

LIVE EVERY DAY WITH PRIDE

SUPPORT FOR 2SLGBTQ+ COMMUNITY SHOULDN'T ONLY COME IN JUNE, WRITES MATTHEW CONROY



MATHEW CONROY
Column

While Pride Month is a time to celebrate our community, our identities and the trailblazers who have led the way for us to do so, it can also serve as a reminder.

It's a reminder to those who do not identify within the 2SLGBTQ+ community that we exist every day. Sometimes that goes unnoticed.

I can't help but to feel increasingly exhausted every time that I receive a last-minute request sent

throughout the month for an interview and presentation, all from allied individuals and organizations wanting to support the work that we do.

As a queer individual, I feel that it is my duty and responsibility to accept all of these requests, because I know that education and knowledge-sharing is essential to creating inclusive spaces for the community, especially our youth.

However, in conversations with the youth that I support as a 2SLGBTQ+ youth drop-in co-ordinator, we recognize that some of these requests can be viewed as performative activism or allyship because they are only coming during the month of June.

It can often feel that our identities should be celebrated only during Pride Month and then left behind for the remaining 11 months before we do it all again.

Allies need to know that allyship and activism takes place all year. As one of the only organizations supporting 2SLGBTQ+ youth in Halton, Positive Space Network's small but mighty team of four are ac-

tively creating inclusive programs and supports for youth and parents year-round.

These programs are impactful, and are often life-changing and life-saving. Support from allies and organizations who show up during Pride Month needs to continue with the same momentum throughout the year.

Start turning these brief relationships into new partnerships and opportunities to engage, learn and support. For those who are financially able to, continue to support community organizations in your region, because they cannot continue to do this work without it.

Continue to advocate for change and inclusion in your neighbourhoods because our 2SLGBTQ+ youth are not surviving without it.

Pride exists every day, and I hope that we can continue to celebrate together throughout the year.

Matthew Conroy is the 2SLGBTQ+ youth drop-in co-ordinator for Positive Space Network. He can be reached at matthewc@rockonline.ca.

VACCINE ROLLOUT GOING VERY WELL

My wife and I would like to congratulate the Region of Halton for the efficiency of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

We both received our first dose at the Gellert Community Centre. It was a great experience.

The staff were friendly and efficient, with no de-

lays. Many of our friends have made the same comments.

What has really impressed me is what happened after I tried to reschedule a second appointment and was unable to make the change due to an error in the records.

The 311 line was obvi-

ously very busy, so I left a message on Saturday morning.

That same afternoon I received a call back and the problem was immediately resolved.

Thanks to all those involved for a great job.

KEITH RAMSDEN,
HALTON HILLS

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ASK THE PROFESSIONAL

Q

I am the estate trustee for my mother's estate. My mother had assets that she dealt with outside of her estate, including a cottage that she transferred to my brother and me, a few years ago. My sister is pressuring me to include the cottage as an asset of the estate, but I don't believe that it is.

A

If your mother transferred the cottage entirely, prior to any incapacity or some other person acting on a power of attorney, your sister will have a difficult time convincing a court that the cottage is properly an asset of the estate. She would have to prove that someone unduly influenced your mother in her decision. If your mother put you and your brother on title to the cottage jointly with her, then there is a question as to whether it was a gift, or are you holding the interest in trust for your mother? An estate trustee has an obligation to fully account for the estate, and act in a transparent manner. However, they are not required to account for assets that fall outside of the estate. One way in which you as the estate trustee may resolve the issue is to go through a process known as *passing estate accounts*. This passing of accounts amounts to the court's approval of the administration of the estate.

If you are dealing with an estate issue, give us a call to set up a free 1/2 hour consultation. Stay safe and enjoy the weekend.

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