

From: [Carole Henderson](#)
To: [John Woodbury](#); [Brian Milne](#); [Barbara Dobreen](#); [Jim Frew](#); [Jason Rice](#); [Michael Sherson](#); [Martin Shipston](#); [Dave Milliner](#)
Cc: [Lindsey Green](#); [angie_linton](#)
Subject: Request for Proclamation
Date: May 11, 2021 8:54:18 PM
Attachments: [letterSouthgate.docx](#)
[I am sharing "Presentation" with you 2021 Pride Month 2021OWFSouthgatePride050421-1.pdf](#)

To the Mayor and council of Southgate Township.

We, the Show Your Colours Southgate committee, respectfully request that Southgate proclaim June 2021 as Pride Month.

For too long the LGBTQ2S+ community in Southgate has had to stay under the radar for the most part, for fear of being shunned by family and friends, and their church and the rest of the community. Having to live a lie. Not feeling free to be themselves or free to love who they love. Feeling suicidal. Feeling unloved and unwelcome. Being threatened or beaten or worse. Being bullied. Being subjected to conversion therapy. Or feeling they can't live a lie and have to leave the town where they were born and raised in order to live free and true to themselves. We have lost so many of the community to suicide and brutal death and we have lost a lot of young Dynamic creative entrepreneurial people to the bigger centres where they felt more accepted. Since the Pride movement started in the early 1970's, in the bigger cities and towns, acceptance and equality has slowly evolved and is moving out into smaller towns and villages. So 2021 can be the year for Southgate to show the community that they are loved and welcome, and show how much Southgate is striving to be inclusive to all people.

HISTORY OF PRIDE IN CANADA

The struggle of the LGBTQ2S+ community has gone on for decades and decades. The rights the community has today has come at a great cost and that is why Pride is such an important aspect. The following just touches on major milestones and achievements since 1969, but it is to be noted that it took riots, protests, petitions, raids, jail time, physical suffering and deaths to achieve these things.

May 14, 1969. Canada decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults. Prior to this being homosexual could land you in prison.

August 28, 1971. First Gay Rights protest on Parliament Hill. The protesters presented a petition to the government with a list of 10 demands for equal rights and protections.

August 1973. First Pride Week 1973 was a national LGBTQ2S+ rights event held in most major Canadian cities. This was the emergence of Gay Pride.

December 15, 1973. Homosexuality was removed as a "disorder" from the Diagnostics and Statistics Manual of Mental disorders.

December 16, 1977. Quebec adds sexual orientation to the Human Rights Code. By 2001 all provinces had done the same except Alberta, PEI and NWT.

September 1, 1978. The Immigration Act is revised to no longer prohibit homosexuals from immigrating to Canada.

June 23, 1979. The First Pride March was held, in Montreal. (And 40 years later in 2019, Southgate held our first Pride March.)

September 1, 1985. The Toronto District School Board implemented the first programs to combat anti gay discrimination and violence.

July 27, 1990. The term Two Spirit (2S) is coined at the 3rd annual Native American/First Nations Gay & Lesbian conference in Winnipeg, allowing indigenous LGBTQ2S+ folks to have their own unique term.

August 6, 1992. Sexual orientation is "read into" the Canadian Human Rights Act.

October 27, 1992. Federal Court lifts the ban against gays and lesbians in the military, allowing LGBTQ2S+ folks to serve our country.

May 24, 1995. Same sex couples gain legal adoption rights in Ontario.

May 25, 1995. Sexual orientation included in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

May 19, 1999. Supreme Court of Ontario rules that Same Sex Couples have rights to equal treatment.

June 10, 2003. The first same sex couple marry in Toronto after the Ontario Court of Appeal rules that the exclusion of same sex couples was a clear violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

July 20, 2005. The Civil Marriage Act became federal law giving same sex couples the legal right to marry.

June 1, 2016. Parliament raises the Pride flag on Parliament Hill.

June 19, 2017. The Canadian Human Rights Act is expanded to include gender identity and gender expression.

June 21, 2018. Apology and Erasure of unjust criminal records based on homosexual activities. Permanent destruction of records.

March 9, 2020. Introduction to criminalize conversion therapy.

LOVED AND WELCOME

2021 should be the year to celebrate all the accomplishments since 1969, and show our Pride and show our LGBTQ2S+ family, friends and neighbours that they are loved and welcome.

Attached are three letters of support, from Grey Bruce Pride, One World Festival and Pflag (Joan Beecroft). Also attached is our PowerPoint presentation in both ppt and pdf formats.

Thank you for your consideration of this Proclamation request. Should Southgate decide in favour of proclaiming June as Pride Month, it would be lovely to have a virtual proclamation ceremony!

Best regards on behalf of the Show your Colours Southgate committee

Carole Henderson and
Angela Linton Post.




PRIDE MONTH 2021

LOVED AND WELCOME

Show Your Colours Southgate Committee Presentation

2019 AND 2020 PRIDE PARADES



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- Behold the joy on the faces of the participants in the Pride parades in the pictures from 2019 and 2020.
 - The joy of feeling free to be who we are. To love who we love. To be loved and welcome and supported.
 - For too long the members of the LGBTQ2S+ community have been shunned by family and friends. Afraid to be who they are. Living a lie. Being physically threatened or beaten. Having to leave their home towns to find acceptance.
 - Southgate is a growing community that strives to be inclusive to all no matter race, religion, disability or sexuality.
 - So let us please celebrate that inclusivity by declaring June as Pride Month in Southgate Township.
 - We thank the Mayor and Council for your consideration.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT





May 4, 2021

Mayor John Woodbury and Southgate Municipal Council
Township of Southgate
185667 Grey County Road 9
Dundalk ON N0C 1B0

Re: Declaration of June as Pride Month

Dear Mayor Woodbury and Council Members:

The Inclusive Communities Committee of Grey and Bruce — which organizes the annual Grey Bruce One World Festival (<http://greybruceoneworldfestival.org>) — is writing to urge Southgate Municipal Council to declare Pride Month in June, as requested by Grey Bruce Pride along with other organizations in our region.

Such a declaration will not only support all of your constituents, it will provide an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the LGBTQ2S+ community's contributions to Grey and Bruce, reduce discrimination and intolerance, and enhance inclusivity within the municipality and our region overall.

Please step up and support Pride Month in Southgate.

Yours truly,

The Inclusive Communities Committee of Grey and Bruce



Grey Bruce Pride
greybruceprideinfo@gmail.com

In care of: Karen Houle
M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre
1045 3rd Av W, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5W6
Office: 519-371-1147 x.238

April 30, 2021

Township of Southgate
Council and Mayor
185667 Grey County Road 9 Dundalk
Ontario, Canada N0C 1B0

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Grey Bruce Pride is writing to you to express its support to name June as Pride Month in the Township of Southgate.

For our community this would be a visible symbol of hope, pride, inclusion and support for folxs who are part of the larger 2S-LGBTQQIAP+ community. Historically, many folxs have felt unsafe being out of the closet in Grey and Bruce and this announcement of June being Pride month from your council would represent a new beginning, a time to feel safe in Southgate as a whole person.

For the Township of Southgate, it would signal to visitors, potential employers, employees, and businesses that you are a creative, supportive and welcoming home for all and a great place to build 'home' in.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Houle

On Behalf of Grey Bruce Pride



Letter of Support for Pride Month



Joan Beecroft Yesterday
to jwoodbury, me ▾



Dear Mayor Woodbury:

I'm writing this letter of support for Southgate to declare June "Pride Month" as requested by Inclusive Communities and other groups and individuals.

As a local Pflag chapter leader, I know the importance of having LGBTQ2S people recognized in our area. Too many of them feel shunned and unaccepted, and make the decision to leave when they are able to do so. It may seem a small thing to raise a flag or declare a month, and it would go a long way towards acknowledging that LGBTQ2S are a recognized part of the community.

Thank you for supporting *all* of Southgates constituents.

Sincerely,
Joan Beecroft

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PFLAG Canada, in Owen Sound, ON

<https://pflagcanada.ca/>

Phone: 1-888-530-6777 ext 570 (toll-free)

<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCanadaOwenSound/>