



A RAINBOW WITH RURAL ROOTS

Welcome to NG Pride!



Maybe you have heard of us and are not sure who we are, or what we do. Well, today is your lucky day! You are now in possession of our very first newsletter! We are a non-profit organization serving and supporting the 2SLGBTQI+ community and their families in the Kemptville - Oxford Mills - Merrickville area in the Municipality of North Grenville and Leeds & Grenville County.

Our Mission

NG Pride's goal is to build a community that creates a sense of belonging and connection for our 2SLGBTQI+ members so they can live without fear or judgement.

Our Vision

An equitable community free from all forms of oppression.

NG Pride (formerly known as Kemptville Pride) started at the end of 2019 after our very successful first pride parade. A group of dedicated volunteers decided to incorporate and make NG Pride a commitment for 365 day of the year and not just the month of Pride. We felt that NG needed more resources and visibility for folks in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Some people have come and gone over the years, and covid definitely put a large delay in our plans, but we are steadily moving forward each day! It started off with a community built strategic plan to map out what the community needed, how we could deliver that and a time frame of 3-5 years. The main three points we decided to focus on first were:

<p>EDUCATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education both online and in person is needed. • Having local in person and online resources is key for individuals and family members to turn to with questions and or for support when needed 	<p>ADVOCATE/CELEBRATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of our 2SLGBTQI+ community members do not feel safe in their own communities. • Advocacy is needed to ensure inclusion and diversity continues to be a priority for the Municipality of North Grenville. • Our 2SLGBTQI+ community needs to be celebrated. 	<p>REDUCE SOCIAL ISOLATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant need within the 2SLGBTQI+ community to have a place to gather, be social and feel safe.
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We are steadily moving forward with these directives and making great headway.

EDUCATE: While we have attended training ourselves to further our knowledge we have also been out in the community as well. Some of the training we as an organisation took was Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion training, Asist (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) as well as multiple online studies around sexuality and gender. For the public, we have held workshops with educators and students, and have taken steps to develop a more in depth 2sLGBTQIA+ Inclusion Training program.

We paired up with Kemptville Stress Relief Centre to begin a program session with a registered psychotherapist, where both youth and parents could meet (virtually at first) to ask questions, voice concerns or just talk in a group. It is still running, now in person, more than a year later.

ADVOCATE: We have seen the rise in hate directed at our community over the last few years and our resolve to stand strong and fight back has only gotten stronger. We developed a Rural Pride Collective so that we could join our voices together for more of an impact. Many rural prides suffer from low funding, too few volunteers and not enough resources. By pulling together (we have 8 prides in the collective : Brockville, Gananoque, Gatineau, Smiths Falls, Delta, Lanark and NG Rainbow Youth Alliance) we bring the voices, experiences and advocacy of a much larger group. Part of our directive moving forward is making NG a safe place for our 2SLGBTQIA+ community by educating and helping local businesses become safe spaces for these individuals. Every year, we strive to put on a bigger and better parade than the year before to celebrate and make visible all the allies we have in our community.

REDUCE ISOLATION: This has been the hardest one so far, as we do not have a dedicated space that is ours, so all events need spaces donated or rented and it makes things tricky. We do have some

ideas that we will be putting in place this year to hopefully fix that. In the mean time we have ran a Glittery Crafternoon every other Sunday at the public library (currently on hiatus for the summer) where anyone can join us and work on a craft of their choosing while engaging in conversations with others in the community. We have bi monthly trivia nights at Salamanders (Huge shout out to them for donating the space!!) and they are always a lot of fun. We have a Halloween dance planned for this year, and are hoping to start a seniors drop in.

WHO ARE WE?

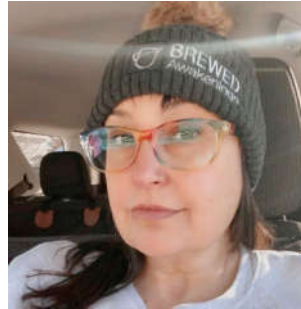
We are community members, business owners, and volunteers. Let us introduce you to our board!



Sara Jane Manning
Chair of the Board



Diane Dewing
Dir. of Administration



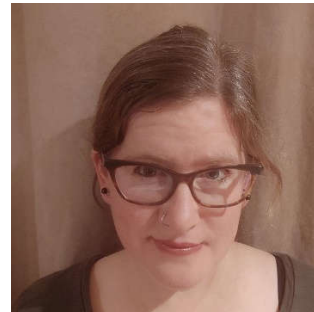
Fiona McKenney
Dir. Of Communications



Devon Warren
Dir. of Events



Elpis Law
Dir. of Technology



Kate Baker
Dir. of Rural Outreach



Brinna Whitley
Dir. at Large



Kim Lynch
Volunteer Coordinator

We are always looking for new board members and volunteers. We will be having our AGM in August, so if this interests you, be sure to come on out and learn more!

That is us in a nutshell! If you would like more information, we can be found on Facebook or NGPride.ca or drop us a line at info@ngpride.ca

WREN NEPSY IS A 14 YEAR OLD NON-BINARY HONOUR ROLE STUDENT AT ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL. ONLY A FEW YEARS INTO THEIR JOURNEY AS A MEMBER OF THE 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY, THEY HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES THROUGH VOLUNTEER WORK WITH NG PRIDE, THE NORTH GRENVILLE RAINBOW YOUTH ALLIANCE, AND AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE NOT A PHASE SOCIAL GROUP SUPPORTING LOCAL QUEER YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES. THEY WERE HONOURED BY THE EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL TOWN COUNCIL AS THE 2022 INAUGURAL YOUTH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR THEIR WORK SUPPORTING 2SLGBTQIA+ YOUTH, AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF STUDENTS FOR GENDER-NEUTRAL BATHROOMS, THE USE OF CHOSEN NAMES, AND THE NEED TO ADDRESS BULLYING IN SCHOOLS. THEY ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT THEY HAVE RECEIVED OVER THESE PAST YEARS FROM FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND TEACHERS WHO HAVE HELPED MAKE PROGRESS IN THEIR COMMUNITY; AND ARE HOPEFUL TO SEE CONTINUED GAINS IN THE NAME OF RESPECT, INCLUSIVITY, AND UNDERSTANDING.



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