

Life Line

NEWSLETTER OF THE LESBIAN GAY BI TRANS YOUTH LINE

Spring & Summer 2005

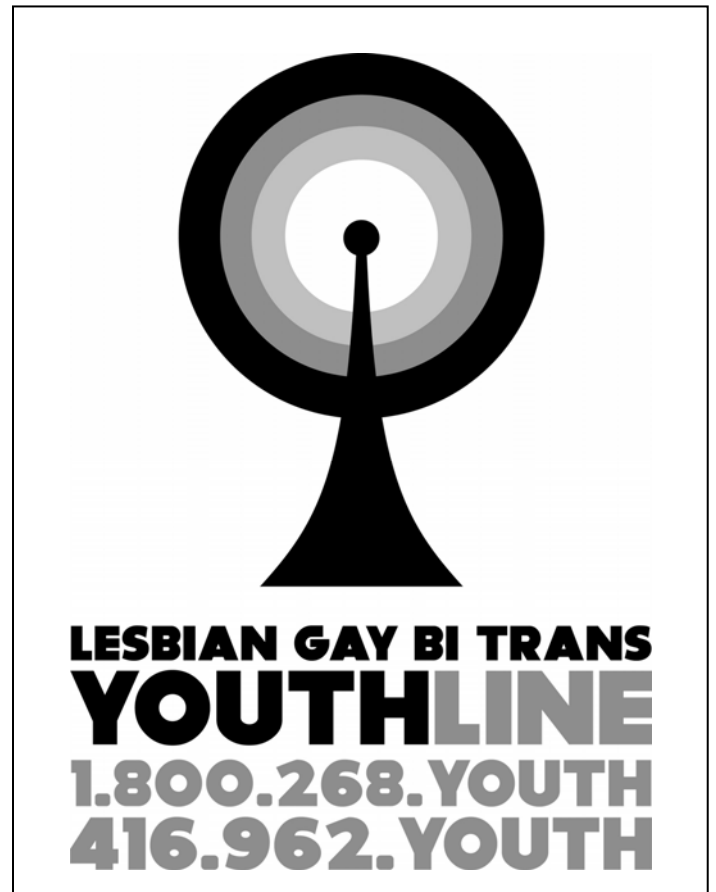
New look. New website. Same valued service.

It's a new decade for the Youth Line and we thought it was high time for a new outfit. Our posters and logos have just a few seconds to get people's attention in school hallways and on community centre bulletin boards – we think this youth-designed logo will do the trick.

We've gone pink (in the colour versions) and a lot bolder with a logo that expresses the idea of communication, strength and clarity. There were lots of ideas for the new look and this design won out because of its iconic simplicity. We've listened to our stakeholders and have changed our name to the **Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line** to better reflect the communities we serve.

Since 1994, hundreds of Youth Line community donors and volunteers have been supporting Ontario's youth. From North Bay to Kingston to Leamington, the Youth Line is there. We're counting on this design – as well as your support – to guide us for the next 10 years.

Both the logo and website are part of a broader project to increase awareness of the Youth Line's services. In addition to updated community links and phone line support information, new features on the website include a revamped online support forum, youth stories, an online volunteer application form and an online donation portal.



A logo for any orientation: the new logo is the centre point of a new outreach campaign to reach every youth and student in the province.

www.youthline.ca

Office – 1-888-687-9688 or 416-962-2232 | PO Box 62 – Station F | Toronto, Ontario | M4Y 2L4 | info@youthline.ca
Peer-Support Services – 1-800-268-9688 or 416-268-9688 | Sunday to Friday | 4:00-9:30pm | askus@youthline.ca

Every Classroom & Every Youth

Message from Co-Chairs Marlene Ham & Nikki Redman

One year ago, Youth Line volunteers, donors and staff were meeting with community members to develop a long term plan. Through facilitated meetings and surveys, our supporters said loud and clear that the Youth Line is a vital and valued service. With the new strategic plan well under way, new projects are in full swing and our website and logo are getting rave reviews.

We also learned that we face an uphill battle with 1% of Canadian charities absorbing almost 60% of the sector's revenue. We are not part of that elite group. Proactively, our solution is to build new partnerships with individuals and funders, ensuring that the Youth Line can be around for another 10 years. We also will be working hard to keep our loyal donors from all over the province engaged and informed.

Later this year, the Youth Line will publicly launch a funding campaign aimed at ensuring the Youth Line's long-term viability. We will be asking people to join our

organization by making a contribution or by telling a friend to become a member. Though we know that events and grants are important, it is our individual donors that champion our mission and help us to plan for the future.

The Every Classroom Campaign will raise funds and awareness for our new outreach posters and flyers. We want to make sure that every high school and post-secondary student, teacher, guidance counsellor, coach and principal knows about our service. We want our posters in community centres, libraries and churches. Of course, in order to do this we will need the support of the community and our allies.

We hope you will join us this year in supporting the Youth Line. Our volunteers and staff are working very hard to promote and provide a much-needed service by letting young folks know that they are not alone.



Team Youth Line: Volunteers make it happen everyday in every way

7th Annual Youth Line Community Youth Awards

Monday, June 13, 6:30pm at the Metro Central YMCA – 20 Grosvenor Street, Toronto
Reserve your seats now. RSVP 416-962-2232 or 1-888-687-9688 or info@youthline.ca

Get Involved: Volunteer Opportunities

Peer-Support Phone Line Volunteers

Applications are currently being accepted for our July training cycle. These positions are for youth 26 years of age and under.

Board of Directors

Directors take on leadership at the Youth Line and work in partnership with staff to oversee and nurture the Youth Line. The nominations process begins at the end of summer. These positions are open for folks 19 or over.

Provincial Youth Line Ambassadors

Volunteers of all ages are needed to represent the Youth Line in areas throughout Ontario. The Youth Line serves the entire province and we need volunteers in every community to ensure that local schools and community centres have our posters up and that we are aware of every local LGBTQ-youth resource.

For more information and a volunteer application visit www.youthline.ca or contact our staff

Ask Karl:

“What kind of calls do you get?”

There is no simple answer. It's really a game of chance: our phones ring, we take a call, and we speak to youth about every topic imaginable. You can never predict what someone is going to ask you or what they will confide in you.

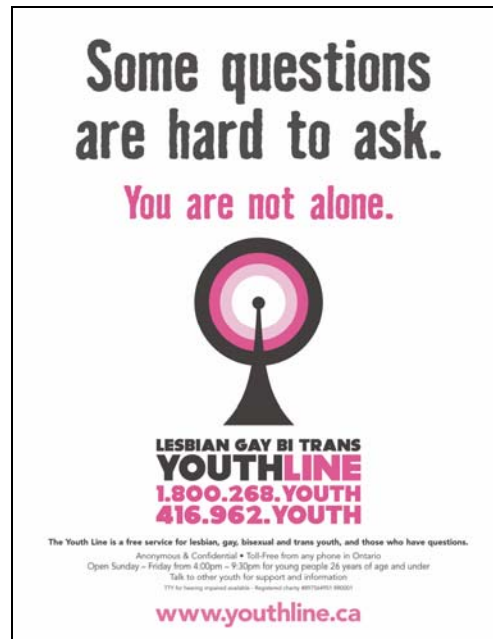
One minute we could be laughing with a caller as they vent about how absurd homophobic people can be. The next call could be a heart-wrenching situation where we cry with the caller because our personal situations have been so painfully similar. We talk to callers who shock us with their maturity and knowledge, and we blush with callers who shyly ask us questions about attractions, dating, and sexual health because they have no one else to ask. We answer calls from youth who want nothing more than to connect with other people their age that they can identify with.

We speak with callers who make us check our assumptions at the beginning of the call. The diversity of our callers reflects the population of Ontario. We seek insight about how to offer the best peer support that we are capable of by asking our callers what they hope to gain from calling us. Callers ask us questions about what it means to be queer because the people who they see representing them isn't necessarily who they are. There is no way to sum up what a typical call would be because none of our callers are typical.

Often we are the first contact for queer and questioning youth. We often hear that callers have never known a queer person in their lives, let alone had someone queer to talk to. Some callers are so nervous when they first call that we only hear in the quietest voice imaginable “I'm nervous - I'll call back”.

On occasion we are lucky enough to have a caller follow-up and let us know that our service has helped them. Having a caller say “thank you” or tell you that you've helped them is the reason why we do this work. Our relationship with our callers is a two way street - we are their source of information and support, and they are our motivation to keep answering the phone.

-- Service Coordinator Karl Nielsen answers your questions about the Youth Line



Here for our callers: our latest posters and postcards are hot and pink

Happenings

The 7th Annual Youth Line Community Youth Awards, presented by the Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line and Title Sponsor TD Bank Financial Group, will take place in Toronto on **June 13, 6:30pm at the Metro Central YMCA** – 20 Grosvenor Street. The Youth Awards are an opportunity for community members to recognize outstanding contributions made by LGBTQ youth and youth serving organizations and programs. *Seating is limited so please RSVP to info@youthline.ca or call 416-962-2232.*

Camping Out

The Ten Oaks Project is a not-for-profit organization creating Camp Ten Oaks - a week long sleep-away camp program for children and youth ages 8 – 16 scheduled for August 21 – 27. The camp environment and programming is for children and youth of LGBTQ and/or non-traditional family structures, youth who identify as LGBTQ and their allies. To register for camp, or for more information go to: www.tenoaksproject.org.

See You This Summer

Look for our staff and volunteers at a Pride event near you. The Youth Line will be present at Tri-Pride in Kitchener/Waterloo, Hamilton, Toronto, London and Ottawa. *Happy Pride!*

Art Auction Raises over \$10K for Youth Line

Thanks to auctioneers Olivia Chow and Sky Gilbert (as Jane) and the dozens of generous artists that contributed to the 2004 Line Art Auction; raising funds for the Youth Line's volunteer and outreach program.

Held last December at A Space Gallery, the event is also indebted to the packed house of guests, A Space Gallery staff and Dangerous Dan's catering. Plans are already underway for the 2005 edition to be held at the end of the year.

Community Support

PREMIER DONORS



MAJOR DONOR



MEDIA SPONSOR



YOUTH AWARDS TITLE SPONSOR



ASSOCIATE DONOR

J.P. Bickell Foundation ♥ Carolyn Sifton Foundation ♥ CIBC
Famous Players Media ♥ Laidlaw Foundation
Lesbian & Gay Community Appeal ♥ Royal Bank of Canada ♥ TICOT

FRIENDS OF THE YOUTH LINE

Joan Anderson ♥ Barry Adam ♥ Kim Adlard ♥ Katherine Arnup
Neville Austin ♥ Paul Austin ♥ Boiz Will Be Boiz ♥ Scott Bell
Joanne Bersohn ♥ Murray Bush ♥ Fiona Butters ♥ Christina Ciceri
Andrew Chong ♥ Lyle Clark ♥ Hugh Clarkson ♥ Dan Cooperstock
Brad Crafton ♥ James Cressman ♥ Andrew Cruikshank ♥ Disco Dyke Divas
Dupont Canada ♥ Audrey Dyer ♥ Ian Esquivel ♥ Dan Fraleigh ♥ Dan Fraser
The Friendly Greek ♥ Fountain of Hope ♥ Michael Galway ♥ Cathy Gulkin
Denise Hammond ♥ Tammy Hinsche ♥ Mark Hutchinson ♥ Greg Johns
Jill Kelman ♥ Renee Lang ♥ Maria Lau ♥ Rob Lavery ♥ Greg Lichti
The Living Well ♥ Carl MacMillan ♥ David Marlowe ♥ Karina Navarro
Brian Rodgers ♥ Joel Rotstein ♥ Shannon Ryan ♥ Suzanne Nuttall
Peter Sue ♥ Brian Terry ♥ Norman Vanstone ♥ Village Pool League
Robert Wallace ♥ Harry Wiebe ♥ Kevin Willcock
♥ and many many more generous folks

IN-KIND SUPPORT

A Space Gallery ♥ Buddies in Bad Times Theatre ♥ Olivia Chow
Dangerous Dan's ♥ 5ive Nightclub ♥ Sky Gilbert ♥ Greyhound Canada
Joave ♥ Just Thai ♥ Le Petit Liban ♥ Mercer Union Pegasus Bar
Random House Canada ♥ Ma Zone
National Ballet of Canada ♥ Second Cup ♥ 7-24 Video
Sherbourne Health Centre ♥ This Ain't the Rosedale Library

Our People

The Youth Line owes its existence to hundreds of dedicated volunteers that have answered the phones, organized events, licked envelopes and so much more. You know who you are and I hope you realize what a wonderful impact you have made.

Adam ♥ Adrienne ♥ Ang
Anna ♥ Brian F ♥ Brian K
David ♥ Derek ♥ Devon ♥ Earl
Enio ♥ Jeff ♥ Jimmy ♥ Joel
Jon ♥ Karen ♥ Kate
Katherine ♥ Lauren ♥ Liane
Matt ♥ Mike S ♥ Mike V
Nando ♥ Neil ♥ Rosemary
Sherri ♥ Walter ♥ Wayne
and many many more...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Chair – Marlene Ham
Co-Chair – Nikki Redman
Treasurer – Arthur Lam
Secretary – jamie berrigan
Corinne Alstrom
Adrienne Barker
Jonathan Kitchen
Shannon Ryan
Deborah Warner
Ryan Weston
Scott Wightman

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Shift Supervisor
Will Munro

Outreach Intern
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Financial Administrator
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