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For Immediate Release

## **Pride Toronto to honour Pride Week founders and community supporters**

*Gala will kick off festival's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations*

**TORONTO, May 16, 2005** — Pride Toronto announced today that it will host a gala dinner to honour six individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Pride Week in Toronto over its 25-year history.

“The Pride Gala will be a unique opportunity to pay tribute to an amazing and diverse group of Pride Week founders and supporters,” said Pride Toronto Co-chair Natasha Garda. “Their leadership and dedication over the past 25 years have helped to make Toronto’s Pride Week the successful cultural festival it is today.”

The honourees are:

- **Kyle Rae**, Pride Week founder and Toronto City Councillor;
- **June Callwood**, writer/activist;
- **Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes**, Senior Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto;
- **Carole Pope**, Juno Award-winning recording artist;
- **Dean Odorico**, General Manager, Woody’s Toronto; and
- **Salah Bachir**, philanthropist/businessman.

Labatt Breweries of Canada will also be honoured as a corporate supporter.

Presenters will include the Hon. Bill Graham, MP (Toronto Centre-Rosedale); the Hon. George Smitherman, MPP (Toronto Centre-Rosedale); Kathleen Wynne, MPP (Don Valley West); and Mayor David Miller.

Performers will include John Alcorn, Micah Barnes, Laura Hubert, Dr. Draw and I Furiosi.

**What:** Pride Gala  
**When:** Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Sutton Place Hotel, 955 Bay Street

Tickets at \$250 are now on sale online at [www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com).

**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 and queer people, and is one of the leading cultural events of its kind in the world.

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**Pride 25 Gala**

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