

Muskoka Pride

Community



For Immediate Release

THE PRIDE FLAG WILL FLY IN GEORGIAN BAY THIS JULY

MUSKOKA, ONTARIO – May 12, 2015 – The Township of Georgian Bay committee of the whole voted unanimously on Tuesday to raise the Rainbow Pride flag this year during the Muskoka Pride Festival. The committee voted to endorse the Flag Policy prepared by staff and directed the purchase of a 25 foot Courtesy Pole to be located near the Community Services building.

Muskoka Pride saw an outpouring of support from local and cottage residents, sending messages to the Township and Mayor Braid. Individuals shared their stories about diversity and inclusion, and the importance of raising the Rainbow Pride flag.

“I would like to thank all of our members and allies who took the time to write letters of support and tell us what Pride and the Rainbow flag means to you” said Muskoka Pride Chair, Heather Hay. She says that for the youth who hears 26 gay slurs a day, the flag is a visible symbol that it does get better.

Responses ranged from heartfelt letters of support to stories detailing homophobia endured daily. Some of the most inspiring responses were simple statements of what the Pride flag means: Hope. Acceptance. Celebration. Belonging. Safe space. Welcoming.

Hay expressed her thanks to the Township staff, “for working to find a solution and to Mayor Braid and Council for supporting a diverse and inclusive community.”

Muskoka Pride has received confirmations from Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, and Lake of Bays Township for this year’s flag raisings and expects to hear from Muskoka Lakes Township within the next month. 2015 will mark the second year in a row that all six municipalities in Muskoka will raise the Rainbow Pride flag. Members of the public – LGBTQ and allies alike – are invited to participate in the ceremonies on July 20th

For more details about the 2015 Muskoka Pride Festival, and other resources for the Muskoka LGBTQ community, please go to www.muskokapride.com

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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 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. The 2015 Muskoka Pride Festival runs from July 17 to 26.