

THE NORTH RENFREW TIMES

DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

\$2.00 (HST INCL.)



Volunteers gathered at the four-way stop on Deep River Rd Sunday night to create signs supporting LGBTQ+.

Community shows support of Pride

BY TERRY MYERS

Love vs hate? A clash of cultures?

Friends and members of the local LGBTQ+ community responded to the four-way stop on Deep River Road Sunday evening after a sign was posted at the crossroads that many described as “hateful” and “disgusting.”

“It’s disgraceful,” said Amber Huard, one of those who gathered in response.

“The fact that somebody can (just) put up a sign (like that).”

As Deep River celebrates Pride Month, the offending sign read “Save The Children,” with a black X through the words “Drag Queens, Hormones, Groomers, MAP”.

The sign also referred to a gathering Saturday, June 17 at 11 am at “city hall,” the same time and location as the start of a planned Pride parade and activities.

Anan Abushusheh, who placed the sign and on site at the intersection as Pride supporters gathered in response, said the sign was not meant to be hateful.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUY ONLINE AT DEEP5050.CA



DRAW IS

TOMORROW

Help Deep River & District Hospital
Build A 96-Bed Long-Term Care Home!

INSIDE:



P.20

CLUB HOSTS

NAT'L TOURNAMENT

QUOTEWORTHY:

“Given the reality of operations at CNL/AECL, this agreement is the best path forward as we seek to protect mother earth and ensure the safety of future generations.”

- Story, page 3

IT'S TIME TO
TOYOTA

Different Sizes and Different Colours...
FIND YOUR MATCH!



hybrid avail



hybrid vehicle



lines
are getting
shorter, come
in today!!



hybrid avail

613-735-1717 | www.petawawa-toyota.com | sales@petawawa.toyota.ca

Petawawa



NORTH RENFREW TIMES

VOL. 70, No. 23

8 Glendale Ave.,
PO Box 310,
Deep River ON K0J 1P0

Phone:
613-584-4161

Email:
NRT@northrenfrewtimes.ca

Website:
northrenfrewtimes.ca



www.facebook.com/
NorthRenfrewTimes

Publisher:
Kelly Lapping

Editor:
Terry Myers

Advertising Supervisor:
Jane Barkley

Office Manager:
Barbara Morin

Staff Writer:
Vance Gutzman

NRT HOURS
Monday & Thursday:
10 am - 4 pm
Friday:
10 am - 1 pm

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Local & Digital:
\$59 per year
\$69 per year to the rest
of Canada (including
Pembroke and Petawawa).
Prices effective Apr. 1, 2022.
Prices include HST.

Canada

We acknowledge the
support of the
Government of Canada.



PLEASE RECYCLE

Support for Pride

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We’re just trying to protect our children,” he said. Abushusheh said there are many people in the community who are “scared to speak up.”

“They’re very scared to say anything because they might lose their job, they might be removed from Facebook, they might lose business from customers.”

But “we don’t hate these people,” he said.

“We just don’t like it being pushed on our kids, right? And every year it’s just getting worse and worse.

“And it’s about time somebody just said, like just stay away from the children. You do this on your own, do it with your own (community), but these are not consenting people.”

Abushusheh said children in elementary school “can’t (even) get a tattoo at this age” so being exposed to Pride flags and events is “not right.”

He said he thought people might have been “overblowing it” but he has been to the school and “it was crazy.”

“You can see a definite push, and anybody who talks about it is silenced,” he said.

“So you know I just said, you know what, I’m going to speak up (and) say what has to be said, in a non-offensive non-threatening way. And that’s it. Whatever happens, happens.”

“INDOCTRINATION”

Abushusheh said the plans for Saturday are “just to have a nice demonstration.”

“We were originally going to bring a megaphone, but we decided to keep this one silent,” he said.

“We don’t want to have any clashes. We just want our voices to be heard, for people to understand that, you know what?

“Like, you guys can do this on your own, no problem, but once it comes to a publicly funded institution and it’s being shoved down people’s throats, that’s when you start to having problems.

“You know, these kids are easily taught, easily malleable. And this is pretty much a definition of indoctrination.”

But those making up new signs Sunday night to show support

of the LGBTQ+ community said children need support and to know that they are loved and accepted no matter who they are.

One mother said her 17-year-old daughter has been told to “go kill herself” because of her sexuality.

“I’m sorry, as a mother, that really hurts. That’s disgusting.”

Huard said that “what makes it worse” is that she is “pro” everybody - “equality for every culture, every race, every everything.”

“And I will stand up and say something to someone who makes racist comments towards certain cultures, to anything like that.

“But my community is being bashed, just for being ourselves. Just when we’re just existing, when we’re standing up, so that you can exist the way that you want to exist in this community.

“How does that make sense?”

EQUALITY

Courtney Dennie said it’s particularly offensive to try to link the LGBTQ+ community to “groomers” and “minor attracted persons” (MAP).

“There’s this really like, alt-right thing that constantly tries to group in pedophiles with the LGBTQ community. And this (sign) is one example of it,” she said.

“So because you’re transgender or, because you’re gay, or because you’re a drag queen, that automatically means you’re a groomer, you’re a pedophile?” Huard added.

“How do you put those two together?”

Huard said she was concerned about the impact offensive signs and anti-Pride demonstrations would have on young people.

“Now they’re just going to be scared to come out,” she said.

“Like, they’re gonna live miserable lives because they can’t be who they are because people like this make them terrified to be themselves.”

About a dozen signs of support were placed Sunday night, some reading “Drag Queens welcome here,” “Equality for every person,” and “We’re here, we’re queer, get over it.”

Most of the cardboard signs were removed Monday following the heavy rain overnight.

By 5:30 pm, two signs remained, one advertising Saturday’s Pride parade and celebrations, and the one placed by Abushusheh, who was also present under an umbrella handing out printed copies of the sign.

Home sales, listings both record gains in May

Renfrew County home sales and listings both showed gains last month, although they still lag behind long-term averages.

The Renfrew County Real Estate Board reports the number of homes sold through its Multiple Listing Service (MLS) system totalled 212 units in May 2023.

This was a gain of 6% (12 sales) from May 2022, but remained 11.5% below the five-year average and 5.4% below the 10-year average for the month of May.

On a year-to-date basis, home sales totalled 581 units over the first five months of the year, down sharply by 29.3% from the same period in 2022.

The average price of homes sold in May 2023 was \$467,185, a minor decrease of

1.8% from May 2022.

The more comprehensive year-to-date average price was \$436,880, a decline of 11.2% from the first five months of 2022.

The dollar value of all home sales in May 2023 was \$99 million, up 4.1% from the same month in 2022.

Meanwhile, more homes are hitting the market.

The number of new listings saw a gain of 10.1% from May 2022, with 328 new residential listings in May 2023.

New listings were 5.6% above the five-year average but still 7.3% below the 10-year average for the month of May.

Locally, Deep River saw 11 home sales, up from five in May 2022, while Chalk

River held steady at seven sales.

The average price of homes sold in Deep River last month was \$413,917, down from \$450,980 the year before.

In Chalk River, the average price was \$411,622 in May 2023, up slightly from \$410,286 in May 2022.

Year to date, there have been 31 sales in Deep River in 2023, up two from 29 in 2022. The average price of homes sold this year is \$349,945, down almost 20 per cent from \$435,331 last year.

In Chalk River, sales are down from 26 in 2022 to 20 in 2023.

The average price has slipped slightly from \$366,704 last year to \$352,493 this year.

THE
NORTH RENFREW TIMES

DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

\$2.00 (HST INCL.)



The sign says it all, as a crowd of more than 500 people turned out for Deep River's second Pride parade Sat.

Hundreds take part in Pride parade

BY TERRY MYERS

Deep River wore its heart on its sleeve Saturday, as hundreds of people turned out to take part in a joyous celebration of Pride.

The Deep River Queer Connection (DRQC) sponsored the town's second annual Pride parade.

Starting at the town hall parking lot, the

parade circled the downtown before heading down Deep River Road and Brockhouse Way to further celebrations at the marina.

It was difficult to gauge the size of the crowd taking part, but estimates put the number at easily over 500, up to 650-plus, with many carrying signs of support, Pride flags, or simply decked out in all the colours of the rainbow.

Brie Bird, founder of DRQC, said she was "blown away" by the turnout.

"It blew my mind. Last year we had maybe 100 people at most, probably not even (that many), and this year... I don't even know.

"It was just beautiful to see. It was phenomenal," she said.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



INSIDE:



P.12

**SWISHA STUDENT
 PADDLES TO CLASS
 FOR BUS DRIVERS**

QUOTEWORTHY:

"We need to wake up, take our heads out of the sand and recognize what a danger Chalk River poses..."

- Story, page 4

NORTHRENFREWTIMES.CA

IT'S TIME TO TOYOTA

Find Your Match! Different Sizes and Different Colours...
GROW WITH US!

hybrid avail hybrid vehicle lines are getting shorter, come in today!! hybrid avail

613-735-1717 | www.petawawa-toyota.com | sales@petawawa.toyota.ca **Petawawa**

NORTH RENFREW TIMES

VOL. 70, No. 24

8 Glendale Ave.,
PO Box 310,
Deep River ON K0J 1P0

Phone:
613-584-4161

Email:
NRT@northrenfrewtimes.ca

Website:
northrenfrewtimes.ca



www.facebook.com/
NorthRenfrewTimes

Publisher:
Kelly Lapping

Editor:
Terry Myers

Advertising Supervisor:
Jane Barkley

Office Manager:
Barbara Morin

Staff Writer:
Vance Gutzman

NRT HOURS
Monday & Thursday:
10 am - 4 pm
Friday:
10 am - 1 pm

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Local & Digital:
\$59 per year
\$69 per year to the rest
of Canada (including
Pembroke and Petawawa).
Prices effective Apr. 1, 2022.
Prices include HST.

Canada

We acknowledge the
support of the
Government of Canada.



PLEASE RECYCLE



Quinn DeGuzman gets some rainbow face/body paint on her arm during Pride celebrations at the marina.

Pride parade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bird said she was also moved by Mayor Sue D'Eon's words of support at the parade's opening ceremonies.

"Even though I'm the founder of this (the DRQC) and I firmly believe that I belong, it is so important to hear it from our leaders and know that we will be supported."

The parade Saturday took place following a week in which community members were concerned and upset about actions directed against LGBTQ+ people.

Beginning the previous Sunday, signs were placed at the four-way stop on Deep River Road proclaiming "Save the Children" with a black X through the words "Drag Queens, Hormones, Groomers, MAP".

Also during the week, Pride flags were torn down at the offices of Primeau Law and at the Deep River Community Church, and the church suffered minor vandalism.

Anan Abushusheh, who placed the signs at the four-way stop, told the NRT they were not meant to be hateful, but to raise

concerns about what children are exposed to, particularly in school.

A "Save the Children" demonstration was held in front of town hall at the same time as the Pride parade, with four people attending.

In her remarks, D'Eon said Deep River is a "welcoming community."

"We welcome those who come here to visit, to enjoy our immense natural beauty and our mosquitoes, those who come to celebrate our diverse population.

"And we welcome those who choose to move here to join our diverse populations," she said.

"But don't get me wrong. Hate is not welcome here."

"YOU BELONG"

D'Eon said Deep River is also a community founded on science.

"We are not a community founded on homophobia, transphobia or any phobia.

"We are not a community tolerant of hate groups, which spew demonizing rhetoric and misinformation based on half-baked conspiracy theories. Hate against any part of our community is not welcome."

"To our LGBTQ+ community and their

allies," she added, "please know that you are welcome, you belong. And you deserve to be accepted for who you are."

During celebrations at the marina, several speakers talked about how important Pride and Pride events are for them and the LGBTQ+ community.

Arden Miller, who identifies as a queer and transgender student at Mackenzie Community School, said Pride has been harder to find lately with the spread of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in the United States.

"But today, when I was getting ready for this event, I put on my 'Protect Trans Kids' T-shirt and I reminded myself that I too am one of the children I must protect.

"I will not let myself be lost or discouraged by the few voices that stand against us - I will protect myself by having pride.

"Pride to me is understanding everything we're up against and finding hope within ourselves anyways.

"Pride is finding enough strength and holding hands and raising our voices so that we can challenge laws. Pride is celebrating each and every victory we earn, no matter how big or small. Pride is love to the point of rebellion.

"Thank you so much to the Queer Connection for coming together and helping



Photos: Terry Myers

us celebrate our existence and our persistence, in our history and in our future,” Arden said.

“Our love is the strongest tool we have and we must give it more than ever.”

Likewise, Mackenzie student Grace Ding said Pride is “an opportunity to open minds and encourage acceptance.”

“Pride can give a voice to the voiceless. It is hard to be heard individually, but when we stand together in solidarity, we are stronger and we are louder.

“Pride shows that whoever you are and however you identify, you will always have a community to come to.”

HOSTILITY

Grace said it is “completely and utterly heartbreaking to see the hostility that remains globally and even at times locally.”

“Having Pride in who you are, especially in a world that often feels so hate-

ful, is an act of protest. Even coming out today to show your Pride and support shows, incredible courage and strength.

“You deserve love care, safety and respect. I deeply hope that you felt a sense of Pride today, no matter what that might mean to you.”

Parade marshal, Councillor Christina Giardini spoke about being an “ally” to the LGBTQ+ community - “we act together to protect one another.”

“An ally is someone who has privilege and chooses to stand for and with marginalized communities, by taking tangible and ongoing actions to dismantle the system of oppression.”

“That’s the heavy stuff,” she said, but there is “no cookie cutter way of being an ally.”

“Anyone could be an ally, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, and we need to work to stay informed on all current LGBTQ+ issues.

“We speak up for what’s right and sup-

port equality by fighting for policies that protect our LGBTQ+ family.”

Giardini said she is a “passionate ally” because some of her dearest friends, “beautiful inside and out,” are LGBTQ+.

“And the thought of somebody being cruel unkind or discriminating against them based on their gender or who they choose to love or how they identify gives me all the feels.

“So you are darn right that I will throw down for anything and help protect my friends,” she said.

LOVE WHO YOU LOVE

Giardini said Pride events and support are important because “somewhere out there, there’s a confused teenager who still thinks that maybe being dead is better than being gay, and that’s not OK.”

“So be who you are, love who you love, and you know that I will always represent a safe space.”

Bird said that was the reason to launch the Deep River Queer Connection, was to provide a safe space for questioning youth.

“That’s really the reason we started this, was knowing that in small towns, people in our community aren’t sure if they feel are safe or not.

“They they may know that nobody judges them in their personal circle, but they’re not sure about the community at large and I felt confident in that Deep River had that in them.”

Bird said DRQC has received generous support from a number of local businesses and organizations, as well as individuals.

This was the second annual Pride parade and celebration but Bird said DRQC holds regular “low-key” events throughout the year.

For more information, visit the “Deep River Queer Connection” page on Facebook.