

From the Editor



When I was first coming out, picking up Church and Wellesley's answer to the Yellow Pages opened my eyes to the gay neighbourhood waiting just outside my door.

So when Antoine approached me with the offer to head up the editorial team for his re-launch of *The Pink Pages Directory* and its sister publications *winterplay!* and *summerplay!* I leapt at the chance.

Gay friendly businesses can now be found everywhere and it seems that our pink dollar has really helped pave the way to widespread acceptance. We no longer need to remain exclusive to our little corner of the city and as attitudes and minds continue to change we are realizing there is a big gay world out there waiting for us.

And that's what we hope to expand upon within the pages of our future publications, starting with this issue of *winterplay!* Church and Wellesley will always remain the heart of the city for us, but there are so many other queer communities popping up all over the map, we look forward to including them as *The Pink Pages Directory* extends its coverage.

Now winter has never been my favourite season, too cold, too damp, and too dark. Only Christmas with family and friends, followed by at least a week away somewhere tropical, has been the only way I can make it bearable—and I know I'm not alone feeling that way. But as I worked with my talented team on pulling this issue together, I was reminded

of all possibilities winter has to offer. Probably Port Hope and Elora are to gay tourists. I grew up in a small town and couldn't wait to get out of there soon enough, but these quaint towns, known for their antiques and artisans, would make the perfect getaway for a weekend of relaxed holiday shopping—think of the unique gifts you'll find!

Nestled deeper in our pages, some of Toronto's hottest culinary experts share their most cherished recipes for you to wow family and friends with during the holidays.

And if you can't manage the luxury of escaping the snow as we suggest in our travel getaway, then be sure to check out our guide to all the diverse and exciting entertainment our city has to offer this season. I'm sure you'll happen upon something fun to take the chill out of your winter blues.

So as you scramble madly around during the holiday season buying presents, juggling schedules for work and festive parties, take a moment out to relax over a robust cabernet or a soothing hot cup of coffee and curl up with our holiday story or thoughts from the heart.

Stay warm, enjoy your read and feel free to drop us a line to tell us what you think.

Happy holidays and we'll see you in the spring!

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