

Rainbow of Hope event to boost crosswalk funding

by Katie Horvath



Sarnia Intersectional Feminist Network, Women’s March Canada: Sarnia-Lambton, and the Sarnia Pride and Transgender Association are teaming up to host the first ever “Rainbow of Hope” fundraising event on Saturday, September 7th. The event takes place from 11am to 4pm at the Agora Plaza at Centennial Park and the groups hope to raise money to help fund the installation and maintenance of a rainbow crosswalk to support the youth at Spectrum at Sarnia Lambton Rebound. The committee has recently gained Council’s approval for a rainbow crosswalk for downtown Sarnia.

Sarnia City Council approved the request from the Rebound Spectrum Community Action Committee to paint the west side of Lochiel and Christina Street intersection to symbolize inclusion for

the LGBTQ community. The action committee offered to fundraise the entire project and were backed by several citizen delegations and a petition signed by over 700 Sarnia residents and businesses. The goal is to have the rainbow painted by October 18th of this year.

October 18th, “Spirit Day,” marks the annual LGBTQ awareness day.

The family-friendly, five-hour fundraising event will include a silent auction, live entertainment, face painting, games, food and artisan vendors, and a dunk tank featuring city councillors Brian White and Bill Dennis. Both White and Dennis very vocally supported recent moves for community initiatives involving increased LGBTQ inclusion and visibility.

While the groups hosting the fundraising event are not affiliated with Sarnia – Lambton Rebound, Sarnia Intersectional Feminist Network group member Simon Harris states it’s their way of reaching out to give them a boost.

“There’s a lot to look forward to for this event,” said Harris. “We’re excited to have our groups reach common ground and find something amazing to work on that benefits the whole community; we’re excited to see the rainbow crosswalk get the public attention and community funding that it deserves; but we are most definitely excited to see all of Sarnia come together for this all-ages, family friendly event in support of such a good cause.”

SPATA member Lila Palychuk says everyone is looking forward to seeing local artists perform, and to spend the day with local sellers and makers, noting how beautiful it has been to be a part of the initiative. “I think we’re all already experiencing a bit of the most exciting part, which is our community coming together in support of the crosswalk initiative put forth by Spectrum as well as the queer community as a whole.”

Says Harris: “Being able to work with the Women’s March and SPATA on a project this meaningful has been a long time coming and been so rewarding. For the actual event, I am super stoked to see everything work all together and watch our lovely performers on the Agora stage, meet our amazing vendors, and get a chance to see meaningful queer allyship in Sarnia.”

IF YOU GO:

What: Rainbow of Hope Fundraiser

When: Saturday, September 7th from 11:00am to 4:00pm

Where: Agora Plaza at Centennial Park

For more information contact rainbowofhopeevent@gmail.com

