

Pink Triangle Press: A chronology 1971-2014

1971

The Body Politic collective is formed. Issue 1 of The Body Politic hits the streets around Halloween. On its cover is an image from the Aug 28 We Demand protest on Parliament Hill. The printer's bill for 5,000 copies of the publication is \$255, paid out of the pockets of the collective. That collective later evolves into "a group of people who regularly give their time and labour" to the production of the magazine and who exercise editorial control over the content, by consensus when possible. Membership changes over time, but volunteer time and labour keep the publication alive. The first issue costs 25 cents. Hawked on Toronto street corners and in bars (when the hawkers aren't tossed out; gay bars are mostly straight-owned and -operated, and bar patrons are not always overly fond of radicals), the revolutionary gay newspaper eventually attracts readers and contributors from across Canada and around the world.

1973

The Body Politic gives birth to the Gay Liberation Movement Archives, which will eventually grow into the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives.

1974

The Toronto Star accuses The Body Politic of advocating "homosexual seduction of children." TBP counters with a special free supplementary edition headlined "The Star Sells Hate." The Club Baths, The Barracks, the Library steam bath and the Roman Sauna pull their advertising from TBP following the uproar.

1975

Issue 18 of The Body Politic is ordered off the stands by the Toronto police morality squad because of a cartoon depicting two men sucking cock. The cartoon reappears on the cover of Issue 19 with a lightning bolt covering the offending act. An officer from the morality squad quips, "Kids are coming in off the streets and buying this, and we can't have that, now can we?"

1976

Canada officially gains a new not-for-profit corporation: Pink Triangle Press. The Body Politic continues to operate autonomously within the newly established press.

1977

The Body Politic publishes Gerald Hannon's "Men Loving Boys Loving Men." TBP's office is raided Dec 30. Police officers cart away 12 shipping boxes of material, including manuscripts and subscription lists).

1978

On Jan 5, the officers of Pink Triangle Press — Ed Jackson, Gerald Hannon and Ken Popert — are charged with use of the mails for transmitting indecent, immoral or scurrilous literature.

The Body Politic Free the Press Fund is established.

1979

The PTP officers are found not guilty, but Ontario Attorney General Roy McMurtry appeals.

The Barracks defence fund (later the Right to Privacy Committee) forms.

The Crown is ordered to return material seized in the 1977 raid on the offices of TBP and to pay costs. The Crown appeals.

1980

The Free the Press Fund places an ad in The Globe and Mail signed by more than 800 people urging the attorney general to drop the appeal. The Pink Triangle Press officers are ordered to face a new trial. They appeal.

1981

On Feb 5 Toronto police raid four gay bathhouses simultaneously, arresting more than 300 men. A number of demonstrations follow, drawing thousands of angry gay and lesbian people into the streets.

The Body Politic loses its appeal of the retrial order and appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Court declines to hear it.

A story in the October issue of The Body Politic, "Gay Cancer? Or Mass Media Scare?" inaugurates Pink Triangle Press's coverage of HIV/AIDS.

1982

The Body Politic is charged again. This time, all nine members of the collective are accused of publishing obscene material for an article examining fisting etiquette. The offices are raided again on May 7.

TBP is acquitted of this charge and again found not guilty in the "Men Loving Boys Loving Men" case. Attorney General Roy McMurtry continues to appeal the case.

PTP publishes "Flaunting it! A Decade of Gay Journalism" from The Body Politic, edited by Ed Jackson and Stan Persky.

1983

The Body Politic's two acquittals in the "Men Loving Boys Loving Men" case are finally allowed to stand. There are no more appeals.

1984

Pink Triangle Press gives birth to a four-page bar rag called Xtra. Intended as a promotional tool for The Body Politic, as well as a way to reach more people (and a different audience) than TBP ever could. Xtra soon outstrips its parent in advertising revenues and, eventually, in circulation.

1985

In April, seven years and numerous trials and appeals later, the police finally return the last of the materials seized in the 1977 raid on the offices of The Body Politic.

1986

Sexual orientation is added to the Ontario Human Rights Code.

In November, The Body Politic celebrates its 15th birthday, but the collective becomes concerned about its financial health and its ability to continue to make decisions. The collective and staff decide to suspend publication of TBP and keep Pink Triangle Press alive by focusing on Xtra.

1987

Pink Triangle Press forges on with Xtra as its new flagship brand. The collective votes to terminate its own existence shortly after appointing president and collective member Ken Popert as interim publisher of Xtra. Popert remains president and head of the organization until his retirement in 2017.

1988

In February, Xtra moves to 484 Yonge St and reaches a circulation of 17,000 28-page copies.

The Dec 30 issue includes, for the first time, a year-end AIDS memorial page called Proud Lives, an idea picked up from the former Vancouver-based Q Magazine. It later becomes a regular feature.

1989

In June, for Pride Day, Xtra sports its first full-colour cover, on 18,000 40-eight page copies.

November sees the premiere of XS, a supplement to Xtra with lesbian author Jane Rule on the cover. The supplement runs 43 issues before being discontinued in 1993.

1990

Pink Triangle Press enters the world of audiotext (telepersonal chatlines), eventually creating Xtra's Talking Classifieds and Cruiseline.

The Church Wellesley Review, a showcase for new lesbian and gay writing, debuts as a supplement to Xtra.

1993

Cruiseline gains popularity, leading to a bountiful year for Pink Triangle Press.

Xtra West begins publishing in Vancouver in July, Capital Xtra in Ottawa in September.

PTP also expands its audiotext division to serve gay and lesbian people in Ottawa.

1994

Pink Triangle Press purchases Malebox, the slutty little brother to the Xtra sister publications.

Cruiseline expand into Calgary.

PTP moves its head offices to 491 Church St on Oct 27 — 23 years, to the day, after the publication of the first issue of TBP.

Capitalxtra.on.ca goes live, publishing material from the Ottawa edition.

1996

Cruiseline branches out to Edmonton and Winnipeg.

Xtra, Capital Xtra and Xtra West move from a folded to a tabloid format.

Malebox leaves Ottawa for Toronto, getting a facelift and a new name: Canadian Male. It runs for two more years, ceasing publication in 1998.

1998

Xtra.ca goes live, covering Toronto only.

1999

In September, PTP takes its first tentative steps into interactive web content. Squirtpersonals.com is launched.

2000

Squirt.org, a global site that allows gay men to swap cruising tips and tricks, launches.

PTP launches a glossy magazine, Go Big. It runs three issues before being discontinued in May 2001.

2002

Vancouver and Ottawa are added to Xtra.ca.

PTP produces the first season of gay travel television show Bump! It airs on PrideVision, a Canadian digital specialty television channel.

2003

PTP joins a consortium of investors in the purchase of PrideVision. The channel is rebranded as OUTtv. The press will eventually build an almost 25-percent stake in the enterprise.

Squirt.org becomes a member-paid site.

2006

PTP purchases long-running US gay publication The Guide and Guidemag.com, which will later be transformed into a travel-focused publication and transition entirely to web in 2010.

PTP extends an \$18,000 short-term loan to the Ottawa Pride Committee after the organization finds itself deeply in the red.

2007

Bump! is made available for home DVD and download sales through major retailers, including Netflix, Blockbuster and Amazon.

2008

Pink Triangle Press buys the assets of Toronto's Fab magazine. The magazine's final issue of the year features a cover and interview with Lady Gaga, who subsequently goes on to some success as a pop star.

Masthead magazine names The Body Politic among Canada's 20 most influential magazines of all time.

2009

Bump! starts shooting in high definition video and launches a series of mobile travel apps.

2010

Xtra undergoes a redesign, including a new logo. Xtra West is rebranded Xtra Vancouver and Capital Xtra as Xtra Ottawa.

Pink Triangle Press, in partnership with long-time television collaborator Peace Point Entertainment, buys Canadian digital specialty gay porn channel HARDtv.

Bump! wins a Hugo Television Award of Merit.

The Gayest Show Ever wins Best Pilot at the Banff World Television Awards and sees its world premiere on NPO, the Dutch national broadcaster.

Xtra closes its Ottawa office.

2011

Pink Triangle Press flees its long-time second-storey offices at 491 Church St for a new space at 2 Carlton St.

PTP sells Cruiseline to First Media Group.

PTP launches a comedy and news television show, *The Gayest Show Ever*. The show airs in Canada, US, Sweden, Belgium, UK, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

2012

Pink Triangle Press sells its shares in OutTV and HARDtv.

2013

PTP closes Fab magazine.

Dailyxtra.com goes live in June, replacing Xtra.ca.

2014

PTP produces *Wham Bam mr Pam*, a documentary about the only major female director of gay male porn. The documentary screens at LGBT film festivals in Toronto, San Francisco, Copenhagen, Atlanta and Sydney.

PTP's online documentary series about PrEP, a controversial new HIV prevention drug, is nominated for a Best Web Series award at the Banff World Media Awards.

Daily Xtra's YouTube channel, with nearly 40,000 subscribers, reaches the milestone of 26 million video views.