

## **2007 Pride Citizen of The Year Acceptance Speech**

A big THANK YOU to the Hamilton Pride Committee for bestowing me with this honour.

I'd also like to give a shout out to my fellow nominees Derek and Nathalie who both give so much to our community.

An even bigger THANK YOU to my nominator Jae Adams who has been my partner in crime for several years now when it comes to queer activism in this city. He didn't tell me he was going to do this, sneaky sneaky, so I was sincerely surprised when the committee informed me I was nominated.

So many of my friends and colleagues and collaborators in Hamilton's Queer community are here tonight and really I must thank all of you for this honour. It takes a team to create community and cause change. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the support of my queer community. Diverse and dysfunctional though we may be, we are an ever-growing force in Hamilton that can no longer be ignored.

I have never lost sight of what I am advocating for as a queer activist, because I have lived side by side with so many of you combating homophobia and working towards a future where acceptance is the norm, not the exception.

I am what I am. A Proud Queer Hamiltonian.

Thank you.