

My Community, My Family

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"[I] wanted to know more about your people, so I began studying your history. I came to the conclusion that of all the races we have encountered humans were the most dangerous. Because humans form communities, and from that diversity comes a strength no single race can withstand. That is your strength and it is that which makes you dangerous." - Delenn from the Babylon 5 episode Lines of Communication

I hold Delenn's words close to my heart for I believe my communities are my family.

In the May 27th issue of XTRA!, one of their regular comic strips, The Chosen Family by Canadian cartoonist Noreen Stevens, presents a poignant counterpoint to the Focus on The Family ads that have recently appeared in The Hamilton Spectator.

The strip says the following: *"We believe in Moms and Dads, Aunties, Grandfathers, Foster Parents, Teachers, Friends. Our Community is where life takes place, and lasting lessons come from the people around us – all our relations. We believe in community, and our community's commitment to justice and equality is the foundation of our society. Gay Marriage – if you don't believe in it, don't have one! To learn more, open your mind."*

Even more poignant is the image that accompanies these words: A lesbian couple with their foster child and various families, couples and individuals from every colour in the rainbow.

Hamilton Pride, an annual festival which celebrates Hamilton's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community, will be taking place this year from June 13th to 20th. I have been a part of the organizing team for several years. This year is our 8th anniversary. Every year, the support from our "Hamilton Family" gets stronger and stronger. Hamilton's GLBT community would love to have you be a part of our "family" by celebrating Hamilton Pride with us.

"Different . . . yes. But we are both living beings – we are born, we grow, we live and we die. In all the ways that matter, we are alike!" – Captain Picard from the Star Trek: The Next Generation episode Who Watches The Watchers