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## For Immediate Release

### MUSKOKA PRIDE HOLDING EVENT TO RECOGNIZE TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

BRACEBRIDGE, ONTARIO – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Almost 300 trans and gender-diverse people were reported murdered in the last year around the world.

November 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> is recognized as Trans Awareness Week. It is a week to help raise the visibility of transgender and gender-diverse people and address the issues these communities face.

Muskoka Pride invites the community to participate in recognizing the International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) this Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at Bracebridge United Church (46 Dominion St.) at 6pm. The event both celebrates the diversity of transgender life and honours those who have lost their lives in the past year.

The event will include a screening of the film “Transgender Life in Slovenia” (2016) with filmmaker Michelle Emson, who will be doing a Q&A after the screening. Muskoka Pride screened her previous film “Pride of Ukraine” during the 2015 Muskoka Pride Festival.

For Emson the Trans Day of Remembrance is especially significant, as she came out as transgender in 2011. She says, “If we can come to accept our own uniqueness, then perhaps we could come to respect and accept the uniqueness of others.” She is an LGBTQ Human Rights advocate and has given many presentations on the subject. This month she was a presenter at the Muskoka Pride Conference.

The local TDoR event will include reading the names of the 295 trans and gender-diverse people who were victims of transphobic violence between October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. We will be joined by singer-songwriter Angie Nussey and Cree performance artist Veronica Johnny.

Since 2008 (when records started being kept) a total of 2,264 deaths have been reported worldwide in 68 countries.

For further information on this and other Muskoka Pride events, go to [www.muskokapride.com](http://www.muskokapride.com) or visit the Muskoka Pride Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/muskokapride](http://www.facebook.com/muskokapride)

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**About the Trans Day of Remembrance** – The Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) has been recognized on November 20<sup>th</sup> since 1999. It recognizes those trans and gender-diverse people who have been victims of homicide each year. TDoR raises public awareness of hate crimes against trans and gender-diverse people, provides a space for public mourning, and honours the lives of those who might otherwise be forgotten. Started in the USA, TDoR is now held in many parts of the world.

**About Muskoka Pride** - The Muskoka Pride Community is a volunteer group that formed in 2009, whose purpose is to increase awareness of the LGBT 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.