



JOHN  
street  
cafe

8338 N. LOMBARD  
503.247.1066

## BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION!!!



**DEELAY CEELAY**  
PIGEONS  
COOL NUTS AND  
DJ FATBOY  
CLOUDY OCTOBER  
YEAH GREAT FINE  
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR  
SAM HUMANS & THE LIGHT

10:30 PM  
DANCE PARTY WITH  
DJ ERIK BEATS!

**EVENTS INCLUDE:**  
→ 5K Wine Run!  
→ Bike Scavenger Hunt!  
→ Sabering!  
→ Grape Stompin'!  
...and MORE!

\*We are collecting food for OREGON FOOD BANK!  
**BRING 2 NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS!!!**

3PM to  
MIDNIGHT  
at Pix Patisserie  
3901 N Williams  
Portland, OR  
503-283-0539

At  
**PIX**  
patisserie

# Let The Games Begin!

Second GLISA North America Outgames hits Vancouver, Portland represents

BY RYAN J. PRADO

Vancouver, British Columbia cemented itself a bastion for competitive sports in 2010, with the Olympic Winter Games in Whistler. The fact that the city is consistently hailed among the most beautiful destinations on the planet didn't hurt either, as images of arborous mountains, the English Bay and Vancouver Harbor were thrust into living rooms around the globe.

It makes sense, then, that the Second Gay and Lesbian International Sports Association North America Outgames be held in the Big Couve. Come July 25-31, tens of thousands of LGBTQ athletes from around the world descend on the region not just to compete in these games, not just to revel in the excitement generated by attending the competitions as fans, but also to take part in Vancouver's renowned Pride Week celebrations.

This is going to be huge.

Don't confuse, however, the recent Gay Games in 2010 in Cologne, Germany with the Outgames franchise. While similar in obvious ways like affording LGBTQ athletes of all talents to compete with and against each other in a supportive environment, North America Outgames board chair John Boychuk says Outgames focuses more on friendly sport and individual accomplishment. The Outgames also distinguishes itself by virtue of a spotlight on human rights, with a three-day conference smack dab in the middle of all that gamin'.

"Outgames recognizes that human rights play an important part of visible community inclusiveness, and the ability to demolish barriers that are part of today's world," Boychuk explains. "This allows for a greater cross section of people to demonstrate their mental skills beyond that of the body and its physical limits."

The conference is designed to recognize, address and work to address issues facing the LGBTQ community such as discrimination by way of youth bullying, workplace harassment, spirituality, education and more. Representatives from every continent are scheduled to be on hand to facilitate panel discussions.

The first World Outgames were in Montreal in 2006, while the inaugural North America Outgames were held in Calgary, Alberta the following year. Calgary's games boasted more than 12,000 participants throughout the three-day human rights conference, 35-plus sporting events and 12 days of cultural activities. Boychuk says that as the continental version of these games continues to build its brand, the 2011 Outgames is looking at nearly twice the level of participation that Calgary saw in 2007, with a greater emphasis on the diversity in the types of sporting

"It's nice to know that we have so many outstanding LGBTQ athletes. I hope to be challenged and make new friends from around the world."

-ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ

events offered. In addition, Boychuk expects athletes from as far away as Japan, Wales, France, Germany, New Zealand, South America and the United States.

Some familiar faces for Portland LGBTQ sports enthusiasts are making the trek to represent the Rose City, too. Squeaking sneakers on the tennis court are two of Team Portland Tennis' finest, Scott Reis and Collin Koo.

Reis, 36, competed in the 2009 Outgames in Copenhagen, Denmark, in track and field. At the North America Outgames this year, he'll play in Division C for tennis.

"I am a competitive person and am very focused on the court, but love the social aspect off the court and meeting new people during these tournaments," Reis says. "Win or lose, I think good sportsmanship is key."

Koo, 40, is a newcomer to Portland, having just recently moved here from Vancouver, B.C. He is competing in tennis in the singles and doubles Open Division, and also plans on netting more time with competitive badminton.

"It's definitely an important sporting and social outlet for our community," Koo says of Outgames. "It gives me an excuse to visit my hometown, and many of my friends are participating in and even volunteering at the games. Scott and I play in different divisions so we won't compete against or with each other, but I'll be cheering for him enthusiastically because we are good friends and Portland teammates."

Alejandro Martinez, a soccer player for the past four years with Portland's Nettrippers Football Club, is traveling to Vancouver with his team, Stonewall, with the hopes of getting Outgames gold. It wouldn't be the first time, as Stonewall—a team handpicked for the games—went to Copenhagen in '07 in Division 1 and went undefeated, returning home with the gold medal.

"I find it intriguing to compete amongst other well-trained athletes and to be surrounded by other LGBTQ athletes," explains Martinez, 26. "It's nice to know that we have so many outstanding LGBTQ athletes. I hope to be challenged and make new friends from around the world."

Making friends is easy when you're landing in the nexus of Vancouver Pride week. And just because the games are almost here doesn't mean you've missed out on your chance to attend, or even compete. Registration for the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

larger team tournaments and continental cup challenges has now closed, but individual events remain open until the start of the games to encourage everyone who decides to come to Vancouver at the last minute. Events that officials will accept registrations for right up to the day of include the Eco Challenge, Poker, the 10K Run/4K Walk, Golf, DanceSport, Track and Field and the Vertical 6K Grouse-to-Peak Challenge.

The outlying contingents during the Outgames this year are just as enticing for prospective attendees and competing athletes. The Outgames Live Showcase series on July 28 at the three-story supper club Five Sixty features performances by Canadian diva Carole Pope, Peter Breeze and others. On July 30, the Closing Ceremonies Party gets things beat-bumpin' with entertainment by international chart-topping dance-poppers Ace of Base, Dragonette and more at the Plaza of Nations.

Adding even more pride to the festivities is the Queer in Vancouver and Pride in Art festivals, the Celebration of Light International Fireworks Competition and Canada Place—one of the city's most iconic tourist spots—lighting up its sails in rainbow colors for the entire week.

In short, this could be the LGBTQ party of the year.

"The end of July in Vancouver is definitely going to be Gay 8.0!" says Barb Snelgrove, Outgames' communications director of the event's evolution. "Vancouver is ready to roll out the lavender carpet for all our out-of-town guests." ☐

The second GLISA North America Outgames run July 25-31 in Vancouver, B.C. For registration, hotel accommodations, and other general info., visit [vancouver2011outgames.com](http://vancouver2011outgames.com).