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NEWSLETTER - VOLUME VIII - No. IV - June 2007

An LGBT Family Coalition is Born! ***By Mona Greenbaum, LMA coordinator***

In the fall of 2005 a new group for families with gay, bi and trans fathers (and future fathers) came together: the Papa-Daddy Group. This was something that the LMA had eagerly anticipated for a long time. Not only could we now show our kids that “Yes, families with two dads really *do* exist,” but also there was so much potential for us as two groups to come together for both social and political purposes.

By Christmas 2005 the LMA helped to launch the Papa-Daddy Group with our first joint Christmas party. Since then, we’ve done a number of successful social family activities together. Rather than merge as one group however there was still a strong feeling in both groups to stay autonomous, but to do things in common when it made sense. For example, a hugely successful partnership was forged with the *Adoption and Foster Family Discussion Group* run by H el ene Boulanger and Gary Sutherland.

Also on the sidelines, we have been collaborating on a number of different levels. There is a constant cross-referencing for media interviews between our two groups, joint public presentations and significant help from the Papa-Daddies on our soon-to-be launched booklet: “Adoption and Fostering of Quebec Born Children: A Guide for Gays and Lesbians.”

The LMA has traditionally had a strong political component to it. We were actively involved in the fight for family rights in Quebec with a huge amount of success on so many levels. Our families now have the same legal rights as other families and even starting a family has become much easier. But we all know that there is a lot of political work left to do. In schools, our families are still marginalised and our children often feel the brunt of homophobia. In order to have a real impact we need to work together.

For this reason after a number of informal meetings our mandate and name were chosen. On May 10th the **LGBT Family Coalition (*Coalition des familles homoparentales*)** held its first General Assembly. Alain Audet the president of Papa-Daddy and I will be the first co-presidents of this new coalition. We have legally registered our organisation and can boast of an 18-member board made up of both seasoned activists and new and enthusiastic faces, all of us brimming with ideas:

- ❖ Increased media visibility, including timely responses to negative articles on our families.
- ❖ Projects in schools and daycares to fight homophobia and demystify our families.
- ❖ An information handbook, for social services, healthcare practitioners and school staff, about the 30 years of research on our families.
- ❖ Continued collaboration with other community groups to ensure the implementation of the recommendations found in the Quebec Human Rights Commission’s 2007 report on homophobia (see www.cdpdj.qc.ca).
- ❖ More information for our members, including a new interactive web site that will provide updated news of importance to LGBT families.

- ❖ An LGBT Family Centre in the new *Carrefour-Arc-en-ciel*, slated to open in 2008.
- ❖ Increased services for LGBT families living in regions.

More information on the LGBT Family Coalition will become available in the months to come. For those interested in joining our work **please contact Mona at info@aml-lma.org or at 514-846-1543.**

Interested in writing for our newsletter? Send your articles at any time to info@aml-lma.org or by post to AML, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8

News Briefs: March - June 2007

Montreal and Quebec News

March 1st (Quebec City) André Boisclair, the openly gay Parti Quebecois leader, had to address his homosexuality for the first time in the Quebec election campaign. Boisclair was asked in the Quebec City area about comments by a radio host from the isolated Saguenay region who said factory workers wouldn't vote for someone who's gay.

The PQ leader was asked if homophobia is posing a problem for his faltering campaign in the March 26 provincial election.

"You know what? I'll allow Quebecers to answer that question," said Boisclair, who paused at length before his answer.

Louis Champagne, a radio host in Saguenay, declared on air that local factory workers would never vote for a "tapette" - Quebec slang for homosexuals. He was referring to a local PQ candidate in the region, about 250 kilometres north of Quebec City.

"Is he saying on the radio that people in Saguenay and Lac-St-Jean are more homophobic than other people elsewhere in Quebec?" Boisclair said. "Homophobia exists, but I feel that these words are very insulting for the people of Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean."

March 6 (Montreal) A report done for the Quebec Human Rights Commission says gays and lesbians still encounter discrimination at school, in the workplace and at home. It comes after Quebec's justice minister asked the commission in June 2005 to create a task force to draw up a list of problems created by homophobia.

Marc-Andre Dowd, the vice-chairman of the commission, says Quebec is not a homophobic society, but homophobia still exists in the province. He says traces of homophobia continue to show up in a number of areas, including education, social and health services, justice, and public security.

The commission has called on the province to create a policy on homophobia and to designate a minister to be responsible for its implementation.

It's particularly worried about young gay or bisexual males who are many times more likely to have suicidal

tendencies than young male heterosexuals.

May 1 (Montreal) *Montreal Pride LGB2T*, an organisation recently put in place by Divers/Cité, to organise the pride parade and the community days, has, after a period of consultation with community groups, decided that it will not be able to bring this project to term. Divers/Cité's separate cultural festival, however, will take place during the summer as planned.

Community groups that were consulted in the process expressed their needs and concerns and wanted to be part of the organising committee. However because of a lack of concensus, especially over an appropriate date for the events, as well as a lack of available dates this late in the process, the organisation which was only months old will dissolve.

May 8 (Quebec City) Party Quebecois leader André Boisclair, the first openly gay man to lead a political party in North America, resigned in the aftermath of a struggle for power within the Separatist camp, and less than a year-and-a-half after he was chosen to lead the PQ.

Last fall, after the 41-year old was elected leader of the party at its convention, Boisclair told the French language CBC that his sexuality could be a plus in his quest to lead the party back into power in Quebec and then take the province to independence from Canada.

"I think I can contribute to changing the mentality," he told the national broadcaster. "All the better if people hear about my story and recognize themselves in it."

But it was not to be.

In March voters returned the Liberals to office in a minority government, and the heat for Boisclair to step down began. He then became involved in a bitter squabble with federal Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe, accusing Duceppe of preparing to jump to Quebec City to replace him.

"I gave the best of myself in this position but the current conditions don't allow me to do this anymore," Boisclair told a Quebec City news conference. "I'm 41. I am still young and I still have a lot of things to accomplish in my life." Boisclair said that even though he was giving up the party leadership he would stay on as a member of the legislature.

Canadian News

February 20 (Ottawa) Prime Minister Stephen Harper and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates announced that Canada will host a new HIV vaccine research center as part of a multimillion-dollar initiative to combat the deadly virus. Harper says his government is committing up to \$111 million to a new fund called the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative, while the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged another \$28 million.

The money will help build a research facility and support Canadian researchers and institutions to work with partners around the world on a range of research initiatives to develop a "safe, affordable" HIV vaccine.

"There is no doubt - the development of an effective HIV vaccine is one of the greatest scientific challenges of our time," Harper said. "But Canada is up to the task, because we are a global leader. Through today's initiative Canada, in partnership with the Gates foundation, will provide the resources necessary to realize this worthy goal "thus sparing millions of people from the horrific reality of HIV/AIDS."

Gates says most scientists believe it will take 10 years to develop a vaccine and he added that every year saved

in its delivery saves millions of lives. "Scientists are in strong agreement that this will be one of the toughest vaccines ever to create. I'm optimistic that we will get a vaccine. I know that today's announcement will bring a lot of brilliant minds - including a lot of Canadian minds - to bear on this most important problem."

Government spokespeople said the facility would bring together members of the scientific community, the private sector, and government officials.

April 16 (Toronto, Ontario) The spiritual head of Anglicans worldwide announced that he'll meet with the American church to discuss the controversy surrounding same-sex marriage and gay priests.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, on the first day of his Canadian visit, said the issue threatens to divide the church. "Yes, these are difficult days," Williams said from the headquarters of Anglican Church of Canada. "I think the (church) in recent years has had to face the fact that the division on certain subjects, especially sexuality, has been getting much more deep and bitter and threatens to divide us."

Williams said his aim is to "keep people around the table as long as possible on this to understand one another."

The question facing the Anglican Church, namely of what forms of behavior it has the freedom or authority to bless, can't be settled just by decree from the church's leading figure, he said. The U.S. church faces a Sept. 30 deadline to ban the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of gay bishops or face possible expulsion from the international communion.

Williams' visit to Canada comes following remarks from Canada's Anglican leader, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, who criticized Williams's handling of the issue. In the British press, Hutchison accused the head of the church of indecision and failing to lead the church on those issues. The Canadian church will hold its general synod in Winnipeg in June to nominate Hutchison's replacement. During his visit, Williams will receive honorary degrees from the University of Toronto and attend a retreat with Canadian bishops.

May 7 (Ottawa) A study prepared for the Canadian government shows children do as well, perhaps better, when reared by same-sex parents as they do by opposite-sex couples.

The study has just now become public even though it was commissioned by the government in 2003 leading to accusations that the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper attempted to bury the research.

When the study was ordered the Liberals were in power and courts across the country were beginning to strike down federal restrictions limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples. The Liberals went on to legalize same-sex marriage in 2005. The party was defeated the following year by the Tories who promised to revisit the vote.

The study on child rearing was not complete until after the Conservatives came to power.

Last December a motion to reopen the gay marriage issue was defeated by Parliament. During the debate no mention was made of the study, by Prof. Paul Hastings at Concordia University, but Harper's Tories cited a French study that said same-sex parenting was not in the best interests of children.

The study only came to light when Hastings used freedom of information laws to obtain a copy which he provided to the Canwest News Service.

The 74-page study references about 100 studies on parenting. It says that most of the literature studied was empirical and that the vast majority of studies show that children living with two mothers and children living with a mother and father have the same levels and qualities of social competence.

"A few studies suggest that children with two lesbian mothers may have marginally better social competence than children in 'traditional nuclear' families, even fewer studies show the opposite, and most studies fail to find any differences," the study says.

It also notes there is still too little research on gay male parents.

Canwest also found, using freedom of information laws, that after Hastings had obtained the government copy of his research that the Tories had prepared "talking points" on the study should the issue come up in Parliament.

Those "talking points" suggest that the Justice Department which had ordered Hasting's report, was distancing itself from the findings and concluding that there has been very little research in this area.

Hastings, a psychologist who specializes in analyzing data, rejects any suggestion that the study is biased.

May 9 (Vancouver, British Columbia) Many marginalized and street youth are working hard, including attending school or holding down jobs, despite overwhelming odds, says a newly released report. In the report, *Against All Odds*, conducted by a group dedicated to improving the health of B.C. youth, the investigators made several interesting and sometimes startling findings.

"There are many misconceptions and stereotypes about marginalized and street-involved youth in our society," says the report. "Many youth, despite overwhelming odds, are working hard, attending school and looking for ways to not only survive, but thrive."

The report's key findings include:

- One in three youth still attended school while staying in an abandoned building, care, tent, squat or on the street;
- Aboriginal youth were disproportionately represented among street youth;
- One in three females and one in 10 males was identified as gay, lesbian and bisexual;
- Forty per cent of the youth had spent time in government care and almost one in 10 were in a foster or group home at the time of the survey.

Almost one-quarter of the males said they took to the streets because they did not get along with their parents; 34 per cent of females reported parents as their reason. One-quarter of the males said they had been kicked out of their homes while 19 per cent of females said they had been kicked out.

GAY MARRIAGE- A TIME LINE

(Skip over this section if you've had enough on marriage)

Please note: In the United States the marriage debate has gone completely out of control!!! There are initiatives for and against marriage in almost every state. Because of this it would be impossible to cover it all in the context of a newsletter. An excellent coverage of the news in the States, however, is available on the web site of the *Human Rights Campaign* in their marriage center: www.hrc.org/marriage/

A well-organized table of the state-by-state progress can be found if you click on "States with Anti-Gay marriage laws" within this site.

We will still continue to cover general American stories related to the debate.

February 21 (Rome) The teetering government of Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi falls, likely spelling doom for legislation that would create civil partnerships for same-sex couples.

February 22 (Dublin) The **Irish** Parliament votes down a bill that would have given gay and lesbian couples all of the rights of marriage. The private members bill was introduced by Labor Party justice critic Brendan Howlin and was modeled after Britain's civil unions law.

February 23 (Dublin) A day after the Irish Parliament rejects a bill to legalize same-sex unions a lesbian couple takes the issue of gay marriage to the Supreme Court of **Ireland**.

March 14 - France's highest court rejects as unlawful that country's first same-sex marriage, annulling the 2004 union of two men in **Bordeaux**.

March 19 - An economist and a journalist become the first couple united under **Mexico City's** new gay civil union law, kissing while a string orchestra plays *Besame Mucho* and police cordon off streets around a white wedding tent filled with guests.

March 20 - The Church of **Sweden** says it will perform gay weddings if the Swedish Parliament upgrades the country's civil unions to same-sex marriage.

April 14 (The Hague) The **Netherlands** Supreme Court orders the island of **Aruba** to recognize same-sex marriages registered in the Netherlands, or other areas where they are legal. The semi-autonomous island in the Antilles is part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands. It has been in a legal battle with Dutch authorities for the past three years over gay marriage, after a lesbian couple on the island tried to register their marriage.

The court rules that a marriage certificate signed by an official of the Netherlands, carries the "same force of law" in Aruba. Legal experts say the ruling extends to all other parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, including **Curacao, Bonaire, Saba** and **Saint Martin**.

April 26 (Paris) *Act Up Paris* is handed a one Euro fine for staging a mock gay wedding at Notre Dame Cathedral in 2005

April 26 (Concord, New Hampshire) New Hampshire lawmakers vote to authorize civil unions and send the measure to Gov. John Lynch, who announces that he would sign it.

April 27 - The Reverend V. Gene Robinson and his partner are eager to become among the first same-sex couples to unite under **New Hampshire's** civil-union law.

April 27 (Albany, New York) New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer becomes the first governor in the country to introduce same-sex marriage legislation.

May 1st (Toronto, Ontario) Canadian Anglican bishops issue a pastoral statement that essentially rejects the blessing of same-sex unions but acknowledges there will be further votes on the matter when the church's governing body meets in June.

May 9 (Delhi) The **Indian** government reportedly refuses a Canadian request to recognize the same-sex marriages of two employees of the Canadian High Commission. *The Calcutta Telegraph* reports that the two Canadians - a man and a woman - married their same-sex partners before being assigned to India. They are living with their spouses in Canadian diplomatic corps accommodations.

Homosexuality is illegal in India - punishable by up to ten years imprisonment - under a law passed in the mid 1800s when the country was a British colony. The government has refused to repeal the law and LGBT rights groups are battling the government in court. The Canadian government, in its request, also asks that its

diplomats be exempted from the anti-gay law.

May 11 (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) An Anglican priest resigns rather than submitting to a directive from his bishop not to officiate at gay weddings.

Earlier in May Canadian Anglican bishops issued a pastoral statement rejecting the blessing of same-sex unions and placing a moratorium on such blessings at least until the General Synod in June. The synod is a gathering of about 400 Anglican delegates, staff, and national and international partners. It is held once every three years.

May 12 (Rome, Italy) Hundreds of thousands of people rally in Rome to protest a bill that would give legal rights to unmarried gay and straight couples.

International News

February 20 (Paris)(PlanetOut News) France's highest court has ruled that the partner of a gay mom cannot adopt the child. The court said there is nothing in the law to permit same-sex couples to be co-parents.

In its ruling the court said that there are only two ways the partner would be allowed to be considered a parent to the child. The first would be for the child's mother, who gave birth to the baby, to renounce her parental rights - something the court said would not be in the child's best interests. The other would be for the government to amend the laws and allow same-sex marriage.

March 26 (New York City) (IGLHRC News) The *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, was released by a group of 29 international human rights experts. It is a collection of groundbreaking international legal principles on sexual orientation, gender identity, and international law that charts a way forward for both the United Nations and governments to ensure the universal reach of human rights protections.

The Principles were adopted by a group of distinguished experts in international law following a meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Among the group of experts are a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN independent experts, current and former members of human rights treaty bodies, judges, academics and human rights defenders.

The Yogyakarta Principles call for action from the UN human rights system, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organisations, and others. They are being launched at events coinciding with the UN Human Rights Council's session in Geneva, where last year 54 States called for the Council to act against flagrant violations of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

The Yogyakarta Principles address a broad range of human rights standards. They were developed in response to well-documented patterns of abuse targeted toward persons because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Worldwide, human rights defenders point to violations including extrajudicial executions, violence and torture, repression of free speech and assembly, and discrimination in work, health, education, access to justice, and immigration.

The full text of the "Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" is available at: <http://www.yogyakartaprinciples.org>

April 9 (IGLHRC communication) IGLHRC is pleased to have learned from a reliable source that Mr. Tharcisse Karugarama, the **Rwandan** Minister of Justice, has decided to drop a provision in the country's new criminal code bill that would have outlawed consensual same-sex acts. In deciding to remove the article, Mr. Karugarama is reported to have said that Rwanda is opposed to discrimination.

IGLHRC has been one of several voices quietly objecting to the inclusion of the sodomy law provision. On 15 January 2007, IGLHRC and ILGA sent a letter to the president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, and other key members of the Rwandan government asking them to reconsider plans to include the provision. On March 6, 2007, Cary Alan Johnson, IGLHRC's Senior Specialist for Africa met in Washington, DC with the Rwandan Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Zac Nsenga, to express IGLHRC's deep concern with the attack on basic human rights represented by the inclusion of article 160. Joining IGLHRC were representatives from Amnesty International U.S.A. and Alexis Musanganya, a gay Rwandan asilee who is president of *Arc-en-Ciel d'Afrique*, a Montreal-based African/Caribbean LGBT diasporan organization.

April 17 (*Amnesty International/ PlanetOut.com*) has publicly condemned recent episodes of violence in **Jamaica**, the latest at a church on Easter Sunday, against people who are perceived to be gay. The organization is particularly concerned by reports of mob violence against people targeted for their appearance or behavior, reports that seem to be increasing in frequency.

On April 8, a crowd surrounded a church in Mandeville where a funeral was being held and hurled objects through a back window. The attacks were directed at mourners whom the crowd believed to be gay. Following the murder of gay activist Brian Williamson in Kingston in June 2004, the Jamaica Observer published a letter that read, "To be gay in Jamaica is to be dead." Despite the international attention which followed the murder, the situation for LGBT Jamaicans has deteriorated further.

On April 2 of this year, a crowd threw stones and bottles at a group of costumed men who were dancing in the carnival procession along Gloucester Avenue in Montego Bay. According to reports, the crowd was angered because the men were gyrating in a sexually suggestive manner. Eyewitnesses said the men were attacked, chased and beaten by the mob of around 30 or 40 people. At least one victim was hospitalized for his injuries.

These two incidents occurred only two months after a group of men were targeted in a similar manner in a pharmacy in Kingston. A human rights defender told Amnesty that a mob of at least 200 people had gathered outside the store, calling for the men to be beaten to death because they were gay.

Amnesty International condemns these attacks and calls on the Jamaican authorities to ensure that a full and impartial investigation of the above-mentioned cases takes place, in compliance with its international obligations stated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in the American Convention on Human Rights, the group said in a written statement.

May 3 (Washington) (*PlanetOut/ AP*) Just hours after the White House issued a veto threat, the House voted to add gender and sexual orientation to the categories covered by federal hate crimes law. The House legislation, passed 237-180, also makes it easier for federal law enforcement to take part in or assist local prosecutions involving bias-motivated attacks. Similar legislation is also moving through the Senate, setting the stage for another veto showdown with President Bush.

The vote came after fierce lobbying from civil rights groups, which have been pushing for years for added protections against hate crimes. Social conservatives, however, say the bill threatens the right to express moral opposition to homosexuality and singles out groups of citizens for special protection.

Hate crimes under current federal law apply to acts of violence against individuals on the basis of race, religion, color, or national origin. The House bill would extend the hate crimes category to include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability and give federal authorities greater leeway to participate in hate crimes investigations. It approves \$10 million over the next two years to help local law enforcement officials cover the cost of hate crimes prosecutions.

May 3 (Strasbourg, France) (*365Gay.com*) The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that Warsaw Mayor Lech Kaczynski in 2005 acted illegally and discriminatory in banning a gay pride march in the Polish capital. Polish gay and lesbian organizations filed a lawsuit against Kaczynski, who is now Poland's President, after he banned the 2005 parade.

Despite the ban more than 2,500 people ignored the order and marched anyway. Hundreds of police officers were on hand to keep order, but did not try to stop the march. Some officers joined in the parade to cheers from the marchers. Members of a right wing group got into skirmishes with marchers and there were a number of arrests.

In its ruling the European Court cited three articles of the European Convention on Human Rights that Kaczynski had violated - the right to freedom of association and assembly, the right to live free of discrimination and the right to an effective remedy. This is the first case of a banned LGBT Pride march being challenged in the court. Several other cases of banned pride marches also have been filed with the court, including one against the mayor of Moscow.

Poland has come under increasing criticism for its treatment of gays. The ruling League of Polish Families has introduced legislation in Parliament to fight "homosexual propaganda". The bill has been fast tracked by the government and has the support of President Kaczynski. Under the legislation discussions of LGBT civil rights and safe-sex practices to prevent HIV/AIDS among gays would be banned. LGBT organizations would be barred from schools and "teachers who reveal their homosexuality will be fired from work."

News from the Lesbian Mothers Association UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 2007 :

◆ **WEDNESDAY JUNE 13 at 7:30 p.m.**

ADOPTION AND FOSTERING GROUP : CONFERENCE ON ATTACHMENT

The next meeting of the Adoption/Foster Family discussion group (a joint initiative of the Lesbian Mothers' Association and the Papa-Daddy Group) will be held on **Wednesday, June 13 at 7:30 pm in Room DS-2901 of the Pavillon Alexandre-de-Sève at UQAM, 320 Ste-Catherine East (corner Sanguinet).**

Ms. Louise Noël, a social worker with the Adoption Service of the Centre jeunesse de Montréal-Institut Universitaire (CJM-IU), will introduce the subject of attachment, presenting the theory and specific issues regarding adoption. Ms. Noël is specialized in attachment issues and gives a two-day training course on attachment to the CJM-IU social workers. She is also the author of *Je m'attache, nous nous attachons: le lien entre un enfant et ses parents*, published in 2003 by *Éditions Sciences et Culture, collection CJM-IU*.

◆ **SATURDAY JUNE 16th at 11 :00 a.m.**

PICNIC-BBQ at MOUNT ROYAL

The Lesbian Mothers Association of Quebec and the Papa-Daddy Group, would like to invite all LGBT family members with or without children, as well as all our allies and friends, to a **Community Picnic and Barbecue on Mount Royal**. Join us to relax and exchange with family and friends, at one of Montreal's beautiful landmarks. There will be food, music, sports and games. This activity will take place on **Saturday June 16th from 11 a.m – 3 p.m.** We will meet at the Chalet at Lac des Castors (Beaver Lake).

If you can, please bring some food, music, games and/or a picnic blanket to share with others.

Directions to Beaver Lake: Orange Line metro to Mont Royal and 11 bus west. For more information please call Mona at: 514-846-1543

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July 2007:

◆ SATURDAY JULY 28th and SUNDAY JULY 29th COMMUNITY DAY AND PRIDE PARADE

N.B.: The Pride Parade and Community Day have tentatively been scheduled for the weekend of July 28th and 29th. Please reserve this date in your calendars. We hope to be able to give you an update on this in the weeks to come!

August 2007:

◆ SATURDAY AUGUST 11 from 11 a.m – 2 p.m. A DAY AT THE BEACH – PARC JEAN-DRAPEAU

With its refreshing quality-A water at all times, many entertaining theme-based activities, and sports-friendly offerings such as beach volleyball, the **Parc Jean-Drapeau Beach** is located only a stone's throw away from downtown. France and Claudine will meet everyone at the rainbow flag. Bring bathing suits, beach toys and lunch. A snack bar is also available on site. **For prices and directions please see the enclosed flier.**

BULLETIN BOARD:

◆ **Single Moms** everywhere: Come out, come out wherever you are. Let's get together and just discuss baby issues, single mom issues, and anything and everything else. Something light and informal. Of course, with our babies... If interested, please email shariann@sympatico.ca or call **Shari Ann at (514) 482-6533**. Perhaps a few of us can get together at my house or anyone else's home... Hoping to hear from at least one mom.

◆ Bonjour, J'ai 43 ans. Je veux rencontrer quelqu'une sérieuse-d'amour. J'ai un garçon de 7 ans. **Line 514-678-8935**

◆ **L'association des lesbiennes aux femin'elles:** L'Association lesbienne vous invite à ses soirées le premier et le troisième mardis du mois, de 19h à 21h30 au CLSC situé au 411 Hotel Dieu à **Chicoutimi**. Ces rencontres ont comme but de briser l'isolement et s'adressent aux femmes lesbiennes qui désiraient socialiser en compagnie d'autres femmes lesbiennes, afin de permettre un échange positif. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer! Informations: **418-550-2259**.

◆ Recherchons femmes en couple avec enfant(s), ou désirant devenir mères, habitant **Joliette** ou ses environs, pour échanger sur nos expériences de parents. Nous venons d'aménager dans la région et cherchons à créer un réseau d'amies, bien précieux que nous n'avons pu transporter avec nous de Montréal... Nous sommes un couple lesbien début trentaine avec 3 enfants. Communiquez avec nous à: neige-vive@hotmail.com

◆ **L'Écho des femmes de la Petite Patrie** est un centre de femmes qui offre des rencontres pour lesbiennes. Ces rencontres ont lieu les lundis soirs aux deux semaines de 19h00 à 21h30, et sont animées par une personne ressource. Ces rencontres, qui se veulent un lieu d'échange, de ressourcement et d'information, s'intéressent aux réalités et aux conditions de vie des lesbiennes. Les rencontres sont en français. Un service de halte-garderie est disponible avec réservation faite une semaine à l'avance. Le centre est situé au **6032 St-Hubert (métro Beaubien)**. Téléphone **(514)277-7445**, télécopieur **(514)277-1689**

◆ **OUTSPOKEN!** is an emerging group who's mission is to create a venue that will enable lesbians in the Montreal area to get together for business and social networking, as well as educational and inspiring events. Our initial focus will be monthly coffee meetings, and once the membership expands, we will add workshops,

supper events and more. Come to our website to get more information. Join our mailing list, and be the first to find out when our first coffee meeting will be. www.outspokenmtl.com <<http://www.outspokenmtl.com/>>

ADOPTIONS AND BIRTHS

♦ **Gabriel Pinkstone** and **Monica Perazzo** are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter, **Isabella**, born **April 8** at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. Those who know us will know that this moment has been a long time coming - we are sleep-deprived but delighted!

MISCELLANEOUS

♦ **Traductrices, redactrices, etc:** We are looking for volunteers to help translate this newsletter from English to French. Any contribution (even 1-2 pages a month) would be appreciated. If you are available and willing, **please contact us at: info@aml-lma.org**

♦ **Batshaw Youth and Family Centres** is encouraging English speaking and bilingual lesbian couples, and singles, to consider becoming **foster parents**. There are babies, pre-schoolers and older children who are waiting for a foster home. For some the plan will be to help them return to their families. For other children, the plan will be to work toward **adoption**. What a remarkable feeling it is to know you have made a difference in the life of a child by providing a stable, safe and loving environment. For more information, please call, **Rena Rubin, Foster Care Recruiter, at 932-7161, local 416, or send an e-mail to rena_rubin@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.**

♦ The **Open Book Library's** collection includes over 5500 books written by glbt authors or by authors who write about our communities. Some of these books are for children and adolescents. We are very proud that approximately half of our collection is in French. Much more information as well as online consultation of the book collection is available at our Web site www.ccglm.org/en-b. We are located at **2075 Plessis** (CCGLM) in the Village. Come visit us! Open Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-8 p.m. (514) 528-8424.

The bulletin board is a free forum for members to communicate amongst each other. If you want to post an announcement in the next issue please send it to us at any time to info@aml-lma.org or by post to AML, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8. If you have something to advertise, sell, rent or buy...anything where money must change hands, you can place an ad in the newsletter. Ads cost 20 cents per word.
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