

Muskoka Pride Community



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For Immediate Release

4th ANNUAL MUSKOKA PRIDE CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON DEFINING DIVERSITY

Conference focuses on Two Spirit Identities, Human Rights, and Straight Allies

GRAVENHURST, ONTARIO – October 27th, 2016 – For the fourth year in a row, Muskoka Pride Community is hosting a conference looking at issues concerning the LGBTQ community of Muskoka.

The 4th annual Muskoka Pride Conference – Defining Diversity – will be held on Thursday, November 3rd at the Residence Inn by Marriott in Gravenhurst. This year's conference features 4 sessions related to the LGBTQ community.

For Heather Hay, Chairperson of Muskoka Pride, the conference represents how far the organization has grown. "Five years ago – in 2011 – we were still working to have the Rainbow Flag raised in Muskoka. At this year's conference we have presenters from Toronto, Barrie, and Muskoka speaking on diverse topics."

Hay stressed the importance of the conference for LGBTQ residents and tourists of Muskoka. "This conference is geared for health care providers, social workers, educators – people on the frontlines working with the public. We want their LGBTQ clients to feel welcomed, with inclusive language and informed professionals."

This year's keynote is being presented by Veronica Johnny, from Toronto. She will be sharing her personal journey as a Two Spirit (2S) identified person. Other sessions include: How to be an Ally, Politics and Human Rights, and Elder Abuse & LGBTQ Seniors.

Those interested in registering can go to the Muskoka Pride website (www.muskokapride.com) and register online. The cost is \$30, which includes all workshops and lunch. Scholarships are also available, thanks to sponsorship from OPSEU Rainbow Alliance.

For further information about all Muskoka Pride events, go to our website or visit the Muskoka Pride Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/muskokapride)

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About Muskoka Pride - The Muskoka Pride Community is a volunteer group that formed in 2009, whose purpose is to increase awareness of the LGBTQ community of Muskoka and to create opportunities for inclusivity within Muskoka that overcome heterosexism and homo/bi/trans-phobia, providing a safe community for LGBT people. The Muskoka Pride Community hosts the annual Muskoka Pride Picnic on the Sunday before the Civic Holiday weekend and Pride Week activities throughout Muskoka.

Muskoka Pride presents

Defining Diversity

LGB... TQQIP2SAA

4th Annual Conference

November 3, 2016

9am - 4pm

Residence Inn Marriott
Gravenhurst, ON

More information at

www.muskokapride.com

Or call (705) 646-7677

Featuring...

Veronica Johnny

What is Two Spirit 2S Identity

Dale Boyle

How to be an Ally

Lennox LePage

Politics & Human Rights

Heather Hay

Elder Abuse and LGBTQ Seniors

Lunch is included

Scholarships are available

