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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Brian Gryphon

briangryphon@yahoo.com

Summer of 60 Tour for LGBT Groups (Revised Dates)

COLUMBUS, OH.. — Brian Gryphon came out as gay in a Letter To The Editor of the *Chatham Daily News* early in 1978, at the age of 19. This summer he will celebrate his 60th birthday with two one-week-long trips around Ontario; meeting and talking with LGBT/queer folk, young and old. He is looking for community groups interested in hosting an evening (or afternoon) of poetry and storytelling during his trips in June and September.

Shortly after that Letter he returned to Toronto. Gay and lesbian communities there and elsewhere were inspired by the Stonewall Riots in New York, the Compton Cafeteria Riot, and other protest actions. Brian began exploring political and sexual activism in his home town. Fighting for basic civil rights and non-discrimination protection quickly pivoted to protesting repeated police raids on gay bath houses in Toronto and elsewhere.

Just a few years later what we now know as hiv/aids exploded in gay communities across North America. Rather than building a career Brian worked various retail jobs (and one summer as a bath house attendant) and kept his energies for community work. That work ranged from volunteering with the Aids Committee of Toronto, Casey House Hospice, and the Mr Leatherman Toronto committee to membership in Trident Metro Toronto and the Toronto Order of Perpetual Indulgence. He was also a volunteer peer counselor on the GYT Gay Youth Toronto single-line phone service.

Brian took advantage of his family's multi-generational cross-border history and moved to central Ohio in 1996, where he continues to reside while planning his future retirement in south-western Ontario.

The *Summer of 60 Tour* offer tales of sex, drugs, activism, addiction, abuse, and survival. It is Brian's birthday gift to queer communities across Ontario. In lieu of a Speaking Fee, a contribution of meals, accommodations or funds for travel expenses is appreciated.

For more information, please go to:

<http://briangryphon.com/summer-of-60-speaking-tour/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Summer60Tour/>