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## Get Well e-Newsletter for February 14, 2010

The e-Newsletter of the LGBTQ Community Wellness Centre of Hamilton

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### Happy February 14th!

What is February 14th to you? Is it candy hearts and candlelight? Fun with friends and chosen family? A special night on Grindr? The start of a [new year](#)? A protest against commercialism? Or just the day before [Family Day](#)? Everyone sees and marks the day a little differently.

On behalf of The Well, we'd like to wish you a joyous [Pink Triangle Day](#), and a happy and safe celebration of whatever today means to you.

Pink Triangle Day was established on February 14th, 1979 by the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Rights Coalition (CLGRC).

[more](#)

### An LGBTQ Person by Any Other Name...

[Pride House](#) is the name of two venues (Vancouver and Whistler) at the 2010 Olympics, set up specifically to welcome Gay and Lesbian athletes, coaches, family, friends and allies. It is a first of its kind for the Olympics.

In the [opening ceremonies of Pride House Vancouver](#) on Thursday (which [we tweeted about](#)) [Qmunity](#) Executive Director Jennifer Breakspear, during a stirring welcome, did what so many of us have done before:

“... a place in which all LGTP pep... L... I hate that acronym. A place in which *all queer people from around the world*... (shouts and applause from audience)... can find community”

Anyone who has made a banner, poster, flyer or website for an [LGBTQ](#) event has faced the challenge of terminology. Almost anyone who has said it out loud in meetings and public remarks has had a tied tongue at one point or another. Nearly gone are the days when our allies and the media think the non-inclusive label 'gay' or the medicalizing moniker 'homosexual' can accurately capture such a diverse collection of communities... but alphabet soup? Why can't we just go with 'queer'?

[more](#)

### A Chat with The Chief

On Thursday Chief of Police [Glenn De Caire](#) sat down with representatives of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton, The Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative and The Well to discuss the ongoing relationships between the Hamilton Police Service and Hamilton's LGBTQ communities and community organizations.

On the agenda were hate crime reporting and prevention, diversity in recruitment and [the tricky question of terminology](#). The Well was well pleased with De Caire's commitment to ensuring officers are trained to understand LGBTQ issues and his plans to foster closer ties between officers and the communities they work in.

Also on the agenda: ensuring that the Chief's advisory committee on LGBTQ issues has the mandate and membership necessary to properly advise the Hamilton Police Service on the issues that affect our communities. If you would like to be part of this discussion, please get in touch



with The Well at [info@thewellhamilton.ca](mailto:info@thewellhamilton.ca) or contact Sandra Wilson (HPS Community Relations Coordinator) at [swilson@hamiltonpolice.on.ca](mailto:swilson@hamiltonpolice.on.ca).

## Coffee Doesn't Serve Itself (& Save the Date!)

Do you know how to pour coffee? Arrange chairs? Smile? Converse?

If you have these highly-sought skills, The Well needs you. We're looking for a few good social butterflies to help out with our inaugural coffee night on Thursday February 25th. Email [volunteer@thewellhamilton.ca](mailto:volunteer@thewellhamilton.ca) for more information.

We'll also need a few people who are good at drinking coffee and enjoying others' company, so even if you're not in the mood to move chairs around, save that date and stay tuned for more details.

## Lesbian & Bi Women Peer Support Group Returns

The [Lesbian & Bi Women Peer Support Group](#) has returned from hiatus and meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at [The Women's Centre](#). The next meeting is February 23rd. Check [The Well's website](#) for all the details.

## Community Events Calendar

We welcome and send an extra-huge thank you to Victoria, a Well volunteer who has taken up the task of updating (and keeping updated) The Well's events calendar. If you have events you'd like listed on our website & newsletter, forward them to Victoria through [info@thewellhamilton.ca](mailto:info@thewellhamilton.ca).

### Events

- Feb 18 – [Sex Workers Event](#) at the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre
- Feb 19 – [Women and Liminal Committee \(WLC\)'s Open Community Meeting](#)
- Feb 20 – The AIDS Network's [Annual Oscar Fund-raising Gala](#)
- Feb 25 – [The Well's Coffee Night](#)
- Mar 26 – RADAR Youth Group outing to [ShAIDS of Grey](#) at Hamilton Place (group rate tickets still available)

### Meetings

- Feb 18 – Hamilton Police Service GLBT Committee meeting
- Feb 18 – LGBTQ Advisory Committee (City of Hamilton) meeting
- Mar 11 – Well board of directors meeting
- Mar 25 – The Well's General Meeting for elections
- Apr 22 – The Well's Annual General Meeting

### Groups

Our group meetings for the next 3 months haven't been entered into [the groups area of the event list](#) just yet, but while we work on that you can find all the meeting dates and locations on our website at <http://www.thewellhamilton.ca/programs>

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