

Hamilton Pride 2000 expands to four days

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Hamilton Pride festivities started five years ago. Back then, the event consisted of a very small, quiet picnic.

Year after year the event grew; a dance was added, then a church service. Vendors displayed their wares.

Hamilton Pride 2000 is the next step forward in the evolution of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender awareness and acceptance.

For the first time the festival will span four days, not one. It starts tonight at 7:30 with the welcome ceremony at the Hamilton Art Gallery (123 King West; 527-6610). Entertainment begins at 8 p.m. with Cathy Drown and Greg Upshaw. At dusk is a screening of *The Celluloid Closet*, a documentary based on the book by Vito Russo and narrated by Lily Tomlin.

On Friday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., the YWCA (75 MacNab South; 522- 9922) presents *Out Proud*. The women's dance is a fundraiser for *A Day in the Life*, a lesbian comic strip by Hamilton native Finnian Cole. Advance tickets are available for \$6 at Gomorrah's (158 James South; 526-1074 or The Women's Bookstop (333 Main West; 525-2970), or \$8 at the door. For more information call 541-6821.

Also at 8 p.m., the *Vagina Monologues* are at the Ontario Worker's Arts and Heritage Centre (OWAHC, 51 Stuart Street; 522-3003). The play features women aged of five to 95 talking about how they relate to their vaginas. An 80-year-old woman discusses how she had never seen parts of herself before. For information call 549-7483.

Hamilton's first pride march is on Saturday at noon. The rally starts at City Hall with speeches and continues down two lanes of the road to Dundurn Park, where full pride festivities will begin. From 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dundurn Park will fill with a barbecue, licensed bar, games, and entertainment.

Dance in the Park with DJ Don Summerfield goes from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., with a second showing of the *Vagina Monologues* at the OWAHC at 8 p.m.

Sunday at 10:30 a.m. is the final service at the queer-positive Unitarian Universalist Church of Hamilton (170 Dundurn South, 527- 8441) before summer holidays. The service will be led by Reverend Allison Barrett.

The festival wraps up with a pride brunch at the Bombay Club (121 Hughson North; 540-8008) at noon.