



Annual Report
2005

The Ten Oaks Project develops, promotes, provides and supports programming for the children of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, queer) and/or non-traditional families, youth who are themselves LGBTQ, and their allies.

Letter to our campers, families and supporters



For the Ten Oaks Project, 2005 was a milestone year featuring an incredible number of firsts.

In August, after eleven months of fundraising, planning and development, the Ten Oaks Project delivered its first sleep-away summer camp program, Camp Ten Oaks. This program was the first of its kind in Canada.

Camp Ten Oaks had a considerable impact on the lives of our campers and families, as well as on the LGBTQ communities. Campers ages 8-16 had a fun-filled week full of new adventures and friendships in an environment where they didn't need to worry about coming out about their families and/or their own identities.

At Camp Ten Oaks, children had the opportunity to experience the magic of camp as they were transported to a place that had a positive impact on their identities and values. Camp helps to foster self-esteem, independence, confidence and teamwork skills. It's also a place where kids discover new abilities and talents.

The Ten Oaks Project was also involved in offering year-round family programming to the Ottawa LGBTQ community. Working with our partners, we continued to offer the year-round Rainbow Families group.

The growing need for services and programming for children and youth of the LGBTQ community allowed to the Board of Directors to present a 3-year strategic plan which was approved at the 2005 Annual General Meeting. Core strategies from this plan focus on the following:

1. Camp Ten Oaks is the principal program of the Ten Oaks Project.
2. The Ten Oaks Project will remain based in Ottawa, with a maximum of ¼ of Board members residing in areas outside the National Capital Region.
3. The Ten Oaks Project will focus its resources on the growth of its current programs, Camp Ten Oaks and Rainbow Families. The possibility of program expansion will be explored in the spring of 2006.
4. The Ten Oaks Project will rely on multiple sources of funding to ensure the sustainability of the organization and its capacity to deliver programs.

As a not-for-profit, entirely volunteer driven organization, we were able to achieve these exceptional milestones in 2005 because of the many people and communities who were invested in achieving these goals. Thank you to all who gave generously to make the work of the Ten Oaks Project possible.

We are excited about what we have achieved thus far, and by working together, the future possibilities we can create.

Holly Wagg,
President, Ten Oaks Project

Our Programs

In 2005, we offered two programs: Camp Ten Oaks and Rainbow Families.



1. Camp Ten Oaks

In 2005, we launched the first summer camp program in Canada for the children of LGBTQ families, LGBTQ youth and young allies. The one-week, sleep-away camp program was attended by 22 campers ages 8-16.

The Camp Experience



« **Empowerment through play**
A core value of Camp Ten Oaks, our program is designed to empower campers through play that enhances self-esteem, social skills, leadership and self-confidence.



« **Experiential learning**
The Camp Ten Oaks model is based on skills building and experiential learning. Our campers learn by doing. The fun-filled daily schedule offers an exceptional mixture of recreational, artistic, outdoor and social justice activities.



« **Social justice and family programming**
Social justice promotes human equality by recognizing the underlying conditions in our everyday lives that foster inequalities, a lack of opportunity or discrimination. Our social justice and family programming comprises a series of age-appropriate activities that allow campers to explore one or two key issues while at camp.



« **Economic accessibility**
All children should be able to attend camp regardless of the ability to pay. Our sliding scale fee program makes a Camp Ten Oaks experience possible for all our families, especially for the 2/3 of our families which are economically disadvantaged.



« **Building a camp community**
Everyone involved in running Camp Ten Oaks is a volunteer, including our staff and the members of our Board of Directors. The LGBTQ community drives the camp community.

Dear Camp Ten Oaks,

I wanted to thank all of you for providing a wonderful week at camp for Stephanie and all the kids. Steph really had a great time and keeps sharing stories about camp. I had three hopes for Steph at camp:

- 1) have a great time;
- 2) make friends with kids from same-sex families; and,
- 3) have the chance to share whatever she wanted with people who would understand where she was coming from.

It is very clear to Cindy and I that Steph had the chance to do all of that. Thank you again for all your hard work (and I know it was a lot of work!)

When Cindy and I took her home we noticed a change in Stephanie and that she seemed to have matured a bit from the camp experience and she has had a weight lifted. Stephanie had an amazing time at camp and continues to maintain contact with her new friends from Camp Ten Oaks. She started grade 9 and is doing really well. I can't wait for her to go back next year!

Michelle, Cindy & Stephanie
September, 2005



After the 2005 session, feedback was sought from campers and parents to ensure that Camp Ten Oaks was meeting their needs and provided a memorable, fun-filled learning experience. Listed here are the top three answers to some of the questions we asked.

Camper Feedback

What were some of the best things about camp?

1. Great food
2. All of the activities, especially swimming
3. A safe space and place to talk about my family

If there were one thing that you would never change about Camp Ten Oaks, what would it be?

1. Awesome staff
2. Amazing people and friends
3. All of the fun

Parent Feedback

How do you feel that attending Camp Ten Oaks benefited your child?

1. Meeting children from families similar to their own helped my child feel like they were part of the “norm” and reduced the sense of isolation.
2. My child’s self-esteem, confidence and independence were built at camp.
3. My child had the opportunity to make new friends.



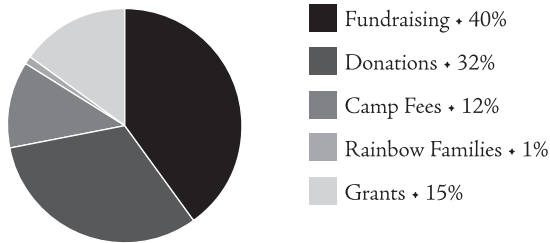
2. Rainbow Families

The bi-monthly drop-in group for GLBTTQ parents and their children 0-12 was offered from January to May and September to December. The parents' group met for support, education and advocacy, childcare was provided for children 0 to 6 and camp-flavoured programming was delivered for children 7-12. The group partnership program offered by the Ten Oaks Project, Centretown Community Health Centre and Family Services Ottawa.

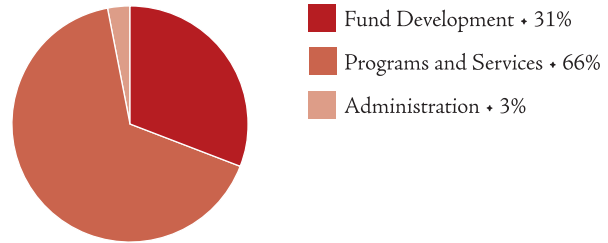
Financial Summary

January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005

2005 Revenue



2005 Expenditures



Balance Sheet

December 31	2005
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash	4,251.51
Accounts Receivable	560.00
Accrued Receivables	5,837.45
GST Receivable	115.08
Prepaid Expenses	<u>1,722.20</u>
	12,486.24
Total Assets	<u>12,486.24</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	<u>4,773.55</u>
	<u>4,773.55</u>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	<u>7,712.69</u>
	<u>7,712.69</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>12,486.24</u>

Thank you to our supporters

Thank you to our donors and every person who made a donation, pledged a bowler, attended an event or volunteered. Your support made the Ten Oaks Project possible.

Donations over \$5,000

City of Ottawa

Donations \$1,000 to \$4,999

MAD for Dancing

Max Keeping Foundation

Scotiabank Employee Volunteer Program

Donations \$500 to \$999

Carleton University Students Association

Mountain Equipment Co-Op, Ottawa

Donations \$100 to \$499

Ladyfest Ottawa

Centretown Community Health Centre

Fundraisers

A number of exciting events were run by or benefited the Ten Oaks Project in 2005.

Fundraisers organized by the Ten Oaks Project

1st Annual Camp Bowl-A-Thon (Ottawa, March 2005) »

Planting the Seeds: A Benefit to Help Grow Camp Ten Oaks (Toronto, June 2005)

A Fabulous Lot (Ottawa, July 2005)

Get Your Kicks...Ring in 2006 *in partnership with Pride Ottawa* (Ottawa, December 2005)

Fundraisers held that benefited the Ten Oaks Project

MAD for Dancing (Toronto, June 2005)



2005 Board of Directors

Holly Wagg, President*

Julia Alarie, Vice President*

Elpis Law, Treasurer*

Sonja Prakash, Secretary*

Wendy Barber, Director-at-Large **

Jennifer Keystone, Director-at-Large*

Mary Dear, Director-at-Large**

Trevor Buttrum, Director-at-Large**

Nancy McKelvey, Director-at-Large**

Darryl Lim, Director-at-Large* (left September 2005)

**indicates term 2004-2006*

***indicates term 2005-2007*



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