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Firkin Thursdays

PWA's Kevin Borden (Programs Coordinator) would like to extend an invitation to join him at the Churchmose and Firkin on Church Street at Maitland on Thursday nights.

The Firkin has joined Kevin in his personal fundraising efforts for the Friends For Life Bike Rally and a percentage of any purchase made within his party on Thursday nights will be donated by to the Friends For Life Bike Rally supporting PWA.

[Map on Google](#)

Community Event

The New Noise Live's Not-So-

Hello,

PWA, AIDS Service Organizations and all charities are heading into a busy time. World AIDS Day on December 1st launches fundraising campaigns and the winter holiday season is always a time when donors are known to give most generously to their charities of choice.

The 519 and PWA is pleased to again invite the community for the Community Carnation Memorial on December 1st, 5:45pm at The 519. This unique community based World AIDS Day event is to remember those who have been lost to AIDS and an opportunity for the community to share personal stories.

As often as possible, PWA will send you its e-news on or around the 15th of the month. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments about PWA's monthly e-news, please contact us at info@pwatoronto.org or at 416-506-1400 ext. 239.

World AIDS Day

Make A Positive Difference this World AIDS Day for people living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto by making an in honour or tribute donation today. YES I want to make a DONATION!

The Red Ribbon has become the unifying symbol on World AIDS Day highlighting the global and local solidarity amongst those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

On December 1st, 1988, the World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS (now known as UNAIDS) created and observed the first World AIDS Day. The purpose of the day was to raise global awareness of the AIDS pandemic among governments, policy makers and the general public. Locally, across the world, community groups gather on this day to create their own themes and traditions to raise awareness and commemorate those lost to AIDS.

**Community Carnation Memorial -
Join us at The 519, December 1, 5:45pm**

In the early days of PWA, staff sent floral arrangements to the funerals of clients who died. As more and more people continued to die, including staff and volunteers, PWA could no longer afford to send arrangements and instead sent one black rose with a card saying "We understand".

This powerful symbol and message inspired the staff and Board of PWA to build on this history and create a new tradition for World AIDS Day to remember the forgotten and honor the courage of so many infected and affected in the AIDS community. Since World AIDS Day 2007, PWA staff, volunteers and clients have brought a black rose and red carnations to the AIDS Memorial at Cawthra Park.

In 2008, the AIDS Vigil Committee approached PWA to ask about partnering together to make this a larger community event thus beginning the current annual Community Carnation Memorial where community members share personal stories to reconfirm the powerful

Silent Night! Featuring...
YOUNG RIVAL with guests
THE COPPERTONE
and SANDMAN VIPER
COMMAND

Come celebrate the very best in independent Canadian music! Win amazing raffle prizes (just in time gift-giving)! And join us in giving back to a meaningful cause this holiday season - proceeds from the raffle and a portion of each ticket sold go in support of The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation and Art for AIDS International.

Thursday December 15
@ The Garrison (1197 Dundas Street W | www.garrisontoronto.com)

ONSALE NOW!
\$10 adv. / \$12 door
Tickets available at Rotate This, Soundscapes and online on Ticketweb:
[For more information](#)

Doors 9pm / Show 9:30pm
19+

Young Rival
The Coppertone
Sandman Viper Command

Joy Drive - Launch Party

Join 103.9 Proud FM and Miss Conception at the launch of the 2012 Joy Drive - on Sunday November 20th at Woody's Sailor on Church Street.

This non-perishable food drive has many convenient locations for drop off. To name a few:

The Village Pharmacy

Whole Foods Market -
Yorkville

Fresh Co. (Parliament
and Dundas)

For a full list of locations with Joy Drive food drop off bins visit the [PROUD FM website!](#)

message "We understand".



The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.®

Bad Habits: The Return of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

Thanks to everyone who attended the fabulous world premiere screening of *Bad Habits: The Return of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence* on October 15th!

Special thank yous to: Kevin O'Keefe, ichannel, the Royal Theatre, Martha Fusca, Rosemary Fusca, David Vowell, David Todd, Sister Ethica Slut, Sister Merry Peter, Sister Merry Q Contrary and Geoff Pickering.

International Volunteer Day

December 5th

The aim of International Volunteer Day is to create an opportunity and activities to thank volunteers for their efforts and increase public awareness on their contribution to society. December 5th is celebrated as International Volunteer Day in the majority of countries in the world.

PWA wishes to express its utmost thanks to its hundreds of active volunteers who contribute their unique skills, passion, commitment to the HIV/AIDS sector and of course who give the generous donation of their time.

A donation of time, that without which our programs and services for people living with HIV/AIDS, could not be delivered.

Community Partner - CATIE (Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange)

The new 'healthy' It's not just about HIV any more

Bullied for being gay, Ottawa teen James Hubley took his own life this fall. The 15-year-old's suicide brought to light the horrors of bullying and served as yet another reminder that homophobia, rejection experienced when coming out, and a lack of ready access to comforting and sustaining social networks, play a huge role in the health of many gay and bisexual men in Canada.

On World AIDS Day (December 1) and the thirtieth anniversary since the discovery of HIV/AIDS, it is worth noting that while great strides have been made in managing the HIV virus, our country is only beginning to address the various social challenges that jeopardize the health of gay/ bi men.

While many gay men have found resilient, life-affirming social networks, a number face feelings of loneliness, depression or isolation. The good news is that a broader, more social-based approach to gay and bi men's health is being adopted by some health and social agencies serving LGBTQ2S communities. These agencies may not be great in number, but the advance of such an approach is a welcome sign - one that fosters strength and resilience in gay/ bi men and promises to help turn around some disturbing statistics.

Research shows that gay and bisexual men, compared with their straight counterparts, often face higher rates of distress and higher rates of attempted suicide. Statistics Canada has reported that one in 10 hate crimes is motivated by sexual orientation, and that while 14 per cent of men who identify themselves as heterosexual report having experienced some form of discrimination, 44 per cent of gay men, and 41 per cent of bisexual men, report experiencing discrimination. In addition, an emerging area of research is showing that multiple epidemics - bullying, racial prejudice, depression, substance use, as well as HIV - reinforce each other and lower the overall health of gay and bisexual men more than one epidemic might do. Poorer

health conditions, related to these stresses and social challenges, are sometimes linked to high-risk sex which, in turn, increases the chances of transmitting HIV, hepatitis C and other STIs.

More innovative programs adopted by health agencies encourage health-promoting behaviours: monitoring drug use; cultivating sexual creativity (investigating different activities that are fun, enjoyable but not risking HIV or STIs); and abandoning guilt around the sex that they enjoy (a kind of 'shamelessness').

Organizations showing leadership in fostering gay men's health from a broader, social perspective include Montreal-based RÉZO (www.rezosante.org), a community-based organization for gay and bisexual men whose focus is overall health promotion as well as the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STIs; and HiM (Health Initiative for Men - www.checkhimout.ca), a Vancouver-based agency dedicated to strengthening the health and well-being of gay men and including their physical, sexual, social and mental health.

There is also the AIDS Committee of Toronto (www.actoronto.org), an organization that has grown and evolved since 1983, providing services that empower men, women and youth living with HIV to achieve self-determination, informed decision-making, independence and overall well-being, as well as the Poz Prevention program of the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (www.pwatoronto.org).

CATIE (www.catie.ca), Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information, convened a national dialogue of gay men in Montréal in March, 2010. Speaking of one of the social get-togethers his local health agency puts on, one participant said: "Ostensibly, (the program) is HIV prevention, but none of the topics are related to HIV. So we talk about coming out, we talk about community, we talk about monogamy versus open relationships. And what's fascinating is that there's this huge untapped desire for men to come together and talk about these things."

It is that desire among gay/ bi men to talk - to acknowledge and discuss the social realities that at once challenge and bind them - that an increasing number of social and health agencies are tapping into. That talk, and that sense of community, is keeping loneliness and depression at bay, and helping to build personal strength and resilience.

ABOUT PWA

Toronto People With AIDS Foundation is the largest provider of practical direct support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada.

People living with HIV/AIDS play a crucial role in the governance and operation of the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, but, most importantly, are its heart and soul. PWA's response to HIV/AIDS is, more than anything else, inspired by the voices and experience of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you for your support and interest in Toronto People With AIDS Foundation's work.

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