

# OXFORD COUNTY PRIDE

# 2024



Oxford County Pride



@Oxfordpridecommittee

WWW.OXFORDPRIDE.CA  
mail@oxfordpride.ca

# President's Message

The past two years have been challenging for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. There has been an alarming 60% increase in homophobic and transphobic hate and violence projected towards the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The increasing attacks on the transgender individuals is life threatening for youth. Oxford County has experienced a significant increase of homophobia and transphobic rhetoric and acts of violence that have included hateful demonstrations attacking the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Oxford County. Destruction and theft of pride flags, gasoline was poured on the Tillsonburg crosswalk, threats to children and families at drag story time events, and attacks on local businesses that support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. These behaviours are unacceptable, dangerous and overall have prompted Oxford County into the National media spotlight. This is not the light we want to shine on our community. As a result, safety and security is our primary focus throughout all our pride events in 2024.

The 2SLGBTQIA+ community has a long history of hate and discrimination based on heterosexual norms or religious morality. We have been criminalized, institutionalized, banned from adopting children, had to fight for dual parental rights, advocate for marital rights, medical rights, pension rights, these are just a few barriers removed by the generations before us. We have fought too long and hard for human rights, regression is NOT an option in 2024!

The current political propaganda projected by conservative Premiers throughout Canada is a clear attack on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, specifically transgender individuals. This is an attempt to continue to oppress and create false narratives involving children and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. This is harmful, done with intent and ultimately puts 2SLGBTQIA+ youth at risk. We know the suicide statistics of 2SLGBTQIA+ youth are 4x more likely to attempt self harm/ suicide due to bullying, unsupportive families that results in homelessness. We have no choice but to continue to advocate, educate and fight for the rights of everyone in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, regression is not progression!

In light of the rising political discourse the Oxford County Pride committee continues to prevail, succeed and exceed in our events, opportunities and community connections. Last year's Oxford Pride events experienced the highest number of attendees, a record number of events and support from community partners. We choose to celebrate our success and progress promoting diversity, inclusion and equity for all in Oxford County. We will continue to correct false narratives, educate against lies and propaganda while we advocate, ensuring the safety and security of all 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

When the Oxford County Pride committee evolved in 2015, we created history in the raising of the first pride flag at museum Square in Woodstock. The journey to accomplish our goal of flying Pride Flags in every Township throughout Oxford County has been an uphill battle. The national spotlight that Oxford County experienced was disheartening, however this prompted the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and our allies to mobilize and activate. Demonstrating that advocacy, connection and compassion in community makes a difference for everyone! I am proud to say we are celebrating the raising of progress pride flags in every township throughout Oxford County

in 2024! A special thanks to the Norwich Love and Acceptance Group as their collective action, group coordination and willingness to challenge heterosexual norms for community inclusion was astounding. It is more important now more than ever for us to heal and provide unity throughout our community. Oxford County has no room for bigotry or discrimination of any kind. We are proud of the progress of our Oxford County Pride events and the amazing work our committee accomplishes! We have gone from a small picnic in a park to dozens of events and partnerships throughout the month of June with hundreds of people in attendance. We are excited to say Oxford Pride Family Day is one of the best attended downtown Woodstock summer festival events.

The 2024 Oxford County Pride theme is “Love is Louder”! Our message is to embrace love, compassion, inclusion and diversity through our community. We will continue to grow stronger in the face of adversity, and promote equity for all in Oxford County to live, work and play.

In closing I must express gratitude for the Oxford County Pride committee members, our executive team and the many volunteers who assist and continue to donate their time. Special thanks to my children who inspire me everyday to do this work to ensure they grow up in a safe equitable community free of homophobia, transphobia and discrimination! Thank you Oxford County for your support and we look forward to your attendance at our events throughout the month of June 2024.



## Happy Pride 2024

Tami Murray She/Her  
President



## COUNTY WARDEN'S MESSAGE

It is my honour to extend heartfelt support and best wishes to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and supporting allies as we celebrate Pride Month in the spirit of inclusivity and progress.

As Warden, I know how important it is to embrace the richness of our differences, whether in culture, ability, background, perspective, or differences in sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. In recognizing Pride Month, we not only celebrate the triumphs and resilience of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, but we also send a powerful message of visibility, acceptance, and empowerment to anyone who has ever felt marginalized or "different." Pride Month is a beacon of hope, challenging discrimination and promoting understanding, compassion, and inclusivity.

Oxford County Council is committed to building a community where everyone belongs. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are woven into the fabric of our Strategic Plan and echoed in the vision of Safe and Well Oxford. Our collective responsibility is to ensure every resident feels safe, supported and included.

As our community grows, bringing an influx of new perspectives, cultures and needs, let us celebrate the beauty of diversity and the power of inclusion, knowing that our differences are our greatest strength. And, as we honour Pride, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a future where everyone can live authentically without fear or discrimination.

Remember, love is stronger than hate, and Pride is stronger than fear.

With admiration and solidarity,

Marcus Ryan  
Warden, Oxford County





**TD Bank is a Proud supporter of Pride across Canada**  
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# Drag Storytime

Museum Square Woodstock

Saturday June 22

1pm

*A free  
storytime for  
the whole family!*



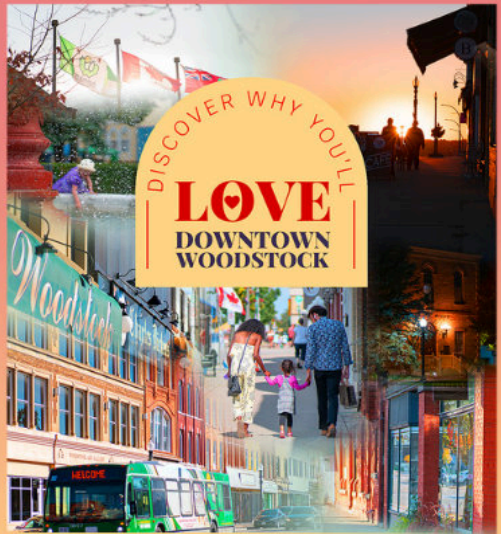
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## What's happening Downtown?

- MAY 23 -  
**WOODSTOCK SHOPPING NIGHT**
- JUNE 6,13,20,27 -  
**MUSIC IN THE SQUARE**
- JUNE 8 -  
**CULTURAL CANVAS**
- JUNE 15 -  
**OXFORD COUNTY PRIDE FAMILY DAY**
- JUNE 27 -  
**WOODSTOCK SHOPPING NIGHT**



[downtownwoodstock.ca](http://downtownwoodstock.ca)



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# Components of Human Identity

This is a friendly infographic that visually represents four components of human identity. The terms associated with each category are ever evolving. Here are just a few:



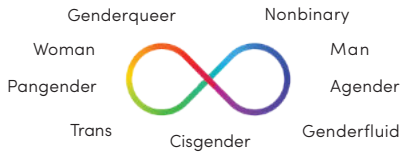
## ASSIGNED SEX

The biological classification of a person as female, male or intersex. It is usually assigned at birth based on a visual assessment of external anatomy.



## GENDER IDENTITY

A person's internal and individual experience of gender. It is not necessarily visible to others and it may or may not align with what society expects based on assigned sex.



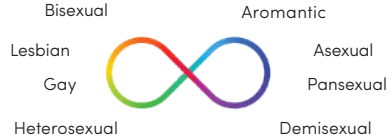
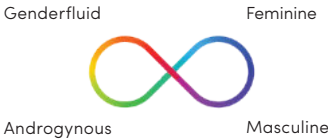
## GENDER EXPRESSION

The way gender is presented and communicated to the world through clothing, speech, body language, hairstyle, voice and/or the emphasis or de-emphasis of body characteristics and behaviours.



## ATTRACTION

Often referred to as a sexual orientation, attraction describes a person's potential for emotional, spiritual, intellectual, intimate, romantic and/or sexual interest in other people and may form the basis for aspects of one's identity and/or behaviour.



## UMBRELLA TERMS

Many terms related to 2SLGBTQI identities fall into more than one category.

Two Spirit



Questioning

Queer

Egale

## Bronze Sponsors



# Guardians in Action

(Formerly Drag Storytime Guardians)

On April 30th, Sista Patricia gathered a small group of sister motorcycle riders and went to the Parkhill Library to provide support for a Drag Storytime. What they found when they arrived was a group of protesters with hateful banners, yelling anti-queer messages and a very ignorant homophobic woman with a bullhorn. The scene was so hateful that the women went to the front door and linked arms to ensure that they were kept back from the entrance. Families and their young children were forced to walk through a gauntlet of hate being verbally attacked by the protesters. After deflecting the hatred from the kids to us we started escorting the children and their families into the library. It was at that exact moment that the idea of forming a group of Guardians was born.



The Parkhill incident garnered a lot of press both in Canada and the US. Libraries and Drag Queens started reaching out for help across Ontario. The magnitude of the need was bigger than a small group of five could handle, so hence Drag Story Guardians were formed! Within a month we had hundreds of Guardians signed up to go wherever they were needed.

Guardians are everywhere! Within a short period of time, we were busy every weekend across Southern Ontario and fielding calls from libraries, pride organizers, and private venues. At most of the events, we were able to outnumber the hate. We developed ways to organize at events and ensure not just the safety of children and families but for library staff. As we grew, the haters took notice and became even more hateful and dangerous. Safety became a serious issue, and we responded with joy, celebration, and defensive tactics.

In celebrating our community, we chose to use all the flags within the rainbow. We dress in colorful clothing and welcome the children with music, applause, and joy, all the while we are also behind the front line challenging the haters, making it perfectly clear, that they are unwelcome there and we will not tolerate violence, hate speech, harassment, or intimidation. The community responded to our call, driving our membership to almost 1000 Guardians. Our membership is filled with people from all walks of life. Parents, grand parents of queer kids, clergy, butches, femmes, gender fluid members, nonbinary and trans members, Drag Queens, Drag Kings and allies – anyone else you can imagine. We are all there to not just support Drag Storytime but also to show our communities that we are all there for everyone's safety.

***"Encourage benevolence and empathy, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense, oppose injustice, and undertake noble pursuits."***





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# Willow Feather Conversations

*Willow Feather Conversations aims to establish a holistic approach to Equity, Reconciliation and Empowerment that can spark generations to come.*

TRISSA IS A PASSIONATE, RESILIENT AND HEARTFELT WARRIOR OF ANISHINAABE, CELTIC AND GERMAN HERITAGE, ON BEHALF OF MARGINALIZED AND GENERATIONALLY OPPRESSED/DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES. AS A RECONNECTING TWO-SPIRIT KWE T DRAWS ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF NAVIGATING SERVICES AND SURVIVING TRAUMA COMBINED WITH THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF COLONIZATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BY CREATOR. WILLOW FEATHER IS HAPPY TO OFFER CONSULTATION, PUBLIC SPEAKING, FACILITATION AND EVENT COORDINATION SERVICES THAT PROMOTE INCLUSION AND EDUCATION.

\*SPECIALIZING IN EMPOWERMENT, EQUITY AND RECONCILIATION.



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## 2Spirit and IndigiQueer Coordinator

Trissa Marshal-DeSutter

Boozhoo, aniin; Indinawemaaginadog

Nizh Manidoowag Ikidowan OgichiDaa Kwe, Trissa nindizhinikaaz, Binesi ndoodem. Anishnaabe, Celtic, German ndaa. This is Anishinaabemowin for; Hello all of my relatives, my name is Trissa or Two Spirit Word Warrior Woman of the Thunderbird clan, and I am of Ojibwe, Irish and German heritage.

I am a proud Two Spirit person, with maternal ties to Zhiibasing and Mishkagoman First Nations, acting as the 2Spirit and IndigiQueer coordinator for Oxford County Pride.

What is 2Spirit you ask? Well, it's the 2S at the beginning of 2SLGBTQIA+ acronym, placed at the beginning to honor the fact that Indigenous people were the first peoples of Turtle Island and the longest to hold respect for individual identities. Two-Spirit is an umbrella term representing our Indigenous relations who do not conform to a binary system for gender or heterosexual orientation, some indigenous people however do prefer the term IndigiQueer, so its always best to check in with the person how they identify! The most famous historical figure of Indigenous gender diversity is We'wha (1849-1896), an Ihamana or third gender person from the Zuni Pueblo Nation in what is now New Mexico.

The creation story for 2S people that resonated with me most was a story from the Wabanaki people; the hero Gluskabe who shot an arrow at the brown ash tree, cutting both the tree and the tree spirit in half. This spirit now had two parts and agreed to be transformed into people. After Gluskabe breathed into the tree, the first Wabanaki woman and man emerged. After that there was just a little bit of each essence left over, so Gluskabe recombined them and sent the first Two-Spirit out of the tree. So, in Wabanaki tradition 2S people haven't been separated from themselves.

Before colonization, being queer, trans, nonbinary etc. was not shunned, it was instead respected and understood to be another sacred part of creation. In fact, often times 2Spirit people became healers, warriors, crafters, peacekeepers, and ceremony leaders. Two spirit and IndigiQueer people have always existed, each nation having different terms for their own people. In my culture, Ojibwe it is Niizh Manidoowag, which translates to 2 spirit. This term became public and adopted among the nations of Turtle Island after a conference in 1990 for the LGBTQ Native alliance, an Elder had a vision which gave her this term to empower our Indigenous LGBTQ+ relations and to replace the derogatory term colonials had used to describe many of us since the 1600s, this was a term that was believed to be able to unite the umbrella of nation specific gender roles and sexual identities that predated European contact such as Iskwêw Ka Napêwayat in Cree, Winyanktehca in Lakota or Nádleehee in Diné.

Sadly, due to colonization ideologies of of biphobia, transphobia, and homophobia have been used to suppress those who do not fit within the homogenous world colonization did its darndest to create by means of religious indoctrination, residential schools, and patriarchal thinking. These ideologies have been left unchecked due to the ripple effects of colonization, sewing themselves into the fabrics of our social, legal, medical, education and religious systems. Further perpetuating harm and marginalizing queer and bipoc people.

Two Spirit phobia is an ideal of colonial construct and perpetuates intergenerational trauma, ignites lateral violence, increases suicide rates, and also continues to cost us our dear 2Spirit and IndigiQueer relations, taken from us by people who allow hate and misunderstanding to dictate their actions. This is happening all over Turtle Island to our youth, youth like Nex Benedict, Choctaw Nation, Oklahoma. So many



obstacles and challenges are being thrown at our youth, taking away their chance and denying creation their gifts. Queer youth DESERVE to grow up to be Queer Elders!

In Ceremony I have been taught that we are all spiritual beings living a human experience, with obligation to act with compassion, love, and empathy. These teachings and mindset have been handed down to my Anishinaabe relations by means of the Seven Grandfather Teachings.





That to know Love is to know peace, to honor all of creation is to have Respect, Courage is to face all with integrity. To be Honest in words and actions, with yourself and others, that to cherish knowledge is to know Wisdom, Humility is to know we are ALL sacred parts of Creation, and that Truth is to know all these things. Let us carry these seeds forward with us far and wide, helping to wash away these harmful belief systems in our surrounding circles, creating a better future for our young ones, where they can truly be safe and free to honor their authentic selves.

Also let us say Chi-Miigwech to our Elders who have held onto the teachings to pass down for our 2S relations, to our youth who are doing the work to explore themselves, learn the teachings and carry forward as facilitators of decolonization, and to everyone in between who loves, protects, supports, teaches, and encourages the individual identities of those around them.

Apii zaagi'iyang, zaagi'angidwaa. As we are loved, we love others. Apii noojimo'iyang, noojimo'angidwaa. As we are healed, we heal others.

Kina gibizamen maji mnowagazmen ambe dash ga mnowagazyen – we came to be happy, so go be happy.

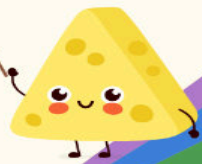
Miigwech and Mikwendan  
Love T <3





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Pride



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# EMBRACE OUR RURAL ROUTES

Thank you for visiting! We hope to see you again soon.  
[TourismOxford.ca](http://TourismOxford.ca)



# Happy Pride from the Oxford County's Rainbow Coalition!



Oxford County's Rainbow Coalition is comprised of representatives from various agencies and community stakeholders who have a mutual goal to promote diversity and inclusivity in Oxford County. We strive to contribute to making our community safer for all 2SLGBTQIA+ folks through education, awareness and research initiatives.

Safer Spaces training is one of the primary focuses of the Rainbow Coalition. Our facilitators offer free training to all organizations, groups and businesses in Oxford County who want to make their spaces more inclusive for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Participants will engage in learning through the sharing of knowledge; personal reflection; small and large group discussions; and take away recommendations/assignments. To inquire about Safer Spaces training please email Sarah Stevens (she/her) at [sstevens@oxchc.ca](mailto:sstevens@oxchc.ca) or Margot Staley (she/her) at [margot@goodbeginningsday.com](mailto:margot@goodbeginningsday.com).

Along with education, the Rainbow Coalition recognizes the importance of ongoing research to advocate for meaningful change in our community. As follow up from an original survey in 2016, we are partnering with Wilfrid Laurier University to complete a research project exploring the experiences of well-being, discrimination, service access, and support of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Oxford County. Keep an eye out for more information to come through our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OxfordCountyRainbowCoalition/](https://www.facebook.com/OxfordCountyRainbowCoalition/)

We always welcome new members to join the Rainbow Coalition! To learn more please email Chair Sarah Stevens (she/her) at [sstevens@oxchc.ca](mailto:sstevens@oxchc.ca)



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**JUNE 15, MUSEUM SQUARE WOODSTOCK 11 AM - 4 PM**

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**YOUR HOST WITH  
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JACKSON  
MURPHY**



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QUINLAN**



**DESHKAN  
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# OXFORD COUNTY PRIDE PRESENTS

May 31 - June 30, 2024

May  
31

Free

## Pride Flag Raisings

Woodstock Museum Square 8:30 am  
Ingersoll Dewan Park 12:00 pm  
Tilsonburg 3:00pm  
Norwich 4:00pm  
Check our website and Socials for a full list

## PRIDE CHURCH SERVICE

A Pride church service will be held at Norwich United Church

JUNE  
2

10:30am  
Free

JUNE  
5

7pm - 9:30pm  
Free

## Drag Bingo 19+ event at UpperThames Brewery

Prizes donated by "Red Light District Adult Boutique"  
Host Sloppy Jo  
Arrive early to get a seat

## Family Day at Museum Square

Saidat as your Host DJ Kristen Vendors  
Henna Tattoo Bob's Yer Funkle Victor Quinlan  
Deshkan ZiiBi Patrick Jackson Murphy  
Mrs. Sarah Face Painting

JUNE  
15

11am - 4pm  
Free

JUNE  
15

8pm til close  
\$20 tickets

## Pride Dance Party 19+ EVENT

Nico's Zoology - \$20 ticketed event  
Featuring **Sarah Smith** with your host Sloppy Jo

Purchase Tickets at Nico's, Early Bird, Red Light district,  
Upper Thames Brewery and oxfordpride.ca

## Drag StoryTime at Museum Square

Celebrate 2SLGBTQAI+ inclusion and diversity  
through connection and story

JUNE  
22

1pm  
Free

JUNE  
27

6pm - 9pm  
Free

## Open Mic at Earlybird Coffee

Enjoy some late sips, snacks and creative  
expression. Share your acoustic, poetry,  
spoken word & art  
(Must preregister to perform)

## Pride Karaoke at Jokers Crown

Let your voice ring out as we celebrate Pride  
with Karaoke at The Jokers Crown Ingersoll

JUNE  
28

8pm - 12pm  
Free

For more information visit  
[www.oxfordpride.ca](http://www.oxfordpride.ca)



# UNIFOR

the **Union** | le **syndicat**

Local 636 - Local 88 - Local 1859



## A Union for Everyone



Find an event in your area at [unifor.org/pride](http://unifor.org/pride)  
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***Getting results for the  
LGBTQ2S+ community.***



# Oxford County Pride Transgender Ambassador

Since I started my transition, a lot of people ask me why I'm transitioning: "Did you just wake up one morning and decide to be a girl?" And the answer is, of course, that's not what happened at all. Transgender people live with something called Gender Dysphoria. It's commonly mistaken for a mental illness, which it definitely is not. Gender Dysphoria is defined as a deep sense of unease and distress that may occur when your biological sex does not match your gender identity. This is a very clinical definition and I don't feel it does this issue justice.

Gender Dysphoria can range from varying degrees of impact. Some individuals could be as mild as not being able to tolerate facial hair and so they aren't comfortable without being clean shaven or undergoing electrolysis/laser hair removal. In others, their genitalia could cause them so much stress that they cannot be naked, even when they're alone, without triggering major anxiety and depression, not to mention the issues that lack of intimacy can cause in a relationship. While Gender Dysphoria is not a mental illness, it can very easily cause many.

Many people do not understand what transgender people go through to make the outside match the inside. For many of us, we grow up in an environment where coming out and transitioning may not be safe or supported, or it may be downright illegal. Forcing us to go through puberty as a gender we don't identify as. Almost all of the effects of puberty are irreversible, skeletal structure changes depending on which hormones are produced by your body. Not even surgery will correct most of these changes. Male puberty changes the vocal folds causing the voice to lower, this cannot be undone and takes hours of vocal training with a speech therapist to learn to speak in a feminine tone. Musculature and fat distribution are different between males and females after puberty and it can take years or hormone therapy for your body to rearrange itself. Breast growth also impacts male to female transitions. Once mammary tissue grows it must be surgically removed.

With all these lengthy and often irreversible changes, people who identify early push to take puberty blockers as a part of their Hormone Replacement Therapy(HRT) program until they can undergo Gender Reassignment Surgery(GRS). This tends to be very controversial. There are many, many people who are against puberty blockers. What they don't realize is, these medications can stop a lot of the irreversible changes caused by puberty, therefore eliminating a large source of Gender Dysphoria for young Transgender people, until they are old enough to make the decision to undergo GRS.

None of these interventions, whether it's HRT, Puberty Blockers, or GRS should be taken lightly, and while being Transgender is by no means a mental illness, individuals should always start their journey by consulting with a qualified Gender Counsellor and research. Reaching out to organizations such as Oxford County Pride or wpath.org: the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

**-Alicia Sweeney**



# Queer Conversations



**Join us for a monthly gathering  
of community and conversation**

Join us to chat about various 2SLGBTQIA+ topics featuring short films, guest speakers, and additional resources. Open to ages 16+.

To be held at Woodstock Public Library and the Oxford County Libraries.

**Check out the Oxford County Community Health Centre and library Facebook pages for details on upcoming events.**

Questions? Call 519 539 1111 x262 (Sarah) or x215 (David)



# Rainbow Nursing Interest Group

The Rainbow Nursing Interest Group (RNIG) is an interest group of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. RNIG values and promotes evidence-informed, inclusive, reflective, respectful, safe and supportive care and environments for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

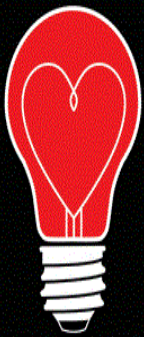
For more info check out <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/>

A collection of nine white icons with rainbow-colored outlines on a dark blue background. The icons include: three alphabet blocks (A, B, C), a magnifying glass, a stethoscope, a tooth, a hospital building, a syringe, a sneaker, a hexagonal medical device, and a bar chart with an upward arrow.

There's a little Pride in everything we do.

The logo for Southwestern Public Health, featuring the letters 'sw' in a cursive font, followed by 'SOUTHWESTERN' in small caps and 'Public Health' in a bold sans-serif font. Below it, 'Oxford • Elgin • St. Thomas' is written in a smaller font.

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**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
OF OXFORD COUNTY

There's a young person waiting  
for your experience.

**One-to-One & Group Mentoring**  
Young people ages 9 to 21  
Build Community. Foster Confidence.

Providing young people with a safe space to explore their identities, create an empowering relationship with a mentor and connect to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Oxford County.



**PRISM**  
Pride | Respect | Identity  
Safety | Mentoring

[www.bbbsoxford.ca](http://www.bbbsoxford.ca)



## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County Prism Program

My name is Alex Golden (They/He), and I am delighted to take on the coordination of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County's PRISM Program. I'm a member of the 2S/LGBTQ+ community who grew up in Tillsonburg. The challenges I faced as a young member of the 2S/LGBTQ+ community in a rural community motivated me to do my part to enrich the lives of 2S/LGBTQ+ youth in Oxford County. I am extremely grateful that BBBSOC has given me the opportunity to help empower 2S/LGBTQ+ youth in our community through the PRISM Program.

The PRISM Program, which stands for Pride, Respect, Identity, Safety, and Mentoring, matches youth who identify as part of the 2S/LGBTQ+ community with adult mentors who also identify as part of the 2S/LGBTQ+ community, in a one-to-one, school mentoring, or group mentoring relationship. All our volunteers are given pre-match training from the agency and receive ongoing support from our expert service delivery staff.



Mentors in our program are guided through building a developmental relationship with intention, through regular meetings with their mentee. Matches are created based on common interests to foster a friendship that is supportive, empowering, and fun!

Historically, the 2S/LGBTQ+ community has formed informal mentoring networks as a matter of survival. Today, despite advancements in the social acceptance of 2S/LGBTQ+ people, youth in our community continue to face many challenges. Big Brothers Big Sisters is proud to share that our evidence-based mentorship programs have been effective at supporting the development of young people.

Mentorship is positive for more than just the youth being mentored; mentors often benefit from their supportive role in a young person's life. Being part of the program is rewarding in multiple ways and gives mentors the opportunity to meet new people in the 2S/LGBTQ+ community.

We have several 2S/LGBTQ+ youth on our wait list who are ready to seize the chance to explore their identities, create an empowering relationship with a mentor, and connect to the 2S/LGBTQ+ community in Oxford County.

If you'd like to know more, please reach out to me at [Alex.Golden@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:Alex.Golden@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca) or our Volunteer Recruitment and Engagement Coordinator, Erica Hughes (She/Her), at [Erica.Hughes@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:Erica.Hughes@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca) and check out our website [oxford.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](http://oxford.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca) for more information about how you can get involved.

# Happy Pride!



**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters**  
OF OXFORD COUNTY

# OXFORD PRIDE

June 15th 8pm



*Live Music By*  
**SARAH SMITH**

**NICOS**

**SPORTS BAR & GRILL**  
506 Dundas St. Woodstock



Available at Nico's Zoology, Early Bird Coffee,  
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**\$500 BURSARY TO A GRADE 11 OR 12  
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TO APPLY PLEASE SUBMIT A 500-700  
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YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP  
ACTIVITIES IN OXFORD COUNTY.

2SLGBTQIA+ STUDENTS ARE  
ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY  
BETWEEN APRIL 1ST-JUNE 7TH, 2024



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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT PLEASE VISIT OUR  
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JUNE • PRIDE MONTH

# Open Mic Night

Share your acoustic music, poetry, spoken word & art

Where: Early Bird, 375 Dundas Street, Woodstock

When: Thursday, June 27th, from 6-9pm

Every fourth Thursday of the month from 6-9pm

**What:** Come on in and enjoy late night sips, snacks and creative expression. Specialty drinks, liquor, baked goods and popcorn will be available to order. You are welcome to be a performer or enjoy the evening as a patron.

For more information contact Jenilee Halls:  
519-535-3555 • jenileehalls@yahoo.com • @JenileeHalls



Building commUNITY together.

## Community Pride Events

**Wine & Cheese tour and  
Pairing**

June 13 - \$30  
Gunns Hill Cheese

**Pride Escape Room**

Month of June  
Woodstock Museum

**Karaoke**

The Copper Mug Tillsonburg

**Gayme Day**

Realm Walker Games  
Tillsonburg

**Open Mic**

Third thursday of month  
Early Bird Cafe (Dundas)



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# PRIDE

WITH US

OXFORD PROVINCIAL  
LIBERAL PRIDE SOCIAL

OXFORD COUNTY  
PRIDE FAMILY DAY



JUNE 14TH, 2024 FROM  
7:00-9:00PM

@ THE COPPER MUG (79 BROADWAY  
ST TILLSONBURG)

JUNE 15TH, 2024 FROM  
11:00AM-4:00PM

@ MUSEUM SQUARE IN  
WOODSTOCK



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# Oxford Liberals





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[www.diversitycounselling.ca](http://www.diversitycounselling.ca)

# ONLINE



# AUCTION

Our online auction will be live from June 1<sup>st</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup> !

[WWW.OXFORDPRIDE.CA](http://WWW.OXFORDPRIDE.CA)

We have received tremendous support from organizations, businesses and individuals who believe in the work we do.

We will add items everyday until June 23 Each item will be up for auction for one week, higher value items for two weeks

Have fun bidding on some fantastic items and services

All monies go back into community events in Oxford County



# FRIENDS of PRIDE

Chuck Wagon Restaurant  
Gunning wildlife removal  
Two Guys and a whisk  
Theatre Woodstock  
Sundried Peach  
Crafty Corner Tea Room  
Chloe Weir Vocal Coach  
The Styling Studio  
Erins art and Curiosities  
Rainbow Nursing Interest Group

Fritzies East and west end  
New Dundee Emporium  
Vintners Wine Works  
TN24 Nails  
A Little off the top  
By RissCo  
Shoppers Drug Mart East  
Woodstock Art Gallery

# OXFORD COUNTY RESOURCE LIST

## **Camp Wendake**

A safe, welcoming residential camping experience for persons living with HIV and those who support them. It is the mission of Camp Wendake to provide a safe, welcoming residential camping experience for persons living with HIV and those who support them. We strive to honour diversity in age, gender, and race. Sexual orientation, ability, health status, culture, spirituality and economic state.

*WEBSITE:* [www.campwendake.org](http://www.campwendake.org) *EMAIL:* [info@campwendake.org](mailto:info@campwendake.org)

## **Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services**

CMHA Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services (TVAMHS) is an integrated mental health and addiction agency providing community-based supports and services to individuals living in London and the counties of Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, and South Huron.

*WEBSITE:* <https://cmhatv.ca/>

In Crisis 519-433-2023

Supportive listening 519-601-8055 or toll free at 1-844-360-8055

*Sites and locations:* 1-855-855-2642

*EMAIL:* [info@cmhatv.ca](mailto:info@cmhatv.ca)

## **CCLC – Cross Cultural Learner Centre**

Offers services and support for LGBTQ+ immigrants settling in Canada.

*WEBSITE:* [www.lcclc.org](http://www.lcclc.org)

*TELEPHONE:* 519-432-1133 ext. 237

*EMAIL:* [rainbow@lcclc.org](mailto:rainbow@lcclc.org)

## **CWHN**

Canadians for choice offers sexual and reproductive health information, and referral line.

*WEBSITE:* [cwhn.ca](http://cwhn.ca)

*TELEPHONE:* 1-888-642-2725

## **Diversity Counselling**

Counselling services in Woodstock Ontario Tami Murray

*WEBSITE:* [www.diversitycounselling.ca](http://www.diversitycounselling.ca)

*TELEPHONE:* 226-238-0464

## **EGALE**

Egale is Canada's leading organization for LGBTQI2S people and issues

*WEBSITE:* [egale.ca](http://egale.ca)

*TELEPHONE:* 1-888-204-7777 or 416-964-7887

LOVE IS LOUDER

## **Fierte Canada Pride**

is an association of Canadian Pride organizations powered by volunteers from across the country; Fierté Canada Pride's membership is made up of Pride organizations from every region of Canada. Our mission is to help build vibrant and strong Canadian Pride organizations through collaborating, offering support, networking, helping to develop a national identity of Pride, and offering resources and advocacy for its members.

*WEBSITE:* [www.fiertecanadapride.org](http://www.fiertecanadapride.org)

*TELEPHONE:* 1-833-311-0012 *EMAIL:* [hello@fiertecanadapride.org](mailto:hello@fiertecanadapride.org)

## **Karma Fertility Clinic**

Karma is Kitchener/Waterloos first full service fertility clinic. They have helped thousands of people in Waterloo region become parents.

*WEBSITE:* [karmaobgyn.com](http://karmaobgyn.com)

*TELEPHONE:* 519-570-0090

## **HIV/AIDS Connection**

We are community-inspired and dedicated to positively impacting the lives of individuals and diverse communities living with, at-risk for or affected by HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (HCV). *TELEPHONE:* 1-866-920-1601

## **Hope for Wellness**

Support for all Indigenous People in Canada 24/7 to offer counselling or crisis intervention. Chat online at [hopeforwellness.ca](http://hopeforwellness.ca).

*WEBSITE:* [hopeforwellness.ca](http://hopeforwellness.ca) *TELEPHONE:* 1-855-242-3310

## **Kids Help Phone**

Kids help phone is always there for you. No matter what you want to talk about.

*WEBSITE:* [kidshelpphone.ca](http://kidshelpphone.ca) *TELEPHONE:* 1-800-668-6868

## **Native Youth Sexual Health**

An organization by and for Indigenous youth that works across issues of sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice.

*WEBSITE:* [nativeyouthsexualhealth.com](http://nativeyouthsexualhealth.com)

## **OK2BME**

OK2BME is a set of free, supportive services for LGBTQ2+ identified children, teens and their families in Waterloo Region. The OK2BME program consists of three unique areas including confidential counselling services (in person, or online), OK2BME Youth Groups for individuals 12-18, as well as public education, consulting and training around LGBTQ2+ issues.

*TELEPHONE:* 519-884-0000

*EMAIL:* [ok2bme@kwcounselling.com](mailto:ok2bme@kwcounselling.com)

## **Open Closet**

A social support group for LGBTQ2+ Youth. A safe space for youth to participate in discussions dealing with matters related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Call between 9 am and 5 pm,

Monday to Friday. *TELEPHONE:* 519-434-1601 (London) or Toll-Free at 1-866-920-1601

*EMAIL:* [opencloset@hivaidsconnection.ca](mailto:opencloset@hivaidsconnection.ca)



## **Oxford County Trans Clinic**

The Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic in partnership with the Thames Valley Family Health Team has opened a Trans Clinic for individuals aged 16+ residing in Oxford County who are seeking gender-affirming care and support. Clients can either self-refer or have a service provider fax a referral <https://www.ingersollnplc.ca/oxford-county-trans-clinic/> for referral form and Oxford County Trans Clinic information. To book an appointment, self-refer or if you have further questions please call the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic Oxford County Trans Clinic Intake Coordinator at (519-926-6752).

## **PFLAG**

PFLAG London helps all persons within our reach who are struggling with issues of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. We also support, educate and provide resources to parents, families, friends, and colleagues with questions or concerns regarding these issues.

## **Prism Program— Big Brothers Big Sisters Oxford**

(Pride, Respect, Identity, Safety and Mentoring). PRISM is entirely designed to connect LGBTQ2IA+ children and youth with 2SLGBTQIA+ adults.

*TELEPHONE:* (519) 537-6404

*WEBSITE:* [oxford.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](http://oxford.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)

## **Rainbow Health Ontario**

Province-wide program that works to improve the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (2SLGBTQ+) people in Ontario through education, research, outreach and public policy advocacy.

*TELEPHONE:* 416-324-4100 *EMAIL:* [info@rainbowhealthontario.ca](mailto:info@rainbowhealthontario.ca)

## **Rainbow Optimists Club Southwestern Ontario**

Dedicated to bettering the lives of LGBTQ2Q+ rural youth, their families and their communities in Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford Counties. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & Youtube!

*EMAIL:* [rainbowoptimist@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowoptimist@gmail.com)

## **Rainbow Youth Umbrella**

A social group for children 6-14 who identify as 2SLGBTQ+. We meet the first Thursday of each month 6 pm – 8 pm at Innovation Works.

*EMAIL:* [tryulondon@gmail.com](mailto:tryulondon@gmail.com)

## **Reach Out**

Provides mental health and addictions information, support and crisis services in London, Middlesex, Elgin and Oxford County.

*WEBSITE:* [www.reachout247.ca](http://www.reachout247.ca) (Webchat available)

*TELEPHONE:* 519-433-2023 or 1-866-933-2023

*TEXT:* 519-433-2023

## **Southwest Public Health**

Promotes healthy sexuality by offering free and accurate sexual health information and support. We offer confidential, services in a safe non-judgemental space to residents in Oxford County, Elgin County and St. Thomas. By appointment only.

*WEBSITE:* [www.swpublichealth.ca](http://www.swpublichealth.ca) *TELEPHONE:* 519-539-4431 or toll free: 1-800-922-0096

## **Spectrum Fanshawe College**

A student run social and advocacy group for 2SLGBTQ+ identified individuals and allies, sponsored by the Fanshawe Student Union. Spectrum regularly hosts discussion nights and information sessions with guest speakers, movie nights, coffee houses and other social events, as well as encouraging student participation in community events like the AIDS walk for life and the Rainbow revolution

*WEBSITE:* [www.fsu.ca](http://www.fsu.ca) and [www.facebook.com/spectrumfanshawec](http://www.facebook.com/spectrumfanshawec)

## **Talk for Healing**

24/7 help, and resources for indigenous women, by Indigenous women, all across Ontario.

*WEBSITE:* [talkforhealing.com](http://talkforhealing.com)

*TELEPHONE:* 1-855-554-HEAL

## **Trans Lifeline**

Trans Lifeline connects trans people to the community, support and resources.

*WEBSITE:* [translifeline.org](http://translifeline.org)

*TELEPHONE:* 1-877565-8860

## **Trans\* London**

Functions as a social and networking group for the Transgender population of the London Ontario Region. We believe that people should be empowered to control their transition, with the support of their families and friends and community through various agencies and groups who can and do support the Transgender community.

Trans\* social group for all ages, abilities and identities. Allies welcome. Join us the second Monday of each month, space is fully accessible. health and quality of life for children, youth and families by delivering a continuum of effective services" Available to children and youth 0-18 and to parents and guardians. Find us on Facebook!

*TELEPHONE:* 519-539-0463 or toll free 1-877-539-0463

*EMAIL:* [transldont@gmail.com](mailto:transldont@gmail.com)

## **Trans Wellness Ontario**

Committed to providing quality care and services while ensuring a healthy and safe environment.

*WEBSITE:* [www.transwellness.ca](http://www.transwellness.ca) *TELEPHONE:* 226-674-4745

## **Welkins Crisis Line**

Wellkin (formerly OECYC) delivers family mental health care with a focus on infants, children and youth living in Oxford and Elgin counties. Our programs and services support the needs of each individual while the agency maintains a well-rounded approach that includes screening, assessment, treatment, and education. The supports and services have no costs attached. We aim to engage and support families/ caregivers and peers in delivering care to infants, children and youth, while being responsive to their unique life and family circumstances. We wish that everyone accessing our services will achieve stability through active participation in treatment plans designed to address safe, healthy, and manageable outcomes.

*WEBSITE:* [www.welkin.ca](http://www.welkin.ca) *TELEPHONE:* 1-877-539-0463

*EMAIL:* [info@welkin.ca](mailto:info@welkin.ca)

## **Women's Employment Resource Centre**

provides employment services free of charge for women of Oxford County. We commit ourselves to speaking the truth about the personal, institutional and cultural barriers that women experience, including violence, trauma and poverty.

*WEBSITE:* [www.werc.ca](http://www.werc.ca) *TELEPHONE:* 519-421-2077 ext. 23

## **YEA – Youth Engagement Advisory Committee**

Hosts virtual wellness events to keep our community engaged and to offer youth a chance to connect while plans for an in-person youth hub move forward.

*EMAIL:* [thehub@welkin.ca](mailto:thehub@welkin.ca)

## **Youth line**

The 2SLGBTQ+ Youth line is a toll free Ontario wide peer support phone line for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Two-Spirited, Queer and Questioning young people. *TELEPHONE:* 1-888-687-9688 toll free throughout Ontario

## **Youth Suicide prevention**

Created to raise awareness and prevention regarding youth suicides and mental health in Oxford County. Find us on Facebook!

*WEBSITE:* [www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca) *TELEPHONE:* Call 1-800-668-6868 text 686868

# Oxford County Pride Committee

The Oxford County Pride Committee is comprised of 2SLGBTQIA+ community members and allies. The objective of our committee is to develop an artistic and cultural Pride celebration. We recognize diversity of gender throughout Oxford County. In doing so, the Pride Committee highlights organizations, business', services and opportunities that support and promote positive outcomes for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and Allies. We are a volunteer organization.

## **PRESIDENT**

Tami Murray  
president@oxfordpride.ca

## **Vice-President**

Jordan Kent  
vp@oxfordpride.ca

## **Recording Secretary**

Tera Russell

## **Treasurer/Website**

Philip Vandermolen  
mail@oxfordpride.ca

## **Transgender Ambassador**

Alicia Sweeney  
alicia@oxfordpride.ca

## **2Spirit and Indigiqueer Coordinator**

Trissa Marshal-Desutter  
trissa@oxfordpride.ca

## **Youth Ambassadors**

Kay Sweeney  
kay@oxfordpride.ca  
Kaz Luciani  
kaz@oxfordpride.ca

## **Social Media**

Parker Van Belleghem

## **Volunteer Coordinator**

Sarah Stevens  
sarah@oxfordpride.ca

## **Standing Members**

Stephanie Johnstone  
Joseph Taylor  
Michaela Harris  
Chris Takacs

*We are always looking for financial sponsors. Without our local businesses and organizations support we would not be able to provide events and activities to educate persons in our community. Our goal is to make 2SLGBTQIA+ persons in Oxford County feel safer and included within their communities.*

**Please support those who support us!**

**If you are interested in volunteering with our committee, fill out a volunteer form on our website.**

**We accept new standing members at our annual general meeting in October.**





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