

From the Editor



Well, we made it through that long cold winter and summer is finally here—YAY!

Nothing puts a spring in my stride quite like the warm sunshine beating

down and I know I'm not the only one. Clothes come off, smiles are put on and Church Street suddenly bustles to life as people gear up for what many consider Gay Christmas—Pride! With so many parties going on it's hard not to get completely lost in the ensuing festivities. We've come a long way since that first picnic on Ward's Island in 1972. Some people though, despair at the chaos the week often embodies wondering is this what we were fighting for? Matt explores the question "What Does Pride Mean?"

In our regular closing column, "Looking Back," this year's parade Grand Marshall—Enza Supermodel Anderson—shares memories of her first ever Pride Day and how it influenced her to become who she is today.

Some of us do everything we can to get out of the city at the end of June, or any other weekend for that matter. Need a break from the hectic urban pace? In "Gay Wilderness Get Away," Troy guides that rare breed of homosexual--the camper, and no I don't mean show tunes and drag!--to the best spots to pitch a tent and get back to nature.

Prefer a getaway with a little more sophistication? Head to wine country right in our very own backyard. Niagara-on-the-Lake is

host to more world famous wineries that you could possibly see in just one weekend. Join me as I take you on a tour and talk to the man instrumental in transforming our alcoholic grape juice into vintages worthy of winning prestigious international medals. Be sure to take along Mark's article "Antiquing 101" just in case you happen by an estate auction or yard sale.

For those of us who just can't live without the vibe of the city in summer, get the low-down from Manny on the events to see and be seen at in "Summer in the City," while Scott serves up fabu patios in "Swish Summer Hot Spots."

Rather spend an afternoon at the beach or the pool relaxing with a good book? We've got you covered. Our fiction piece, "Stealing Nasreen," is an excerpt from Farzana's full length novel of the same name—so be sure to pick it up if the story excites your steamy summer mood. Michele waxes poetic on just that in her regular column, "From the Heart."

When Shaun Proulx, editor of Gay Guide Toronto.com, gave me my first ever column he asked me to discover up-and-coming local gay artists and introduce them to the community. Toronto is home to so many creative people I always loved the idea of bringing their talents to the attention of others, so much so that I've resurrected "Hot Artist" here in the pages of Pink Play Mags. This issue, join Daniella as she uncovers our city's hidden jazz scene with torch singer Serafin.

Whew! We've got a lot packed between our covers, so enjoy and we'll see you in the autumn as we officially become a quarterly.

Have a great summer,

Jeff Harrison

editor@thepinkpagesdirectory.com