

London Lesbian Film Festival feted at city hall

Our London

Mayor Joe Fontana took time at the outset of Tuesday's (April 15) council meeting to pay homage to Ontario's largest lesbian event.

The London Lesbian Film Festival, which predates Pride celebrations in the Forest City, was honoured as the featured community organization at Tuesday's meeting.

According to Fontana's remarks the festival made international headlines in 1992 when it became the first of its kind in Canada "and possibly the world" to hold a public screening.

Known as the "Reeling Spinsters" the small group of women that founded the festival grew the event into North America's only Lesbian Film Festival and the largest lesbian event in Ontario.

The festival, which takes place April 25-27, expanded this year to two Rainbow Cinema theatres and other larger venues including the London Music Hall, London Convention Centre and the Delta Armouries Hotel.

The festival began as a celebratory gathering, bringing together a diverse group of women and supporters from across Ontario, Michigan and beyond, according to the mayor.

"Their vision was to create a space where they could project their images, challenge their politics and reflect upon their lives"

The documentary, "Bending the Lens: 20 years of the London Lesbian Film Festival" has been screened at the Female Eye Festival in Toronto, the London Ontario Media Arts Association, Emergence: Queer Arts Festival at Western University, and received an Official Selection Award at the London Feminist Film Festival in the UK.

"This festival continues to support LGBT filmmakers, artists and allies by giving them a much needed voice and venue to share their vision and diversity," Fontana said.



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Contributed

Mayor Joe Fontana honoured the London Lesbian Film Festival at council Tuesday (April 15). Pictured with the mayor are Wilma Thomas of Pillar Nonprofit (which nominates the community organizations for recognition at city hall), and the festival's Terry Hart, Kerry Kearns, Liesl Biebesheimer and Kimberley Lucas.