

# HISTORY OF PRIDE TORONTO

- 1969** On August 28, the Canadian government decriminalizes homosexual acts for consenting adults over 21, under then-Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau. Trudeau utters his famous "the state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation" statement.
- 1971** Toronto's first "Gay Day Picnic" is held on the beach at Hanlan's Point.
- 1980** First official Pride Toronto Celebration.
- 1984** Church Street, the heart of Toronto's Church-Wellesley queer village, is closed for the first time. This annual tradition continues to this day on a much larger scale.
- 1987** Sexual Orientation is included in the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- 1991** Toronto City Council proclaims Pride Day for the first time. In November, openly gay candidate Kyle Rae wins seat as Toronto City Councillor for Ward 6.
- 1992** The Supreme Court of Canada rules that under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Human Rights Act, gays and lesbians cannot be excluded from entering the Canadian Forces. The federal government does not appeal the ruling.
- 1996** The City of Toronto and the Pride Committee study Pride's economic impact, which shows that over \$46 million is spent by Pride tourists.
- 1998** Toronto's new mayor Mel Lastman participates in the annual Pride Parade for the first time, having a fantastic time getting soaked by revelers with power water guns.
- 1999** Corporate sponsorship revenues are higher than ever and put Pride Toronto on firm financial footing for the next year.
- 2001** For the first time, the City of Toronto's Official Proclamation of Pride Week includes bisexuals, transsexuals, and transgendered people. Canadian newspaper The Globe and Mail reports that Toronto's Pride parade has become "a Canadian institution."
- 2006** Toronto's Pride Parade is lead by Pride Toronto's first International Grand Marshal, highlighting the issues of inequality faced by our brothers and sisters worldwide and honoured the heroes of Toronto's own queer community past and present.
- 2009** On October 18, at InterPride's annual conference in St. Petersburg, Florida, Pride Toronto wins the bid to host WorldPride in 2014, over rival Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2010** Pride Toronto celebrates its 30th festival.
- 2012** On June 13, the Ontario government passes Bill 33 (Toby's Act), which amends the Ontario Human Rights Code to include gender identity and gender expression, making Ontario the first major jurisdiction in North America to provide human rights protection for transgendered people.
- 2013** Toronto's 33rd annual Pride Festival is celebrated from June 21-30, with the theme "Superqueer!"
- 2014** **Toronto hosts WorldPride 2014**, the largest event of its kind. Ever.

June 20-29, 2014

  
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