



BICYCLE USER GROUP Gay West Bicycle Club

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Each summer, Toronto hosts one of the largest pride parades in the world, drawing over a million people in 2009 to celebrate the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community.

Since 2005, Toronto has also been host to another celebration of queer culture, the annual Pride Ride organized by the Gay West Bicycle Club.

The June 14 community ride started in the west end, travelling to the gay village on Church Street and back again to attend the fifth annual Queer West Arts Festival at the Cadillac Lounge in Parkdale.

Although the club is based in west Toronto, pride riders come from all parts of the GTA and beyond. Started in 2003, the club claims to be the only LGBT-dedicated bicycling club in Ontario and welcomes cyclists of every skill level.

"In the past we've had as many as 100 riders on the pride ride," says ride leader and club founder, Michael Paré. As the "Queer West" community grows the BUG will continue to host monthly rides.

queerwest.org/bikeclub.php