

# *"Out & About in the Loops"*

February 2012  
Kamloops GALA/Pride

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Well, freshly back from vacation, and already back to the grind ....lol lol

My partner and I travelled to Panama , for a 2 week break from the normally bitter cold of Canadian winters. And blistering heat is what we found the entire time in Panama. Just north of the equator, the heat is ' thermal ' and only the constant whirl of an air conditioner on high , brings any sort of relief.

Now, enough about the climate. Because of Panama's geographic location, it truly is a melting pot for just about every kind of food, and nationality you can imagine.

We noticed a higher than usual , and more visible than usual, gay and lesbian traveller. During the last 6 years of travel, to about 25 different locations, we have met ' some ' GLBTQ travellers, but on this trip, they were much more ' openly ' visible and approachable.

The interesting part to this equation, is that we were on a middle of the road, 3 star, all inclusive package tour product. The people who purchased and travelled on this package were from all across Canada. We met, GLBTQ singles, and couples who came from Victoria, and all the way east as far as Quebec. And the other interesting factor, is that these travellers varied in ages from early 20 's, to senior's.

So, needless to say, we felt more comfortable, and even displayed our comfort, by strolling the grounds of the resort, hand in hand. We felt comfortable. And we felt inclusive. As I have a curious mind, I found the whole experience quite fascinating. I guess that is one of the main reasons that I / we travel - is to be pleasantly surprised by new and interesting experiences. Some, can be not so pleasant, and of course its always very wise to err on the side of common sense , when in a foreign country.

But, unless I am mistaken, the world appears to be changing, albeit slowly, but steady wins the race.....

Don and I are planning on holding a " Travel Nite " to exchange, and enjoy each other's stories, and destinations, in the hope that we all can benefit from learning more, and travelling better.

As you know, we have our Mardis Gras Dance this month, so we might not get around to this Travel Nite until March, but , by then, we will have even more stories to share, as we have friends, currently in the travel mode, as I write this.

So, please give me your feedback on this subject, at [thepresident@live.ca](mailto:thepresident@live.ca)

As always, hoping February brings you , happiness, healthiness, and good fortune.

President Brian, and Treasurer Don.