

LGBTQ

EDUCATION

TIMELINE

1969



On October 24, 16 people attend the first meeting of the University of Toronto Homophile Association (UTHA). UTHA is the first post-Stonewall gay organization and the first formed at a Canadian university. One of the founding members, Jearld Moldenhauer, is fired from his position in the University of Toronto's Physiology Department for his role in starting and defending the association.

SAC supports homosexuals

Oct. 29 marked the birth of the University of Toronto Homophile Association when SAC recognized it as an official organization. The association, based on that of Cornell University, was designed to inform the U of T community of the aspects of male and female homosexuality, and to combat prevalent myths with accurate facts.

Jerry Moldenhauer, a graduate of Cornell, said that most students at Cornell were, at first, turned off toward the association because it didn't use the back door method of gradually infiltrating the university's society as a group to inform students and help homosexuals.

Charlie Hill (SGS), chairman of the U of T Homophile Association said, "It's important to keep up the momentum of the organization. If interest dropped it would be a pity because an association of this kind is certainly vital to a large community such as the University of Toronto."

The association plans to work toward the acceptance of homosexuality on social and personal levels and to set up an informal counselling service. This will be done partly by maintaining a table in the foyer of Sidney Smith Hall to distribute literature and answer questions. Discussion groups, open to all U of T students, will be held every second week and prominent guest speakers will be invited to give their views on homosexuality in today's society.

2002

On May 10, a judge orders the Durham Catholic District School Board to allow Marc Hall, an openly gay student, to bring his same-gender date to the high school prom. The decision comes just a few hours before the prom, enabling Marc to attend with his boyfriend, Jean-Paul Dumond.



"I was jumping up and down and everybody was cheering"

1985

In June, Kenneth Zeller, a secondary teacher-librarian, is murdered in Toronto's High Park. This hate crime spurs the City of Toronto School Board to implement one of Canada's first programs to combat anti-gay discrimination and violence in its schools.



Kenneth Zeller: 40-year-old died in "unprovoked and brutal assault" in High Park.

RAY-BASHING IN HIGH PARK

A tale of homophobia and murder

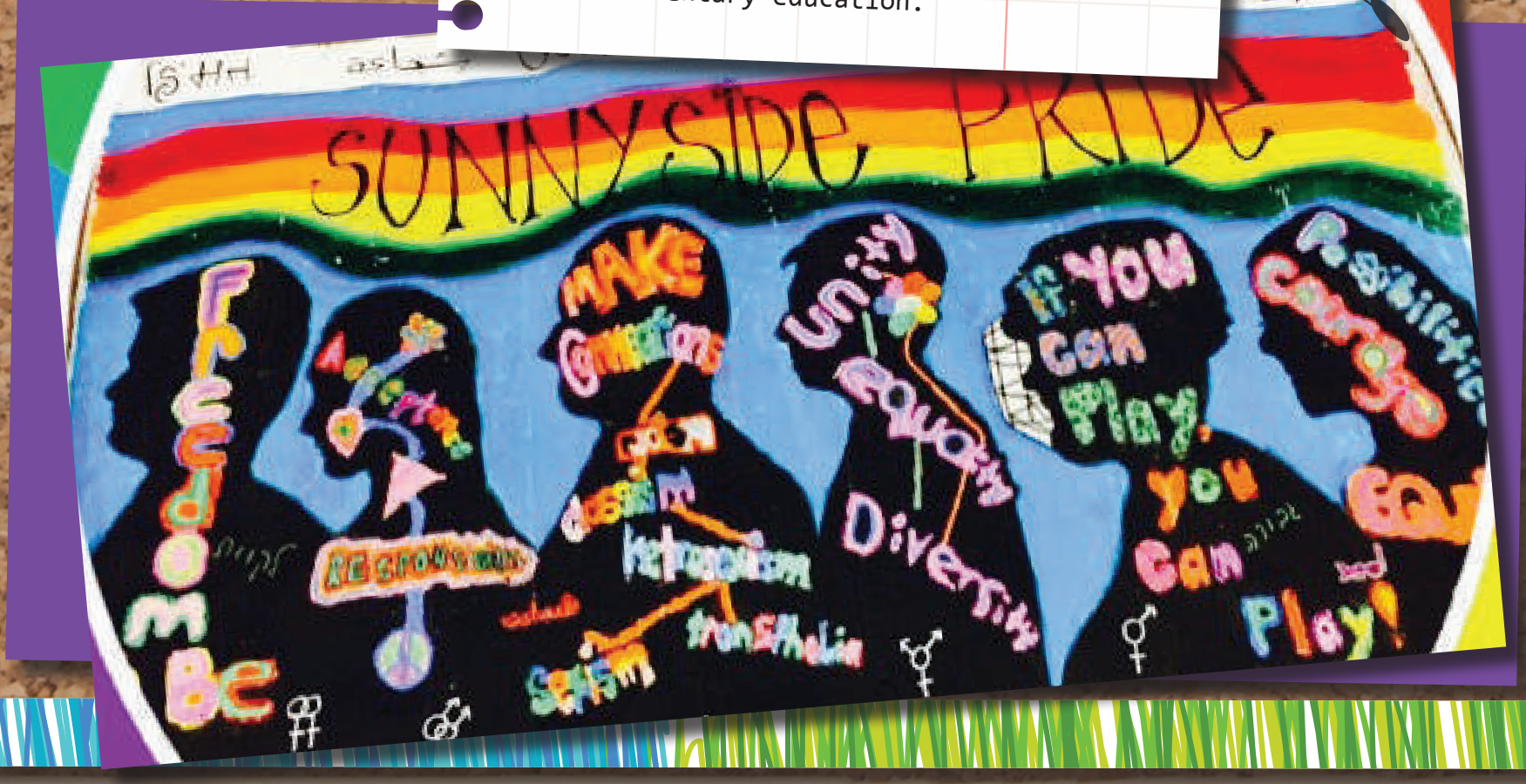
On a Monday in late June, 1985 - it was the first week of the school holidays, hot and humid - 16-year-old Henry Jastanuk called his best friend, Steven Baker, into his back-yard. Henry, it seemed, had something important he wanted to talk about but, as Steven waited, couldn't get the words out. He was shaking. "Go ahead," Steven encouraged him. "It can't be that bad." "You're kidding," said Steven. "A few days later, on Friday evening, Henry sat in a room in 11 Division Metro Police Station. "Did the officer tell you why you are here?" asked a sergeant. "Murder," Henry replied. "What does that mean to you?" "It means to kill someone." "Do you know who you are alleged to have killed?" Henry was at a loss. "What's his name?" he asked. "That same evening, in other rooms at 11 Division, a number of Henry's friends were also being questioned by police. A week before, around midnight on Friday, June 21, eight teenage boys from the Swansea area had gone to a densely wooded section of High Park near Colborne Lodge Drive. Three of them had chased a man up one of the trails, it was a bus where the man's car was parked, they saw a bus where the man's car was parked, they cornered him inside his car, beat him and then left. The next day, they learned from news reports that he was dead. If any of them had read the Sunday Star for

BY BRIAN SHEIN

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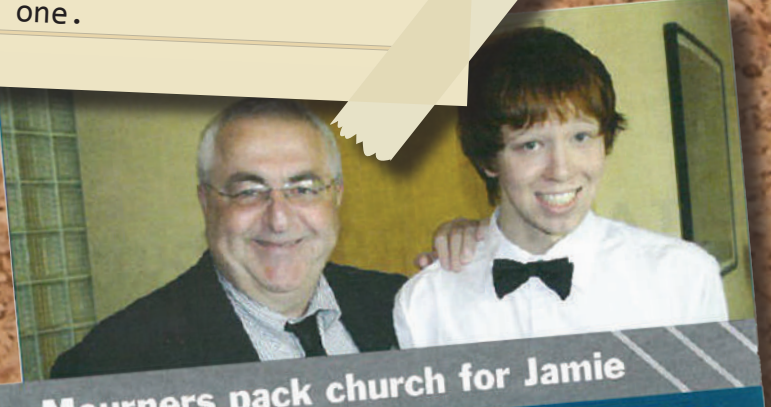
2008

Sunnyside Public School in Kitchener starts the first elementary school Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) in Ontario. Led by teacher Debbie Samson, this club paves the way for more GSAs in elementary schools. ETFO awarded Samson with its Rainbow Visions award for her contribution to creating safer spaces in elementary education.



2011

On October 14, Jamie Hubley, the son of Ottawa City Councillor Allan Hubley, dies by suicide after having blogged for a month about the anti-gay bullying he was facing at school. The bullying had begun as early as Grade 7, with students on Jamie's bus attempting to stuff batteries in his mouth because he preferred figure skating over hockey. The incident leads to several Canadian media and political figures posting videos dedicated to Hubley as part of the online It Gets Better Project. It also leads to the Government of Ontario passing the Accepting Schools Act (Bill 13) in 2012, which mandates clearer and stricter bullying responses in schools. It also mandates that all publicly funded schools in Ontario must allow students to start a GSA if they want one.



Mourners pack church for Jamie

KANATA, ONT. • More than 500 people packed the Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Parish for the funeral of 15-year-old Jamie Hubley, son of Ottawa city councillor Allan Hubley, in late October. The gay teen killed himself after years of homophobic bullying, which he logged about on social media, before committing suicide Oct. 14. "I am tired of life really. It's so hard, I'm sorry, I can't take it anymore," Hubley wrote just before he took his own life. "I don't want to wait three more years, this hurts too much. How do you even know it will get better? It's not." His funeral took place near Av Jackson Secondary School, where Hubley, who was in Grade 10, was trying to restart a gay-straight alliance.



1996

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1999

Sault Ste. Marie secondary school student Jeremy Dias becomes the target of bullying and physical violence. In November 2002, alleging that Sir James Dunn Collegiate staff members would not allow him to start school clubs for non-heterosexual students, Dias successfully sues the Algoma District School Board for not allowing him to form an LGBTQ club at his school. Later, in 2005, Dias uses the money he receives from the case to found Jer's Vision: Canada's Youth Diversity Initiative, which in 2015 becomes the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity.



Jeremy Dias says he once felt like he won the lottery for losers. GINO DONATO FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Stand up to bullying

Harassed for being gay, Jeremy Dias takes a message of respect to schools



2013

In December, Lee Hicks, a Grade 6 teacher at Palmerston Avenue Junior Public School in Toronto, speaks out about transitioning while continuing to teach. He chronicles his experiences, filming much of his material at his school in a video called Both/And Indiegogo Video.

benjamin lee



both/and

A video that explores ideas of self, gender identity, and gender expression. Ideal for elementary classroom reading, the video is accompanied by curriculum guides, with direct links to the Ontario Elementary Schools Curriculum. bothand.ayga.ca

2015

At the ETFO Annual Meeting in August, delegates from across Ontario vote to approve the organization's first Transgender Policy, demonstrating ETFO's commitment to equity and social justice for all.

POSITIVE SPACE



This is a place where human rights are respected, and where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning people, and their families, friends and allies, are welcomed and supported.

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