

In addition to my role as Secretary, I am also responsible for all Muskoka Pride social media accounts, the Muskoka Pride website, coordinating details of the Pride Week and social events, all grant writing, and overseeing the grant reporting.

Our social media accounts have continued to be active throughout the year, adding followers and responding to inquiries. Across our 3 accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) we have almost 6000 followers!

Throughout the year, we have continued our monthly social gatherings. We hold a coffee social in Gravenhurst on the first Friday of the month, a coffee social in Bracebridge on the third Friday, and a youth group in Bracebridge on the second Friday. Recently we have been seeing small numbers for the coffee socials, so we are taking a break until January. The Youth Group regularly has 9-15 participants, and now PFLAG Muskoka is holding a meeting for parents at the same time.

These monthly events are important, because they have increased our visibility, they allow opportunities to network with others in the community, and also provide a regular chance for people new to the community to meet others.

Muskoka Pride had a successful Pride Week, even though we had to cancel the Parade and Festival due to extreme weather. We continue to explore new partnerships with groups in the community – Huntsville Theatre Company, TimberBeast Productions, Bracebridge & Trinity United Churches, Lake of Bays Brewery, and Muskoka Bay Resort – to name just a few. Its because of these partnerships that we were able to host such a diverse week of Pride events.

Muskoka Pride was extremely proud to partner with YWCA Muskoka for the rebranded “Walk A Mile in Their Shoes” fundraiser. The portion of funds raised that go to Muskoka Pride are directed to programs supporting Muskoka’s LGBTQ+ youth – the monthly Youth Group, supporting PFLAG Muskoka, and supporting the high school and elementary GSA clubs.

Muskoka Pride was successful with 3 grants last year – the Heritage Canada “Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage” grant immensely helps us during the annual Pride Week. We finally used the 2020 Bracebridge Event Tourism grant (which was held back for two years due to covid). We also received funding from the District of Muskoka Community Enhancement grant, which was used to purchase 7 rainbow benches for Muskoka municipalities.

It has been an absolute pleasure and a wonderful challenge to serve Muskoka Pride in these roles.

**Shawn Forth**

**Secretary and Promotions**

[muskokapridefestival@hotmail.com](mailto:muskokapridefestival@hotmail.com)