



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### Pride Toronto announces 2006 Pride Parade Grand Marshals and Honoured Groups

TORONTO, March 7, 2006 — Pride Toronto announced today that two couples, Donald Middleton & Clayton Wilson, and Robert Berry & Les Sheare, will lead the 2006 Pride Parade as Grand Marshals. They will be joined by two Honoured Groups, the Prime Timers of Toronto Social Club and Supporting Our Youth. “Our Grand Marshals really personify the theme of this year’s Pride Week, ‘Fearless,’” said Co-chair David Anderson. “Both couples have been together for 50 years. They’ve lived their lives openly, proudly and fearlessly, long before same-sex relationships were considered acceptable or respectable by society at large, or seen as legitimate in the eyes of the law.”

Two local community groups will also march at the head of the Parade. The Prime Timers is a social club of gay men over the age of 40 years. The club regularly contributes funds to The 519 Church Street Community Centre and has participated in the annual Pride Parade for a number of years. Supporting Our Youth (SOY) caters to youths of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, experiences and passion and helps to improve the lives of queer and trans youth through arts, culture and recreation.

“These groups embody many of Pride Toronto’s values,” said Anderson. “They engage people in our communities to facilitate and foster community development. And they value diversity by accepting and respecting differences and working to understand the cultural complexities that influence identity, assumptions, behaviours, expectations, and beliefs.”

(more)

Pride Toronto accepts nominations for Grand Marshal and Honoured Group from the community at large. Pride Toronto members voted for this year's honourees at a general meeting held on February 7, 2006. This year's Pride Week will culminate with the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25.

#### About Pride Toronto

Pride Toronto ([www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com)) is the not-for-profit organization that hosts Pride Week, an annual festival held during the last week of June in downtown Toronto. Pride Week is Canada's largest celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning and two-spirited people, and is one of the leading cultural events of its kind in the world.

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