SSN, (September 2003)]

September 23 - October 31 Saskatoon

The U of S Archives and Library presented *All Frocked Up. Glimpses of Cross-Dressing in Saskatchewan*, an exhibition and website documenting the history of cross-dressing as entertainment in the province.

[<<http://scaa.usask.ca/gallery/allfrokedup/>>
Joanne Paulson, "Gallery uncloaks history of cross-dressing in Sask." *SSP*, (September 24 2003) p. A1.]

October 1 Prince Albert

Most candidates running for the Prince Albert Public School Board refused to answer questions on LG issues submitted to them by the Prince Albert and Area Teachers' Association.

"Candidates perplexed by questions of a gay theme," *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, (October 1 2003) p. 1.]

October 22 Saskatoon

Mayor Jim Maddin was defeated in the 2003 civic election. Maddin had recognized Saskatoon's LG community by his participation in several public events during his term.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 7 (October 22 2003) p. 3.]

October 24 - November 28 Saskatoon

The AKA Gallery presented Winnipeg artist Doug Melnyk's *Adam and Steve*, an installation of cut-paper drawings responding to the Christian Right's assertion that it was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.

[Event Flyer - SAB NR]

November 27 Regina

The Vancouver Sun published excerpts from an interview with Larry Spencer, Alliance

MP for Regina-Lumsden-Lake Centre, in which the MP said that homosexuality should be recriminalized and that a vast gay conspiracy beginning in the 1960s had infiltrated North American life. The next day he was dismissed as the party's family issues critic and withdrew from the Alliance caucus. Spencer issued an apology stating that his views had been misunderstood. When he was not allowed to contest his riding for the newly formed Conservative party in the 2004 federal election he ran as an independent and finished fourth.

[*Perceptions*, v. 21 no. 8 (December 21 2003) p. 8. / *Perceptions* v. 22 no. 5 (July 21 2004) p. 20. / Peter O'Neil, "Gay life should be criminal: Regina MP: Says Trudeau was wrong to make it legal," *RLP*, (November 27 2003) p. A1. / Sean Gordon, "MP's words might keep right divided: Tories upset over Spencer's anti-homosexual remarks," *RLP*, (November 28 2003) p. A1.]

December

U of S historian Dr. Valerie Korinek published an examination of Doug Wilson and his influence in Saskatchewan.

[Valerie Korinek, "'The Most openly gay person for at least a thousand miles': Doug Wilson and the politicization of a province, 1975 -1983," *Canadian Historical Review*, v. 84 no.4 (Dec 2003) p. 517-550.]

December 19 Toronto

An Ontario court ruled that the federal government had discriminated against same-sex couples by denying Canada Pension Plan benefits to those whose partners had died before 1998. The court ruled that benefits should be retroactive to April 17 1985 when the equality rights of the Canadian Charter came into effect. The federal government appealed this decision.

2004

January 10 Regina

I Can See Queerly Now: Seven Women Speak received its first public screening. The video included contributions from seven Regina

women – Jean Hillabold, Mirtha Rivera, Ingrid Alesich, Tanya Wolk, Brita Lind, Tracy Kidd and Lori Reid – which sought to challenge societal stereotypes of queer culture. The project received support from the Saskatchewan Arts Board and Sask Lotteries.

[SSN, (January 2004) p. 3.]

January 22 – March 4 Saskatoon

The U of S chaplains in conjunction with the USSU LGBTQA Centre hosted *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality*, a four week series of speakers. During the same period Grace-Westminster United Church hosted a series *Coming Out to God: Exploring Christian Spirituality as Lived by LGBT people*.

[Dan Kinvig, "Activist sees place for gays in Christianity," SSP, (January 10 2004) p. A3.]

January 28 Saskatoon

Headquarters Pub advertised its opening as a private lounge for gay men at 122 - 20th Street West. It soon changed its policy to welcome women. The lounge suspended operations in May 2005 and resumed operation under new ownership and management in July 2005.

[Perceptions, v. 22 no. 1 (January 28 2004) p. 31.]

January 31 Saskatoon

A testimonial dinner was held to honor Gens Hellquist for his 12 years leading GLHS. Hellquist moved to the executive directorship of the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition, which had recently received \$2.3 million in federal funding for a 29-month project. Bruce Garman succeeded Hellquist as GLHS executive director.

[Perceptions, v. 21 no. 8 (December 21 2003) p. 9.]

February 6 Saskatoon

AKA Gallery hosted *Bini*, a performance by Mirha-Soleil Ross, at the opening of an exhibition of her videotapes. Ross is a transsexual sex worker, artist and activist

for the rights of animals, prostitutes and queers.

[Event flyer – SAB NR]

March 17-20 Saskatoon

The USSU LGBTQA Centre presented five performances of Moises Kaufman's *The Laramie Project* at St. Thomas More College. The play explores negative and violent responses to gays by examining the experience of residents of Laramie, Wyoming, in the aftermath of the murder of gay student Matthew Shepard.

[Perceptions, v. 22 no. 2 (March 10 2004) p. 7. / Joanne Paulson, "Play explores anti-gay violence," SSP, (March 17 2004) p. C3.]

March 20 Saskatoon

The seventh *Breaking the Silence* conference explored practical means of creating safer schools for students and staff. Patti Rowley, a teacher at Saskatoon's Mount Royal Collegiate, related her experience in establishing Saskatchewan's first Gay/Straight Alliance in 2001.

[Perceptions, v. 22 no. 3 (April 21 2004) p. 10.]

March 20 & 27 Regina

St. James United Church, an affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada, offered workshops dealing with the recognition of same-sex relationships.

[SSN, (March 2004) p. 14.]

April Regina

SSN published a notice for *Out on the Air*, a thirty minute gay radio program on community radio 91.3 FM CJTR.

[SSN, (April 2004) p. 15.]

April 15 Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation presented Dr. Don Cochrane its Arbos Award for outstanding services rendered to the cause of education. He was cited for his impassioned commitment to promoting the human rights of gays and lesbians. Cochrane

was the principal organizer of the annual *Breaking the Silence* conferences.

[STF News Release (April 16 2004)]

April 24 - May 11 Regina

The fifth Biennial Queer Film and Video Festival featured films on the historical representation of homosexuality and special programs of queer youth and aboriginal videos. For the first time the festival occurred with little public controversy. Jason Dearborn, Culture Critic of the Saskatchewan Party which had attacked the event in the past, commented: "We don't have a problem with it going forth...there's a plethora of depictions of expression of art."

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 3 (April 21 2004) p. 12.
/ Kevin O'Connor, "No flak for film festival," *RLP*,
(April 26 2004) p. B2.]

June Saskatoon

Perceptions reported that Conservative Party MPs were making same-sex marriage an election issue. Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott distributed literature emphasizing his opposition to same-sex marriage.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 4 (June 2 2004) p. 9. / Keri Dalman, "Conservative MPs gather opinions during Humboldt stop," *Humboldt Journal*, (May 6 2004) p. 2.]

June Saskatoon

The Special Collections Department of the U of S Library launched *Saskatchewan Resources for Sexual Diversity*, a website designed to guide those interested in Saskatchewan's LGBT communities.

[<http://library.usask.ca/spcoll/srsd>]

June Saskatoon

GLHS received \$90,000 from the federal Department for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women for a three year project to address abuse issues in lesbian relationships. GLHS also announced biweekly meetings for transgender people and their allies.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 4 (June 2 2004) p. 11.]

June 5 Moose Jaw

The Gay and Lesbian Association of Moose Jaw (GLAMJ) held its first dance featuring drag performances at the Golden Nugget Centre.

[*SSN*, (June 2004)]

June 12 Regina

The Prairie Pride Chorus presented the premiere of *Watershed II*, composer David L. McIntyre's second cycle of songs based on the experiences of chorus members, at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral.

[Nick Miliokas, "Music for a soggy weekend," *RLP*,
(June 12 2004) p. A10.]

June 12-19 Saskatoon

Saskatoon's Pride Week featured a day long community fair and dance at the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival site as well as queer bowling, film screenings and a women's night at *Steamworks*.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 4 (June 2 2004) p. 8.]

June 16 Ottawa

Statistics Canada issued survey results from a study of 84,000 Canadians aged 18-59 conducted as part of its Canadian Community Health Survey. According to the survey only 1.2% of Saskatchewan respondents would label themselves gay or bisexual compared to 1.7% for Canada as a whole and 2.3% for Quebec. Saskatchewan activists cautioned that it was unlikely that many gay people in the province would talk to anyone publicly about their sexual orientation.

[Karen Brownlee, "Survey results underestimate gay, lesbian numbers: activist," *SSP*, (June 17 2004) p. A8.]

Summer Saskatoon

Perceptions reported that four members of the GLHS youth group had attended Camp Flyrely, a gathering near Edmonton to build the leadership skills and knowledge of queer youth.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 6 (September 15 2004) p. 11.]

July 29 - August 7 **Saskatoon**
Winnipeg performance artists Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan scored a critical and popular hit at the Saskatoon Fringe with their Lesbian Rangers project. They left “no stone or lesbian unturned to recruit junior rangers.”

[Darren Bernhardt, “Lesbian National Parks and Services Wants You!” *SSP*, (July 31 2004) p. C11.]

October 15 **Regina**
I Could Not Speak My Heart; Education and Social Justice for Gay and Lesbian Youth, a collection of essays edited by James McNinch and Mary Cronin, was launched at an educational symposium on gay and lesbian youth at the U of R. The book was published by the U of R’s Canadian Plains Research Center and was nominated for a Saskatchewan Book Award.

[Pamela Cowan, “Gay, lesbian youth face big pressures,” *RLP*, (October 18 2004) p. D8.]

October 23 **Regina**
Okie van Tol and Gisela Stuhm advertised their tenth anniversary in the *Leader-Post*.
[*SSN*, (December 2004) p. 6.]

October 28 **Saskatoon**
McNally Robinson Bookstore hosted the Saskatoon launch of Anthony Bidulka’s second Russell Quant mystery *A Flight of Aquavit*. The book received the Lambda Literary Award for best Gay Men’s Mystery of 2004.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 7 (October 27 2004) p. 20. / Jenni Mortin, “Bidulka returns with home-grown mystery,” *SSP*, (December 4 2004) p. E4.]

November 3 **Saskatoon**
Five same-sex couples (Julie Richards & Nicole White; Lenore Swystun & Kelley Moore; Erin Scriven & Lisa Stumborg; Martin Bonneville & Ted Atkins; James & Willie Hein Blackmore) sought an order from the Court of Queen’s Bench that the definition of marriage in Saskatchewan included same-sex couples. Neither the federal or provincial government

opposed the order. The case received financial support from the SFL.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 7 (October 27 2004) p. 9. / Jason Warick, “Gay couples seek licences to marry,” *RLP*, (November 4 2004) p. A1.]

November 5 **Saskatoon**
Justice Donna Wilson of the Court of Queen’s Bench ruled that the right to equality of persons in same-sex relationships was violated by their exclusion from the institution of marriage and ordered that the definition of marriage in Saskatchewan be changed to include same-sex couples. Saskatchewan became the seventh Canadian jurisdiction to legalize same-sex marriage. The Saskatchewan Party justice critic told reporters that his party did not support same-sex marriage.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 8 (December 8 2004) p. 20.]

November 6 **Saskatoon**
Erin Scriven and Lisa Stumborg became the first same-sex couple to be married in Saskatchewan when they were wed by Rev. Margaret McKechney at St. Thomas-Wesley United Church.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 8 (December 8 2004) p. 20. / Richard Hall, “Gay couple legally weds,” *SSP*, (November 8 2004) p. A1.]

November 8 **Regina**
Rev. Dave Manley, a preacher in Consul, SK returned his certificate to issue marriage licenses after the Court’s decision requiring marriage commissioners to issue licenses to same-sex couples. A Saskatchewan Party MLA said that requiring reluctant commissioners to issue such licenses violated human rights law as no person should be refused employment on the basis of their religious beliefs.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 8 (December 8 2004) p. 14. / Trilby Knutson, “Minister won’t marry anyone,” *RLP*, (November 9 2004) p. A1. / “Minister protests same-sex marriage court decision,” *SSP*, (November 9 2004) p. A3.]

November 13

Saskatoon

Anglican Bishop Rodney Andrews instructed St. John's Anglican cathedral to cancel a rental booking made for a Saskatoon performance of *Watershed Stories* by Regina's Prairie Pride Chorus. He cited as his reason current controversies in the Anglican Communion. The cancellation became a front-page story in the *StarPhoenix* prompting several articles, editorials and angry letters to the bishop and paper. Three congregations volunteered their churches for the performance; the concert was held on the scheduled date (November 13) at St. Thomas-Wesley United Church. A near capacity audience included a group of Anglican priests who attended to support the choir.

[*Perceptions*, v. 22 no. 8 (December 8 2004) p. 9.
/ Jason Warick, "Bishop bans gay choir: Church split over sexuality issues," *SSP*, (November 2 2004) p. A1.]

December 9

Ottawa

The Supreme Court of Canada responded to questions referred to it by the federal government. It declared that the federal government could legally change the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples and that religious leaders could not be compelled to perform same-sex marriages. The Court declined to answer whether the Charter required such a change.

2005

January

Saskatoon

A chapter of Integrity, an organization for gays and lesbians in the Anglican Church of Canada, began meeting. The group had been suggested by Anglican Bishop Rodney Andrews and was facilitated by Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck.

[Julie Saccone, "Group offers gays caring place to worship," *SSP*, (January 7 2005) p. A3.]

January

Saskatoon

The reluctance of some marriage commissioners to conduct same-sex

marriages continued to be a political issue. NDP provincial Justice Minister Frank Quennell declared that commissioners were statutory officers who don't get to choose which laws they will or won't enforce. Eight commissioners reportedly resigned and a few others said they would go to court if they were penalized for refusing to perform marriages. Other commissioners reported no qualms. Dorothy Meszaros of Moose Jaw said she loved performing marriage ceremonies and that a same-sex marriage would be a new experience for her: "It will be very interesting for that first time...I would have the jitters the first time I guess."

[*Perceptions*, v. 23 no. 1 (January 26 2005) p. 11.
/ Susan Boyer, "Same-sex couples can be married here," *Moose Jaw Times-Herald*, (February 11 2005) p. 1.]

January 28-29

Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation sponsored a conference entitled *A Place to Start: Saskatchewan Teachers and a Straight-Gay Alliance*. The event provided professional development about LGBT issues and was the site of the inaugural meeting of the Saskatchewan Straight and Gay Alliance.

[Event flyer -SAB NR]

January 29 - February 19

Regina

Neutral Ground presented *Chicken Inn*, a photo-based exhibition by Gary Varro that examined the domestication of daily life and gay culture. The exhibit included twelve large photos of Varro as 'the subject' tarred with rainbow colored feathers.

[Jack Anderson, "Varro's work is a life examined," *RLP*, (February 9 2005) p. A8.]

February 11-13

Saskatoon

The Live Five theatre group and St. James Anglican Church presented *Articles of Faith*, a thought provoking play about an Anglican parish wrestling with same-sex marriage. Rev. Michael Stonhouse of St. James hoped that audiences would learn to appreciate

differences of opinion and asked, "Can we not be together, work together, worship together, even when we disagree."

[Jennifer Jacoby-Smith, "Play sets stage for same-sex discussion," *SSP*, (February 9 2005) p. C2.]

February 18

A poll commissioned by the *SSP*, *RLP* and Global Television indicated that same-sex marriage was unpopular in Saskatchewan. The poll found that 45% strongly opposed the provincial government's action to allow these marriages while another 8.9% were opposed. 18.5% strongly supported the government's position on the issue. Women, young adults, and those with higher education and incomes were most supportive.

[Lana Haight, "Most oppose provinces same-sex marriage stance," *SSP*, (February 18 2005) p. B6.]

March Prince Albert

GLHS received funding from Justice Canada to hire a part-time coordinator to develop a safer community for LGBT youth in Prince Albert. GLHS intends to partner with Lambda North, the Prince Albert YWCA and the City of Prince Albert Youth Outreach Program in this project.

[*Perceptions*, v. 23 no. 2 (March 9 2005) p. 12.]

March 18-19 Saskatoon

"*Helping Schools Become Positive Places* was the theme of the eighth annual *Breaking the Silence*. Andrew Thomson, Saskatchewan Minister of Education opened the conference. Delegates heard preliminary findings from an ongoing study by U of S researchers investigating homophobic behaviors in Saskatchewan schools and the responses of teachers.

[*Perceptions*, v. 23 no. 2 (March 9 2005) p. 11. / Chris Swick, "Gay, lesbian youth studied," *RLP*, (March 21 2005) p. B3.]

March 19 Saskatoon

EGALE Canada held its annual meeting and rural retreat at the GLHS office.

[*Perceptions*, v. 23 no. 2 (March 9 2005) p. 11.]

April 16 Saskatoon

Some 600 people held a rally and march in support of a traditional definition of marriage. The March for Marriage was coordinated by Troy Hudson, a youth leader at Avalon Alliance Church and included as speakers Conservative MPs Maurice Vellacott and Brad Trost. Supporters of same-sex marriage, including members of the Unitarian congregation, attended the rally.

[Brad Brown, "Rally backs 'traditional marriage'," *SSP*, (April 18 2005) p. A3.]

May 2 Regina

A tribunal convened by the SHRC ordered Bill Whatcott to pay \$17,500 to four people for distributing offensive antigay flyers in 2001 and 2002. He was also prohibited from distributing material that promotes hatred against individuals because of their sexual orientation. Whatcott told the tribunal he wouldn't abide by the decision and filed an appeal.

[Julie Saccone, "Anti-gay crusader Whatcott fined for 'offensive flyers'," *SSP*, (May 14 2005) p. A6. / Erica Simpson, "Anti-gay flyers distributed in city," *SSP*, (May 18 2005) p. A4.]

May 13 Saskatoon

The U of S announced a Positive Space program to reduce the impact of homophobia and heterosexism at the U of S. The program encouraged individuals and groups to display a special logo identifying their space as one where people need not fear disclosing their sexual orientation or gender identity.

["Positive spaces introduced on campus," *On Campus News*, (May 13 2005) p. 11.]

June Regina

All Nations Hope AIDS Network hosted *Reclaiming Our Place of Honour in the Circle*, the second annual Two-Spirited conference in Regina.

[*Perceptions*, v. 23 no. 5 (July 27 2005) p. 13.]

June 9-10 **Saskatoon**

Queer City Cinema presented the White Light Tour 2005 at the Broadway Theatre. The event presented a historical overview of Canadian queer films and video from the 1940s to 2000.

["Queer City Cinema coming," *SSP*, (June 7 2005) p. C2.]

June 12-18 **Saskatoon**

The Mendel Art Gallery presented *That's So Gay*, a juried show of local queer and queer friendly artists. Curator Zachari Logan sought to examine stereotypes and issues surrounding homosexuality in contemporary society.

["Mendel Art Gallery features *That's So Gay*," *Saskatoon Sun*, (June 12 2005) p. 28.]

June 16 **Saskatoon**

The Saskatoon Diversity Network co hosted the premiere of *Ready to Get Married*, a new work by Gemini award-winning Saskatchewan filmmaker Anand Ramayya. A camera followed local couple Julie Richards and Nicole White as they fought to have their relationship recognized by both family and government. The film was part of a commissioned documentary series on the new face of multiculturalism.

[2005 Saskatoon Pride Festival program – SAB NR]

June 17-26 **Regina**

Regina's Pride Week was jammed packed with social and educational programs. Two new events were a community barbecue with members of the Regina Police Services and a Pride Fair at the U of R.

[*Perceptions*, v. 23 no. 4 (June 1 2005) p. 10.]

June 22 **Saskatoon**

The annual general meeting of GLHS changed the organization's name to The Avenue Community Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity.

[*Gay and Lesbian Health Services. Newsletter*, (August 2005) p. 1.]

June 28 **Ottawa**

Bill C-38 passed its final reading with the support of the majority of the members of the Liberal Party, Bloc Quebecois and NDP. The bill was opposed by most Conservative Party MPs, including all thirteen from its Saskatchewan caucus. Liberal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale, MP for Wascana, supported the bill. When the legislation received royal assent Canada became the fourth nation to legally recognize same-sex marriage.

August 4-14 **Saskatoon**

The Jerk Chicken Club presented Sky Gilbert's *Drag Queens on Trial* at the Fringe Festival. A fabulous threesome defends their right to wear a dress and to be whoever they want to be. The Fringe also included *The First Time*, a one-man show by Paul Hutcheson about his journey to accept his homosexuality in a conservative home.

[Silas Polkinghorne, "*Drag Queens on Trial* (Review)," *SSP*, (August 9 2005) p. C3.]

August 26 **Saskatoon**

Peterson Toscano presented his one-man comedy *Doin' Time in the Homo NoMo Halfway House* at St Thomas-Wesley United Church. Toscano spent 17 years and over \$30,000 to become heterosexual. It didn't take.

[Event flyer – SAB NR]

September **Toronto**

Insomniac Press published Anthony Bidulka's third Russell Quant mystery *Tapas on the Ramblas*. This latest episode sees the Saskatoon detective traveling to Spain and Sicily.

September **Regina**

The University of Regina Students' Union with the support of GBLUR officially opened and began funding the LGBT2 Centre at the University of Regina.

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Nonfiction

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Carpenter, David. "The Devine Comedy." *NeWest Review*, v. 14 no. 1 (Oct./Nov. 1988) p. 7-8.

Community Building [video recording] Written, produced and directed by Glen Wood. Regina, Viddy Well Films, 1999.

Members of the Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina are shown working to build the new community building that opened on Broad Street in 1999. Includes interviews examining 27 years of the organization's history and scenes from construction and fundraising parties.

Chapman, Terry. "'An Oscar Wilde Type': The Abominable Crime of Buggery in Western Canada, 1890-1920." *Criminal Justice History*, v. 4 (1983) p. 97-118.

Examines social and legal attitudes toward homosexuality in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia from 1890 to 1920. Western Canadians identified homosexuals as sinful, immoral, and perverse, especially following the sensational trials of Oscar Wilde.

Chapman, Terry. "Male Homosexuality: Legal Restraints and Social Attitudes in Western Canada, 1890 - 1920." in *Law and Justice in a New Land: Essays in Western Canadian Legal History*. Ed. Louis A Knafla. Toronto: Carswell, 1986. p. 267 - 292.

Dick, Lyle. "Heterohegemonic Discourse and Homosexual Acts: The Case of Saskatchewan in the Settlement Era." Paper presented at the Sex and the State History Conference, Toronto, July 1985.

Elliott, Heather A. *Difficulties Relating to Sexual Expression among Lesbians*. M.A. thesis- University of Regina, 1992.

Faces of Diversity [video recording] Produced and directed by Heather Kuttai. Saskatoon: Disability Services for Students, U of S, 2001.

Students of different races, cultures, and sexual orientations, and students with both visible and invisible handicaps, discuss their experiences and the misconceptions they face at university.

Fraser, Keath. *As for Me and My Body: A Memoir of Sinclair Ross*. Toronto: ECW Press, 1997. Fraser offers a queer reading of the Saskatchewan classic novel *As for me and my House* (1941) and other writings by the homosexual novelist Sinclair Ross.

Graham, Jim. *Pressing: Reading the Signs*. Saskatoon: AKA Gallery, 1989.
Catalogue from an exhibition by artist Dik (later Duncan) Campbell.

Grubisic, Brett J, and Young, Brian. "Fear and Loathing on the Prairie." *Fuse Magazine*, v. 17 no. 3 (1994) p. 9-10.

Concerns the controversy aroused when University of Saskatchewan art student Christopher Lefler attempted to out a prominent Saskatchewan official in an art installation piece.

Korinek, Valerie. "'The Most Openly Gay Person for at Least a Thousand Miles': Doug Wilson and the Politicization of a Province, 1975 - 1983." *Canadian Historical Review*, v. 84 no. 4 (December 2003). p. 517-550.

Korinek, Valerie. "Activism = Public Education: The History of Public Discourses of Homosexuality in Saskatchewan, 1971 - 93." in *I Could Not Speak My Heart. Education and Social Justice for Gay and Lesbian Youth*. Ed. James McNinch and Mary Cronin. Regina: University of Regina, Canadian Plains Research Center, 2004. p.109 - 137.

McDonald, Gary. *The Relationship between Sex-role Stereotypes, Attitudes toward Women and Male Homosexuality in a Non-clinical Sample of Homosexual Men*. M.A. thesis- University of Regina, 1977.

McNinch, James (Ed). *I Could Not Speak My Heart: Education and Social Justice for Gay and Lesbian Youth*. Regina: University of Regina, Canadian Plains Research Center, 2004.

MacFarlane, Glenda. "A Lesson from Beechy: Censorship Begins at Home." *NeWest Review*, v. 18 no. 4 (April/May 1993) p. 33-34.

Attempts to perform a school play about a gay teenager in rural Saskatchewan engendered great opposition.

Millard, Peter. "Human Rights and the P.C. government." in *Devine Rule in Saskatchewan. A Decade of Hope and Hardship*. Ed. Lesley Biggs and Mark Stobbe. Saskatoon: Fifth House, 1991. p. 33-48.

Millard, Peter. "Breaking the Silence: Silence is Essential in Maintaining Homophobia. That's Why Gays are Breaking the Silence in the School System." *Briarpatch*, v. 29 no.6 (July/Aug. 2000) p. 6-8.

Concerns the annual Breaking the Silence Conference hosted by the University of Saskatchewan College of Education to examine lesbian/gay issues in the schools.

Philips, Elizabeth. "Evergon but Not Forgotten." *NeWest Review*, v. 15 no.5 (June/July 1990) p. 5-6.

A controversy erupted in late 1989 at Saskatoon's Mendel Gallery over the display of homoerotic photographs by a celebrated Canadian artist.

Russell, Jim. "A Gaze Blank and Pitiless as the Sun." *Fuse Magazine*, v. 18 no.2 (1994) p. 7-10. Concerns the response of the Saskatchewan government and the Saskatchewan Arts Board to a grant made to U of S student Christopher Lefler who used 'outing' in his installation art.

Saskatchewan Gay Coalition. *Lesbians and Gay Men: A Minority without Rights*. (A brief submitted to the Saskatchewan Legislature. 1978).

Sexual orientation. Special issue of *Briarpatch* (Saskatchewan's independent newsmagazine) v. 18 no. 8 (October 1989).

Includes contributions by Joanne Abrahamson, Glen Brown, Shauna Checkley, Gens Hellquist, Peter Millard, Doug Wilson and Ralph Wushke.

Spence, Alex. *Gay on the Canadian Prairie: Twenty Years of Perceptions, 1983-2002*. Saskatoon: Perceptions Publications, 2003.

Spence, Alex. *Perceptions: The First Twenty-Two Years, 1983-2004: An Index to the Canadian Gay & Lesbian Newsmagazine*. Saskatoon: Perceptions Publications, 2005.

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Traquair, Helen Morgan. *Lesbian Mothers by Choice; an Exploratory Study*. M.A. thesis- University of Regina, 1993.

Fiction

Baker, Brenda. *The Maleness of God*. (Short stories) Regina: Coteau Books, 1999. In the title story a Christian mother comes to realize that she loves her gay son more than she loves her husband and his vengeful God.

Bidulka, Anthony. *Amuse Bouche: a Russell Quant mystery*. Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2003. Russell Quant, Saskatoon's first and only gay gumshoe sleuths his way from Paris to Pike Lake with eventful stops at Innovation Place and the 8th Street DQ.

Bidulka, Anthony. *Flight of Aquavit*. Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2004. Detective Russell Quant faces a series of personal threats in Saskatoon and New York.

Bidulka, Anthony. *Tapas on the Ramblas*. Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2005. Russell's third crime investigation takes him to Barcelona and Sicily.

Bowen, Gail. *Deadly Appearances*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1990.

Murder wrecks havoc in the Queen City. Regina sleuth Joanne Kilbourn delves into the killing of her friend the newly elected provincial opposition leader Andy Boychuk and uncovers some queer truths about political lives.

Carpenter, David. *Jewels*. Erin, Ont.: Porcupine's Quill, 1985.

This novella alternating between a snowbound Saskatoon and a sumptuous Victoria relates the strange adventures of Julian Fairfax, an aging and closeted gay librarian. Julian's soul is slowly turning grey until a friend asks for his help and he joins a bizarre world of smugglers.

Roberta, Jean. *Secrets of the Invisible world: Lesbian Short Stories*. Montreal: Lilith Publications, 1988.

Regina writer Jean Hillabold investigates the loves and friendships, desires and fears of lesbian women.

Ross, Sinclair. *Sawbones Memorial*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1974.

The population of Upward, a small prairie town, gathers to mark the retirement of their longtime physician. Providing the piano music is the town queer Benny Fox, whose experiences and attitudes are said by one critic to resemble those of Ross, Saskatchewan's most acclaimed novelist.

Sperling, Shoshana. *Finding Regina*. (Play) Winnipeg: J. Gordon Shillingford, 2002.

The attempted suicide of a gay man brings three old friends to the ICU of a Regina hospital. A night of laughter, confessions and revelations of painful long-concealed truths ensues.

Wieler, Diana J. *Bad Boy*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1992.

16 year old A.J. becomes the bad boy of the Triple-A Moose Jaw Cyclones when he discovers that his best friend and teammate is gay. This YA novel about hockey violence and teenage friendship won a Governor General's award for children's fiction.

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1964-1975. Toronto: ECW Press/Homewood Books, 1996.

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Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002.

Notes on Sources

The Chinese proverb, “The palest ink is better than the best memory,” guided this project. The chronology’s impetus was a perception that much of the province’s history of sexual and gender diversity has been forgotten. Human memory and oral accounts have not transmitted a reliable or useful record of the struggles, achievements and contributions of the province’s LGBTTT communities. Most of the events noted in this timeline are accompanied by references to printed sources. Hopefully these references will indicate the compiler’s desire for factual accuracy and provide a starting point from which interested readers might pursue more detailed accounts and opinions.

Excellent resources for the study of the province’s LGBTTT heritage exist in Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan campus. Since the early 1970s the compiler has been a dedicated volunteer archivist of lesbian, gay, or more recently queer activities in Saskatchewan. Most of the masses of papers I accumulated have been donated to the Saskatoon Office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB). The SAB staff has done an excellent job in organizing and preserving this material and making it available to those with either a personal or academic interest. The Neil Richards Collection (SAB-NR) contains a dozen meters of newspaper clippings from Saskatchewan sources, thousands of Canadian LG periodicals, the records of several Saskatoon LG organizations, and hundreds of subject files compiled over the course of thirty years. Almost all the sources cited in *Celebrating a History of Diversity* can be accessed at this office.

I found it useful and convenient to examine the complete holdings of Regina’s lesbian newsletter *Sensible Shoes News* (1995 to date) and Saskatoon’s venerable *Perceptions* (1983 to date) preserved at the Special Collections Department of the University of Saskatchewan Library. *Perceptions* issues may also be found at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto, and at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CLGA) also in Toronto. The CLGA also holds copies of most of the cited newspaper articles and issues of Saskatchewan LG newsletters.

Those interested in articles in either the *Regina Leader-Post* or the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* should note that many cited articles appeared in both dailies on the same date albeit under different headlines. Through the Canadian Press Service and the Saskatchewan News Network these dailies have long shared coverage of Saskatchewan news events. Microfilm copies of these two newspapers are held by several academic and public libraries.

Several of the Regina entries refer to *A History of the Gay Community of Regina*, an unpublished account of the development of Regina’s LG community prepared by Darrel David Hockley. Hockley was a longtime participant in that community. Although his 1994 account does not provide personal names or references to sources, it does include what seem to be reliable descriptions of many events that I have not found in other documents. Copies of the Hockley history may be found in the Regina subject files at the Neil Richards Collection at the SAB and at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS.....	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CHE	Coalition for Human Equality (Saskatoon)
EGALE	Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (Regina)
GBLUR.....	Gays Bisexuals and Lesbians at the University of Regina
GCR.....	Gay Community of Regina
GCCS.....	Gay Community Centre of Saskatoon
GLCCS.....	Gay/Lesbian Community Centre of Saskatoon
GLCR	Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina
GLHS	Gay & Lesbian Health Services (Saskatoon)
GLSS	Gay and Lesbian Support Services (Saskatoon)
GSA	Gay Student Alliance (Saskatoon)
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICPL	Imperial Court of the Prairie Lily (Saskatoon)
LG	Lesbian and Gay Male
LGB	Lesbian, Gay Male, and Bisexual
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay Male, Bisexual, Transgender
LGBTT.....	Lesbian, Gay Male, Bisexual, Transgender and Two-Spirit
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
NDP	New Democratic Party
PC.....	Progressive Conservative
PTCS.....	Pink Triangle Community Services (Regina)
PWA	Person (Living) With AIDS
RLP	<i>Regina Leader-Post</i>
SAB NR	Saskatchewan Archives Board, Neil Richards Fonds
SFL	Saskatchewan Federation of Labour
SGA	Saskatoon Gay Action
SGC.....	Saskatchewan Gay Coalition
SHRC.....	Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
SSN	<i>Sensible Shoes News (Regina)</i>
SSP	<i>Saskatoon StarPhoenix</i>
U of R.....	University of Regina
U of S.....	University of Saskatchewan
USHA	University of Saskatchewan Homophile Association (Regina campus)
USSU.....	University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
ZFS	Zodiac Friendship Society (Saskatoon)



Rainbow Flag Flying at Saskatchewan Legislative Building,
Pride Week 2002. Photographer: Pat Thiele
Courtesy: Lesbian, Bisexual and
Gay Pride Committee of Regina.

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