



For Immediate Release
October 11, 2005

Bringing Communities Together
Out on the Shelf Grand Opening

GUELPH, ON – Truly there is no one face of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, two-spirited, intersex, queer, questioning (LGBTTTTSIQQ) and allied communities in Guelph, but there is a resource centre right downtown! Out on the Shelf, which opened its doors in August of this year is celebrating its grand opening on Thursday October 20 from 3-8pm.

The grand opening of Out on the Shelf, located on the third floor of 147 Wyndham St. N will feature tours, refreshments and finger food from 3-8 highlighting readings by local writers from 5-8. Volunteers will be available throughout the opening to answer questions, help people with memberships and orient people to the centre. People are also invited to view the website that contains information about the launch party, community events and resources. The address is www.outontheshelf.ca.

“If Out on the Shelf was just a plank in organizing resources about queer issues, then it might as well be another unassuming bookcase in any library. It isn't. It's accessible and political space written into Wyndham Street for the LGBTTTTSIQQ community to interact with, a progressive achievement and a compliment to the endeavours of those who have been working towards similar goals,” said Dave Mitchell, Guelph Queer Equality Event Coordinator. Mitchell goes on to say that the having a LGBTTTTSIQQ centre on a main street and visible is politically important for the community. Out on the Shelf is a not for profit queer resource centre and library for the (LGBTTTTSIQQ) and allied communities. "It's inspiring to know that over 800 books about a real diversity of issues that queer folk deal with everyday were donated from our communities and those who support us. There's a definite need for this information to be shared" said Scott Clarke, Librarian for Out on the Shelf, and active member of the queer community.

Barb Buttars, a co-facilitator of tri-cities PFLAG Chapter, offers support, education, and resources on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity from a family perspective. Buttars stated that “PFLAG has always believed in providing reading material through our small lending library to the community and it is good that there is a wider library that can be used.” Buttars went on to say that, “it is not just a library but a clearing house of information, events, resources and services.” Out on the Shelf strives to meet the needs of the local LGBTTTTSIQQ communities and their allies by gathering and making

available resources with the goal of creating a supportive, positive space and to be responsive to the dynamic needs of the communities. “I feel free to be myself without condemnation or feeling odd here,” said Mary, a volunteer of the centre. The centre fosters community through its many resources, education and networking with local LGBTTTSIQQ groups and initiatives. “I think it is very important for the queer communities and the Guelph community at large that there be a resource centre like Out on the Shelf,” said Marlene Pfaff, Director of The Wellness Centre of the University of Guelph. “The Wellness Centre has believed in this project from its onset and donated \$1,200 from the proceeds of the Laramie Project as seed money.” Pfaff believes the centre’s success is in part due to the fact that it operates as a collective where people from different communities come together to support the local queer members of Guelph and surrounding area. “I’m looking forward to celebrating their successes with them at the grand opening on Oct 20.”

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For more information contact Dave Vervoort M.Sc. 821-5163, Bruce Hare 821-2507 or Lori Guest 993-5674 or info@outontheshelf.ca. Our website is www.outontheshelf.ca

Press are welcome at the event on October 20 between 3-5pm, thank you.