



Masquerade

# Lipstick & Lace

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Plus  
much  
more!

PLUS  
Lots of photos of  
our adventures!

**Ms. Sabrina  
Markes  
Our President  
and this issue's  
main contributor!**



## Presidentially Speaking

In the “so many years” preceding my finding my way into a transgender chat room and subsequently finding the Winnipeg support group “Masquerade”, I had many of the same feelings of self doubt that so many crossdressers have for most of their lives. Getting dressed up in their prettiest dresses during their private times when their only friend is “the mirror”. Thinking...“I can’t go anywhere dressed like this! Who would accept this” Yet they want much more than the mirror. Can you relate??

Our thoughts of how society would view us kept us from the outside world. Doubting ourselves and wondering “why do we have these desires” Not really understanding that it was a very real part of our being and something that needs to be expressed. After all, if the need wasn’t there, we wouldn’t be putting on a dress now would we.

Yet not knowing what to expect from society and worrying about how people would react to us if we walked out the door has kept so many behind the door. Afraid of what is on the outside.

Masquerade has given so many people an outlet where they can begin to express their feminine sides in a safe and comfortable environment. With friends they can walk out the door with and experience the real world if they choose to do so.

Being “Proud of who you are” doesn’t mean being “out” to the world. It doesn’t mean

standing on a street corner telling the world who you are.

Being “Proud” is about being happy with yourself, knowing it really is OK to express your inner feelings, your feminine side, however you choose to do so.

Masquerade offers a wonderful place to find that acceptance that has been sought for so many years by so many of us.

I recently took time to seriously think about what role Masquerade is playing in society. About how society views crossdressers, relates to us, and about where society believes crossdressers “belong”.

Perhaps some may believe that society views a crossdresser as someone you wouldn’t see in “McDonalds”. That there are places for “That sort of person”.

Seeing our members going “Out & About”, merging with the society we have worried about makes me proud to be a member of Masquerade.

We are showing society that we are right where we belong. We are people expressing ourselves in no way different than anyone else who chooses to dress this way or that. And by showing society that we belong in the shopping malls, belong in the restaurants, belong in the theatres or wherever, society is showing us that “Society accepts” because we now chose to let it.

How do we know society accepts us?? How society accepts us is by how society reacts to us. And how we have seen society react is that society “doesn’t” for the most part.

Everywhere our girls go they are always met, by the society that had been feared for so long, with a smile and a “How may I help you!” That’s right! Acceptance.

Much like the gay and lesbian struggle for acceptance these past many years, our own, the transgender community’s struggle for acceptance is being accomplished at every foot-step we take outside the door.

Be proud of who you are and for that you are helping make the world a better place, simply by not letting anyone prevent you from being yourself.

*Sabrina*



**We are showing society that we are right where we belong!**

## Back To Mary's Basement?

It has come to my attention that one of the reasons we have not had a lot of new people at meetings, and some of our other members too, is the location of our meetings at Gio's. I would like to address this matter, but before you continue reading, I would like to state for the record, that these are my opinions, they do not necessarily reflect those of the group. And while I am making an effort to be diplomatic herein, some of my points may be blunt, but should not be taken personally by anyone.

In order to achieve what's best for our group, it's members, and our continuance as a group, we must educate those who do not understand with regards to some things which are relevant to our meeting location.

Firstly, every crossdresser I know wishes for acceptance. All they want, like every other person on the planet, is to be accepted for who they are, no matter what they wear, like or believe. And as with everyone else on the planet, there will always be those who do not accept, no matter how hard you try to make them. You can't force them to capitulate, all you can do is go about doing whatever it is that makes you "you", and try to be happy. The planet is big enough, we can all get along and find our own space.

Most of those same girls whine that "I will never be accepted, there's no place I

can go that I will be", often they do this to justify their own fears about getting out from behind the anonymity of their computer, where they think it's safe.

Masquerade was created, so that like minded people would have a place to go that is safe and accepting. Bars like Gio's were created, so that like minded people would have a place to go that is safe and accepting. Notice the similarity?

Look girls, we are constantly bombarded by emails telling us about how great we are, how good our group is, how



much fun we have, and how the writer wishes there was a group like ours in her city. Our fantastic website is updated bi-weekly with photos and stories of these events, while other group's sites have not changed in years. We've got something wonderful here to be proud of!!!

But apparently local girls are all staying away in droves because of our association with the gay community.

Well ladies, I've got news for you. Whether you like it or not, you already are associated, before you even consider coming out to a Masquerade meeting. What do you think GLBT\* stands for? Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and "\*" for twospirited, etc. The world and the media place us in the transgendered category in every country on the planet. That is a simple definition of fact.

You, like most girls, fear that your friends and loved ones, coworkers etc, will automatically think that you are gay if someone finds out that you like to wear dresses. And here is the educational part of this rant...Do you know why? Because you let them. You, like them, obviously don't know that much about gay people. Being gay is not about men wearing dresses. Being gay is about sexual preference and not feminine attire. If a man likes men, he most certainly is not going to dress like a woman to attract one. The percentage of gays who do drag is about the same as it is for us, about 5% of the gay population. And they do it for drag performances, and to attract attention, not because it's part of their being like it is for us. Most queens I know can't wait to get out of "face" once the show is done, unlike us who would rather it went on forever.

So, there you have that myth busted. How do I know this? Because I have been edu-

*(Continued on page 4)*

**PLEASE! This raving is not meant to belittle anyone... it is meant to empower !**

## Back To Mary's Basement? Cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

cated. Because I have met people in the Transgendered and Gay Communities that I have gotten to know and respect.

Myth number two, crossdressers are perverts. This is prevalent on the internet. Why? Again, because we let it!! Kinky people around the globe flaunt their naughty bits in panties for all to see, often blurring or hiding their faces. Why? Who knows? The anonymity of the web gives people implied license to do all kinds of things. Does this give the rest of us reason to hide?

To those who associate their desire to dress strictly with sexual fantasies, then yes. What you do in the privacy of your bedroom is your business. If you put it on the web that's your business too. But should the rest of us who do not share that demeaning aspect suffer for it? Certainly not, but because this is a fear we have about what others think of us, we allow it to continue and do not defend ourselves.

Masquerade and groups like ours show the world that we are not perverts, but people. People with a desire and a gift to go beyond our imposed gender borders. So why does the negative connotation of crossdressers continue on the net, because we let it!!! If there were more positive sites like ours out there, that would change the way the people who look for other crossdressers find them. No wonder it's so hard to come out to your wife, if she Google's "Crossdresser" what she going to see, hmmm?? Who is best to educate her, you or some creepy website? Where will you find examples of normal crossdressers? Right here in Masquerade!!!

And the third myth, if you dress you automatically want to have gender

reassignment surgery. Now, a show of hands, how many of you think that's true? Why? Because you let it!!! You know yourself, better than anyone else. You should know that your part time excursions into your life as a woman are just that. Vacations, escapism. You come back to reality and get on with your life after you have enjoyed being able to be yourself. Just like anyone else who takes a trip, goes to a movie, a rock concert or reads a book. It's an escape, an adventure, it's different. It takes your mind off your problems and allows you to come back refreshed. I know I have much more fun as a girl, because I allow myself to. It's a freedom.

Now people are always telling me how lucky I am, because I have the support of my spouse and family. Yes, I was lucky to meet a very special person. But luck was just the beginning. We had to learn from there. It didn't happen overnight. There were awkward spots. We had to ask the questions and find the answers, and decide whether to, and how much to, tell our children. That's not luck, that's education and understanding, and work. My wife understands, because we talked about it. My children understand, because I as a parent taught them to be understanding. That's what I had to do.

Life wasn't handed to me on a silver platter. I earned it. I was previously married, and my ex didn't approve of this, or much else I did, so I went through a lot of crap. But when I got divorced I vowed to be true to myself, to be sure I was happy. I am a better person for it. I'm not telling you to do run out and leave an unsupportive partner, but just to learn who you are, and what makes you happy.

Now, so many of you are reading this and saying to yourselves, "I could never...my wife wouldn't understand".

Well girls, more news for you...you make your own luck. You are responsible for your own happiness. No one else can give it to you. Your spouse, as much as she loves you is only there as a participant. To share in it, and to share her life with you. If you can't be happy and deal with the fact that you like to play dress-up, how can she be expected to? If you are too afraid because of the aforementioned stigmas, then why do you still do it? Do you like hiding it? Do you like being dishonest about it? No, I didn't think so. Then don't whine. Either deal with it, or do something about it. Educate yourself first, and then others. Don't misunderstand, there are still a few people in my life, people who are important to me, that don't know. But, I am not *afraid* to tell them. I have not told them because it has either not been necessary, or out of respect for certain situations. Rest assured that when it becomes necessary or the opportunity presents itself, I have the ability to do so, because of my knowledge and experience.

So now back to the reason I started writing this rant. At Gio's we have a place to go. A place that suits all our needs as a group. We have meeting space, dancing space, access to audio visual equipment, privacy, respect, and even admiration. None of which are bad things. In fact since being "associated" with the GLBT\* community, we have made many friends. Some of who come to our parties, and have come to meetings to teach makeup, dancing and more. The management and staff have opened their doors and their hearts to us. They are very nice people who understand our situations. They open up their doors every second Tuesday of the month *just for us*, and no one else!

In fact I am often told by many how great Masquerade is, how valuable and inspirational our girls are for what we do. Imagine that, our girls, our little group, in amongst all the other people that go

## Back To Mary's Basement? Cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

there, "inspirational". We have made an impression, and a positive one!

Now, another word of caution, don't read "inspirational" as "being forced to". No one in Masquerade is ever forced to go out in public, to go shopping, to movies, to restaurants, or anywhere else. These are members who do things because they want to. Because they can. Because by benefit of being in Masquerade they have the positive attitude which has earned them the ability and the skills necessary to achieve their own goals. We have enough parties and events in "safe" locations for everyone else to make sure that all our girls have fun and often! See, membership has it's privileges!

So I say to you who stay away to justify your fears, that you are missing out. Not just on the opportunity to get out of your self imposed closet. But on the opportunity to learn and grow as a person. You do this, because you let it happen. Just like everything else I

raved on about. I am not saying that we are going to change the world, today, tomorrow, or anytime soon. But in order to break the bonds of stereotype you can not stay home cowering behind your computer, being afraid to walk into a building that is there to welcome you. Doing so only gives the very people you are afraid of more power over you. The only way to have any control over your own happiness is to take charge of it. Learn about you and who you are and educate others as necessary. If you wait for the world to change on it's own for you to be accepted, you'll be waiting a very long time.

This raving is not meant to belittle anyone who has situations that they have difficulty dealing with. Quite the opposite, it is meant to empower you, so that you can see that there is in fact a way to be happy by being yourself. We are here and we have to have the knowledge and the experience to teach. We trust that after learning, you will have the intelligence to decide for yourself where your own limits extend

to, and what you and your situation will allow you to do about it.

This is meant to show those of you who stay away out of a perceived notion or fear that stepping through the door to Gio's for one of our meetings can make a difference in your life. YOUR LIFE, not anyone else's. You will meet like minded girls, who like you, just want some fun girl time, not being confined to a motel room or trapped behind a computer screen. You will meet people who accept you because you like to dress up. Not in spite of it!

Luv always,

*Shandi*

P.S. Check out the "Guestbook Entries" on page 6 for proof of what the world has to say about us! Or better still go to [www.masquerade.ca](http://www.masquerade.ca) and see for yourself!!

**there is in fact a way to be happy by being yourself!**

## A Sister Club for Masquerade!

The following is from Stephanie the editor of Xpressions Newsletter, whom with we share our publications.

We share a mutual friend in Colleen, and both agree that it's nice to have someone like her who makes the effort to keep in touch and puts in the time to do the things that need doing.

We have decided to share updates on what our respective groups are doing in between newsletters!

And here's what they are up to...In June's newsletter, we have our big Fall Fling announcement which is an event

we have historically had each year either in the er...Fall. (or Spring) Unfortunately, for whatever reason, the club hasn't been able to get the organization and interest together in a timely manner over these last few years, but we are looking forward to a return this year to what people seem to enjoy the most. A weekend of fun, this time at a beach resort on Lake Erie (Port Dover).

We also have a club fundraiser White Elephant Sale on June 11th with an evening impromptu dinner for those in attendance. As well, we have our usual month end dinner in the heart of our annual Pride celebrations during the last week of June. We also have our

booth as part of the community street celebrations on the Parade Day (Sunday). So a busy month for us.

Lastly, as mentioned, I enjoyed your newsletter but couldn't help noticing the obvious Masquerade 'uniform' evident in all your outing pictures (*mini skirts!*). That did prompt a smile and left me wondering how you didn't receive much attention, especially in a mall. Lovely outfits nonetheless and by the way, you have a cool daughter. You can tell her that from me.

Take care

*Stephanie*



A happy girl!

**"Rhiannon",  
is the title  
of a  
Fleetwood  
Mac song**

## Legally Rhiannon!

Well, it "Goodbye" to my male name and "Hello" to my female name! Since I began my change I have been taking voice lessons, and to accompany my blossoming female voice, I need to have a female name. Quite some time ago I chose "Rhiannon", the title of a Fleetwood Mac song from the 70's about a woman, who is attractive and aware of the power she has within her.

I contacted Vital Statistics and received the necessary forms in the mail. There is a fee for all of this, so when I received

my tax refund, I used some of the money to pay for it. I even dropped the form off in person, hoping it would help speed up the process!! I was so excited as this would mean I would legally no longer be called by my male name, but only by my new female name. Which I understandably prefer!! There are a lot of things to change due to this. Pieces of identification to change, like my Manitoba Health, Social Insurance, etc.. Then there's my bank, my Safeway customer card, Air miles, and other such details. Those are just on paper, but it

is to my friends and relatives that this means the most to me. Others like my speech therapist, my therapist and psychiatrist and the doctor at Nine Circles Community Health Centre were the first to be notified, as they had a lot to do with me becoming "me".

So my new legal name is now Rhiannon.

Love and hugs!

*Rhiannon*

## Guestbook Entries

Our webmistress Sabrina, does an awesome job keeping up our fantastic website, and here's what visitors from around the world and locally have to say about it...

Love the site and the driving ideas behind what you girls do. Bravo!!!! - Bethany Nicole - Houston, Texas. U.S.A.

Why cant I be living there with all of you? All of you girls look like you are having so much fun. I must keep looking for a group here local. I hope your group has a long and happy life. -Charlene - Arizona

Great site. Very classy. As a CD I wish there were more (sites and groups) like this. -Diana - NJ, USA

A very good site, better than any group site I have found in this country! -Fiona - Scotland

I've been crossdressing for approx 30 years and have just come out of the closet. My wife just happened to catch me. After a while the smoke settled and now she is buying me the clothing that I so much crave for. I would like any help I can get to help me being out of the so called "closet" and now I think this site is a must read to all our girly friends! Thanks for this. -Evelyn - Ontario, Canada

Great Site! And way to go!! I wish I were accepted around here like it appears you are there. I would love to do the things that you all do. You are a great testament to all dressers!!! -Terri - N.E. Pennsylvania

You have a very good website I wish I was closer to Winnipeg so that could join your group and spend some time out with GNO. We do not have this opportunity in Montreal to belong to a good selected group. -Keep doing the good work promoting TG to step out of their closet. -Liona - Montreal, Canada

Absolutely love your site. I love what you are doing for us girls with support, love, understanding, and providing a place where we can be free to express ourselves. A curtsie you Ladies. -Hugz, Stephanie - Russel, Manitoba

You Girls are something else! Keep it sexy and Real!!!!-Will - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Lovely web site, you are all very lovely girls and I love what you are doing for the young and curious. -Dorien - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

## Human Rights for Crossdressers

Ottawa - The NDP is pushing for changes to the Canadian Human Rights Act that would better protect transsexuals and cross dressers from verbal abuse and harassment.

B.C. MP Bill Siksay has tabled a private member's bill to help end "dramatic" discrimination by adding "gender identity and gender expression" to the legislation. The move fills a campaign platform pledge to pursue the change.

"It's clearly a community that suffers discrimination in Canada," he said.

"There are horrible stories of job discrimination that transgendered people face - harassment on the job, people who've lost jobs solely because they were transsexual or transgender. The stories are heart-wrenching to hear."

**OTTAWA** –NDP MP Bill Siksay (Burnaby-Douglas) introduced a bill in the House of Commons today that would include gender identity or gender expression as a prohibited grounds of discrimination in the *Canadian Human Rights Act*.

This Bill is essential as it addresses the lack of protections against discrimination and harassment provided for Transsexual and Transgender people in the Canadian Human Rights Act. "Transgender and Transsexual people are often victims of violence and face discrimination on a daily basis", said Siksay, "this is unacceptable and the inequity in protections for trans people must be immediately addressed by Canadian laws."

"It is my hope that the inclusion of this ground would send a strong message that people

should not be discriminated against because of their gender identity or gender expression. Such discrimination is wrong and this intolerance must end." said Siksay

Siksay conducted national email consultations and in person consultations in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa on trans legislative needs.

The Bill follows the lead of the Northwest Territories, which was the first region in Canada to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of gender identity in November of 2002. The Bill also fulfills the NDP's commitment in the 2004 election platform to ensure equality for transgender and transsexual people.

Courtesy of Chantal & Colleen



**people should not be discriminated against because of their gender ... expression**

## Gendertalk on the Web and in our Library!

Girls, here is the URL to GenderTalk. [www.gendertalk.com](http://www.gendertalk.com). They have an index of shows with crossdressing as the topic.

[http://www.gendertalk.com/radio/index/idx\\_crossdress.shtml](http://www.gendertalk.com/radio/index/idx_crossdress.shtml)

Sabrina has the shows downloaded in MP3 format and will leave a disk in the Club Library. It's set up with a web index page to make it easy to read about the shows.

Also, there has been a link to this site on the Masquerade links page for some time now.

Nancy and Gordine host the show live on Saturday evenings and by Monday Nancy, who is their webmistress, has the mp3 posted on their web site. If you subscribe, she will send you a mail with a link to the most recent show!

If you want to listen live visit [www.globaltalkradio.com](http://www.globaltalkradio.com) on Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time)

Nancy was on the documentary "Transgender Revolution" by the way and corresponds with Sabrina.

# Meetings and Events!!



Christie eyes a prize!



Michelle and her partner drove a long way!



Rhiannon and Liz find treasure!

**April 23rd's Swap meet and our May 10th meeting gave us all chances to clean out our closets and to learn some dance moves!**



Krystal looks for something short!



Chantal and Vanessa the "it" girls!



Linda models a new outfit!



Raven teaches the basics.



Now we're getting it!



DJ Brie!



A helping hand from Mary!

## What Womyn Want Boat Cruise!



Some fun outside Gio's with some new friends!



The girls on the bus!



Posing for a photo on the dock!



Ardra, Liz, Chantal and Vanessa, on Board!



Shandi and Martina



An on board snack before dancing!



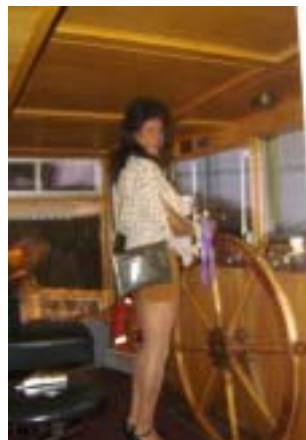
A great night for taking photos !



Captain Chantal, drives the ship!  
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Captain Vanessa at the helm!



Captain Martina gets a turn too!!

**We all had such a great time on Friday June 3rd aboard the Paddlewheel Queen! So many womyn came up to us and welcomed us! Exclaiming how great it was that we do what we do!**

## May's Big Birthday Party!



Shandi and her daughter Crystal



Our hostesses Brenda and Kristine!



The four birthday girls!

**On May 14th Brenda and Kristine hosted a big birthday Party for Liz, Shandi, Crystal, and Kristine. Who all have birthday's in May! It was a fun time for all!**



Shandi & Liz, both have the same birthday!



Vanessa and Sabrina, both have the same outfits! (Almost!)



Ardra and Chantal kitchen party girls!



A special gift for a special Mom!!



Special friends, Natalie and Shandi!



EVENINGS > LATE NIGHTS > EVENTS

# WEEKLY SPECIALS

**MONDAY**  
Student Night - Really cheap drinks for Students (Student ID needed).

**TUESDAY**  
Sorry, we are closed

**WEDNESDAY**  
Karaoke - Starts at 10:30  
\$1 cover - Great prizes!

**THURSDAY**  
**RETRO THURSDAYS RULE!**  
Cheap Domestic Beer & bar shots.  
Female & Male strippers. DJ Ryan.

**FRIDAY**  
All night fun, late night dancing with DJ Danno

**SATURDAY**  
Weekly events\*

**SUNDAY**  
We are open! 4 - 12 p.m.

## Been there? Done that? THEN DO US!

Gio's would like to wish everyone a great PRIDE celebration. We are proud to have served the Winnipeg LGBT community for the last 23 years, and we look forward to have served the We're MORE than a club or bar. We ARE our members and customers. We're Gio's.... and we're VERSATILE.

**Do Gio's and be proud all year round.**  
155 Smith Street Winnipeg, MB R3C 1J7  
Ph: (204) 786-1236  
visit [www.gios.ca](http://www.gios.ca)

# SPECIAL EVENTS

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3rd**  
> **Womyn's Boat Cruise** <  
Gio's is a proud sponsor of this event. Free cover with ticket.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10th**  
> **Pump Up For Pride** <  
Mr. & Ms. Gio's Pump you up for pride on Friday night with their Pride Show!!!

**EXTRA SPECIAL EVENT! SATURDAY, JUNE 11th**  
> **Wyrd Sisters - LIVE!** <  
Tickets \$15 Advance, \$20 at door. Show starts at 10:00 p.m.  
Show your PHAZ Dance party ticket after show and admission is only \$3.00. DJ Danno playing at 1:00 a.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18th**  
> **Martini Madness** <  
Mingling music and a multitude of martini mixes. Free hors d'oeuvres.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25th**  
> **Members Night** <  
Drink specials all night long for members. Don't forget your membership card. DJ Ian spinning for your pleasure

\*VIP Members offer access to all events. Regular and non-members \$1 cover on Fridays, \$2 cover on Saturdays. Gio's is a private membership club, owned and operated by the Oscar Elzica Memorial Society Inc. - a not-for-profit community based organization.

## Vanessa's Road Trip!

The weekend of May 6-8 I had an opportunity to go for a ride with fellow Masquerade member Rosalie to Calgary. Now Rosalie drives a semi and what better way to go traveling than to go by truck. You get to see a lot and don't have to worry about finding your way around other cities. It's also a lot more affordable than flying or driving. I took Thursday and Friday as holidays from work, and we left on Friday.

I went in drab to pick up Rosalie and was a little behind since I had to make sure my "pretty stuff" was packed. I'm not going all that way without getting prettied up.

After a couple of delays I made my way to Old Transcona and met her on the way. We headed to the depot to pick up the truck. A nice shiny black Kenworth, then went to get the trailer. We started out enjoying the warm sun on the backroads to the first stop in Winkler to pick up three 2500 lb pallets of potatoes. From there we made our way to Hwy 1 and on to Brandon for something to eat.

On the way I went into the sleeper to get prettied up. Now here's a test for you girls: try to put make up on in a jolting and rocking sleeper. I was able to do most of it except for the lipstick, also I only had a small 3"x6" mirror and a reading light to work with. I threw on a little skirt,

tank top, sandals and back up front I go. I Figured it best that I should wait until Brandon to finish my lipstick! When we get to the Brandon Husky, Rosalie went in ahead of me, and since I thought she was going to come back



Vanessa, trucker girl!

out I waited. But after awhile I remembered she said to come in. Since we parked across the parking lot I had to walk quite a ways past a few truckers and tourists.

While we were inside Rosalie's co-worker "Andy" came in. They chatted for a bit, he didn't realize anything out of the ordinary. It turns out they're both going to the same place, so we would be running together. Talk on the CB was interesting between them. Andy was trying to be somewhat polite, but that wore off after awhile, talking about women, drinking, and "how fast them trucks will go."

We stopped at the Regina Husky for a break, Andy stopped earlier to sleep. It's quite a thrill when you climb out of the cab in a skirt and heels, then walk into use the washroom and everyone

looks. A bit later I did my usual thing of getting sleepy and dragged myself into the sleeper for a short snooze. I slept through Moose Jaw and Swift Current, then woke up at the Medicine Hat Husky. Every time we stopped for a washroom break I kept getting gawked at by the locals. But am I complaining? NO!

I have to mention that when I was walking back to the truck, there was a real pretty black Kenworth with a lot of chrome and purple neon, yes purple. Unfortunately I didn't get a photo of it. I did get one of a nearly extinct early '70s Hayes Clipper cabover in very good condition.

We made it to "Cowtown" (Calgary) at 7-8 am Saturday. While we sat at a warehouse to rest, I de-



Vanessa, hood ornament!

ecided to pose for some pictures with the truck. After that I felt that I had some "sandpaper" starting on my face and since the weather wasn't the greatest so I went back into drab mode.

We had 3-4 hours to wait for the load we were taking to arrive and for the warehouse to get things figured out.

**It's quite a thrill when you climb out of the cab in a skirt and heels!**

## Vanessa's Road Trip! Cont'd

There was only one shunt driver (who moves trailers with the yard truck) working moving trailers around and doing all of the loading, so it was going to be awhile. I drove the truck around behind the warehouse and even phoned Chantal from the truck's phone. We decided to go to the Husky for breakfast and to tease the waitress Rosalie knew. We drove around a bit, I tried unsuccessfully to get into a semi wrecking yard. Instead I took pictures of Calgary Transit buses. I saw less there than in Winnipeg on a Saturday afternoon. We finally got the load and then were off to two more warehouses.

Saturday around 6-7 pm we

had the trailer loaded right tight to the doors with produce and started heading back. The first break was in Medicine Hat where I tried to shave my face in the Husky washroom. The water was only a drinking temperature, no hot, so it did hurt a bit. The sun was shining for the first time since we started, but not for long since there was rain on the horizon. A little way out Rosalie needed to nap, so I took out my make up and got pretty again, which was much easier when the truck is parked!

While coming up to Moose Jaw at 3:30 am Sunday I fell asleep again and woke up in Regina. After sleeping a few times we crossed the border

into Manitoba. The trip from there was mostly uneventful. I felt a little flirty so whenever we passed another semi I would put my feet up on the dash with my legs crossed, Yes that had them looking!

It's interesting that after riding for awhile you forget that you're in a truck until you glance in the mirror and remember that there is a 53 foot trailer behind you.

The trip was fun and a nice break from the city although I was happy to get back on home ground. I plan on going again.

Thanks for taking me Rosalie!

*Vanessa*



Vanessa, on Rosalie's big rig!

**I drove the truck around behind the warehouse!**

### Tuesday July 12, 2005

As part of our regular meeting programming is our very first

## Ms. Masquerade Fashion Show

Would you like to be Ms. Masquerade 2005? Well girls here are the rules and requirements...

Each contestant should prepare two outfits. Please no fetish wear. One prop will be permitted.

Judges will look for poise and fashion sense, skill with make-up and hair.

And yes girls, it's based solely on looks!!! There are no skill testing questions!!!!



## Shandi Goes To see Cher!

### Cher's Farewell Tour!

#### Show #320

With only five more shows to go Cher returned to Winnipeg for a second time on her farewell tour on Wednesday April 20th and we were there!

Having missed her last time she was here, my sweetie and I figured that we couldn't miss her this time, perhaps there was fate involved, because we actually had room on the credit card to afford tickets!

Going to a concert in a skirt and heels was a big first for me! I have been many places and around a lot of people, but never quite this many. It was very exciting! I love live concerts!! The closer the date came the more excited I got! I happened to get off work a little earlier that expected and got home and quickly changed, the excitement building with every stroke of the makeup brush!

Soon we were off to our friends for a pre-concert snack and drinks. We went with two friends Richard, George and his brother, and two of their friends who had seats in another part of the arena.

At about 7 p.m., we walked the few blocks over to the brand new MTS Centre, in the cool evening air, to join all the other concert goers lining up outside the new venue. It was my first time there for any event!

The lineup was actually quite short. We had seen people already lining up when we drove by, and expected longer lineups.

But everything was proceeding efficiently. Once the ticket taker scanned my ticket (instead of ripping it, so I was able to keep a nice souvenir!) we headed into the security line. I happily went to the girls' lineup and even had to open my purse for it to be checked, just like every other girl! Fortunately the attendant did not see my daughter's little camera tucked inside, which certainly would have been confiscated like others I had seen. I wasn't planning on taking shots of the concert, the camera simply isn't capable (as you'll see below!), but I had to have one of me in the arena!

We found our seats with the help of the usher and had fun talking while we waited. George had had a tour of the facility not long after it had opened and was telling me some of the cool features.

The show was wonderful! It opened with the Village People who had a fun show, with songs from my teenage years. Not long into their set I heard my name being called out from behind us. Imagine my surprise hearing *my* name called out during a concert and turning to see our friends Lorena and



Me & The crowd!

Courtesy of my friend Carolyn!!

Carolyn in the row above us! We saw two other friends, Bruce and Kristine, during the intermission a few sections over but didn't get a chance to go visit before Cher came on stage. Many other people we knew were in the audience, and I looked around often to see if I could spot them and wave!



My ticket stub!

We spent the intermission chatting with our friends and eating popcorn until the lights dimmed, signaling Cher's show was about to start!

It was fabulous! A real production! Songs old and new, that I remembered, and a few not so familiar. Interspersed with videos highlighting her life in films and history. While these were on she was backstage changing outfits, each tied to a theme from the era of the

**Not long into their set I heard my name being called out from behind us!**

## Shandi Goes To see Cher! Cont'd

songs she was singing. Very well done! Being in the crowd, singing along, clapping and dancing surrounded by all the fun and energy is an experience I will not soon forget! Probably because for the first time it was "me" there, enjoying myself without any pretense.

After the show we headed out with the masses who were all smiling and happy after their own concert experience. But walking amongst them in my outfit and heels, I knew I was one up on all of them!

We walked with our friends over to Gio's where it seemed all the "after concert people" were headed! Soon the line up for drinks was quite long, and the poor bartender was mixing drinks non-stop! We hung around for a bit catching up and talking about the concert, but then we had to head home, to prepare for work the next day. It was a wonderful night, one which I fully intend to repeat!

Luv *Shandi*



The Stage as seen from our seats!



Cher! The Diva herself!

**Upcoming Masquerade**

**Meeting Programming!**

**Hey Girls!**

**You don't want to miss out on these!!**

**Tuesday, June 14, we are having a girl from Shoppers Drug Mart come out to talk to the group about lipstick, how to pick the right colors and how to apply it properly.**

**Tuesday, July 12, the girls are putting on a fashion show.**

**Tuesday, August 9, we are having a performer come out to give the group a presentation about makeup techniques perfect for us girls.**

**Tuesday, September 13, we will be presenting a DVD about feminine movement, walking in heels, how to carry your purse, sit like a woman and more!**



Us!

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**Friends of "The Girls of Masquerade!"**

# Sabrina Does Flin Flon and The Pas!

## Day One

When I travel on business I am always excited about going to new places where I can experience the world as "Sabrina". Funny, most don't want to travel, yet I jump at the chance for an "all expenses paid" trip which always includes some quality "girl time". So when I had a business trip up to Flin Flon, Manitoba, I looked forward to adding Flin Flon to my map of "out & about" places. Going out in a big city like Winnipeg has been such a wonderful experience these past few years and it has really helped me know that I can simply "be myself" when I go out, no matter where "out" is.

On Tuesday, April 19, 2005, I was finished work by 7:00 PM and back at my hotel by 7:05! Give you an idea how "small" Flin Flon is?? I don't like to rush getting dressed and doing my makeup because I enjoy that experience as well. Yet if I was going to be able to go anywhere before places were closed I had no

choice. Perhaps what takes the longest time when getting ready is looking for where I put whatever. So with this outing in mind I did the smart thing and took care of that ahead of time! I wasn't going to be able to make it a late night either, since I had to be up pretty early the next day.

**I dress to make ME happy, not everyone else.**

By 8:30 PM I was ready to venture out into this small northern mining town....wearing a black leather mini skirt, black tights, high heeled boots, a white long sleeve top and a black jacket. No quite the outfit you would see a girl wearing in Flin Flon. But I dress to make ME happy, not everyone else.

It was such a beautiful evening with clear skies and the sun just going down and NO wind! Yes, A "Good Hair" day! now I had to make a choice. I really wanted to do some shopping and the only place open until 9:00 PM was the local Wal-Mart store. Plus, I wanted to get a picture of me standing next to the Flintabbatey Flonatin statue in daylight! And not knowing if I would have another chance before leaving Flin Flon I chose the pictures. There are many Wal-Marts, but only one "Flintabbatey Flonatin"!

It kinda felt strange stopping in the parking lot near the statue. The last time I was there was back in the mid 60's when on vacation with my parents and my sister. My how time flies. And who would have thought..that the next pictures of me at the statue would be with me in a skirt and heels! It took a few tries with the camera on a tripod and using the self timer to get this picture. And I will admit, I deleted the ones showing me running away from the camera!

By the time I was done with getting my picture taken with Flintabbatey Flonatin it was too late to go shopping at Wal-Mart so I made my way into the downtown area of Flin Flon and parked on Main Street. One of my favorite foods is Chinese, and I had checked the local phone book ahead of time. So yes, I did have a plan. By this time the sun was down and the streets were lit with twilight and actually still very bright. I really enjoyed the walk down Main Street, hearing my heels clicking loud and proud on the sidewalk, and yes noticing I was turning some heads.

On the way I passed this old hillbilly type, with unkempt long hair and long beard who was busy talking to himself about everything that was wrong with the world, and basically bothering everyone who passed by him. I simply gave him a polite smile as I passed and entered the Hong Kong Restaurant. I was met at the counter by a really sweet Chinese girl, whom I must add was dressed very well, in a light brown skirt suit. With a big smile she asked if she could help me and knowing I still had work to do before bedtime asked for a take-out menu. As if I needed it....seems every Chinese place has my favorite combo plate on their menu! So I ordered it with a Diet-Pepsi and she said it would be about ten minutes. It was such a pleasant experience, just to be out as who I want to be, and feeling so accepted. Yes, even in Flin Flon, Manitoba!

While I was waiting the old hillbilly type walked in, still ranting as he walked towards where I was sitting. The waitress left he back area and walked right up to him telling him to leave, and telling him "Don't you be bothering her!" The keyword here is "HER". No matter how people may judge me they still show such a high level of acceptance. Or perhaps another word is "Respect". I have no idea what the waitress thinks when she sees me, a tall girl standing in front of her, yet no matter what she thinks she respects how I am

presenting myself.

When my order was ready I left the restaurant, passing the hillbilly once more and walked towards my van. I really enjoyed feeling the cool night air on my legs! Thinking how wonderful it is now, to be able to be out doing real things, rather than staying locked in my hotel rooms as I had done for so many years. Now it was time to get back



## Day Two

As it turned out, I was finished work early enough on Thursday, April 21, 2005, to enable me to get "Pretty" and do some shopping while in Flin Flon! Since my stay up in the north was going to be much longer than I had thought, and I was running out of my favorite Avon lipstick, I did have to make an "Emergency Purchase" :-)

I was ready by 8:30 PM, wearing my black leather mini skirt, pumps, black tights and a shiny blue blouse, and anxiously headed out the door!. The Wal-Mart is just down the street from the Victoria Inn where I was staying so I was there by 8:35! It was a bright sunny evening in Flin Flon, about +10 C with very little wind. I parked in the middle of the parking lot, got out of my van making sure my skirt was straight and proudly walked through the parking lot to the door! I did notice a few guys checking me out, and one quickly turned when I smiled at him!

Walking inside, hearing my heels clicking on the tile floor was such a wonderful feeling.

## Sabrina Does Flin Flon and The Pas! Cont'd

To be so far away from home, dressed how I wanted to be, and having places to go and simply experience life. Just like in every Wal-Mart, the cosmetics section was close to the entrance and was my first stop. There were a few teenage girls browsing the isles and I did get a sense they were wanting to get a closer look. Yet there were no giggle, comments etc, other than about what they were seeing on the shelves. One of the Wal-Mart staff members politely asked if there was something she could help me find. I explained I found what I was looking for, a tube of red Maybelline "Wet Shine" lipstick (I just love the "wet look"), and was just looking for whatever else would catch my eye. I spent about fifteen minutes walking through the cosmetics department and you can bet I had a smile on my face. I was a happy GIRL!

With my lipstick and some eye shadow pallets in hand I asked one of the staff members if I had to pay for my purchase in the cosmetics department or could I do so at the main checkout. Her reply was that I could pay for it in the department and then she called out to another staff member working in another isle "Do you want to help her or do you want me to???" She used the word "Her". Since I have no way of knowing what she is thinking when she is looking at and talking with me, by her using the reference "Her", simply shows that she accepts me as I am presenting myself. A female out shopping for cosmetics. Plain and simple!

I spent the rest of the time in Wal-Mart walking around just looking for anything, purses, tops to go with the many skirts I have, enjoying the feeling of being a girl out shopping. In all my years of dressing while on my business trips I had always dreamed of doing things like this, yet always thought I'd never be able to. Thanks to the support and encouragement of so many people, I am able to enjoy life as I had always dreamed! Even if it is only a "part-time" thing.

Without finding anything that jumped out at me saying "Buy me Buy me" I headed for the door when they announced the store was closing, and proudly walked through

the parking lot and into the beautiful sunset that was cast over Flin Flon! I did notice one guy whom I had spotted checking me out inside the store was walking through the parking lot getting a cramp in his neck looking my way. So I relieved it for him by turning and giving him a smile. He turned his head with an "Oh damn, she caught me" look. And I got in my van and left! Of course making sure he wasn't still keeping an eye on me. A girl has to be "Security conscious" when she is out. And that goes for ALL girls, not just us girls!

Since there was still a lot of daylight I went back to the Flin Flon statue for some more pictures. I got another pic of me with the statue in the background, and one in front of the Flin Flon train station, which is now a "Museum Piece"!

Now it was time for dinner! Since I love Chinese food, and since the waitress at the Hong Kong Restaurant made me feel so welcome in her restaurant I went back! She remembered that I was from Winnipeg and asked if I was enjoying my stay in Flin Flon, making very pleasant conversation. There was a couple in the restaurant having a meal while I both sat and walked about looking at paintings on the walls. Well, who am I kidding?? The walls also had large mirrors, so yes I was enjoying what I saw on the walls :) When my take-out order was ready the waitress commented to make sure I come back when I visit Flin Flon again and of course I said I would! Walking down Main Street in Flin Flon for a second evening out was such a thrill. To experience life in a mini skirt and heels. And in a small northern Manitoba mining town of all places!!

Up until 2000 I had always spent my evenings en femme when away on business trips, yet still kept to myself thinking I'd

never be able to go anywhere even though I liked what I saw in the mirror. Meeting the girls in [TG Chat](#) and then making so many friends at Masquerade changed all that! Giving me the confidence I needed to simply have fun being ME!

After having so much fun going out as Sabrina in Flin Flon I certainly was looking forward to an evening out as Sabrina in The Pas, Manitoba. The Pas is a small pulp town about a six hour drive north of Winnipeg and yes, it is in the middle of "wilderness". On Saturday, April 23, 2005, I



was lucky enough to be done work early enough to give me lots of time for the evening.

Getting ready to go out is so much different for me now than it was before I started venturing out into the real world. Back when I'd be locked away in my hotel room, freaking out at any sound near the door, thinking what I was doing was WRONG. Yet always dreaming of a day when I could just walk out into the sunlight! "Why am I doing this" I kept thinking. Now I've learned...it's simply me being me!

By 8:00 PM I was ready for my adventure wearing a red sweater, black tights, black high heeled boots and a black leather mini skirt of course! I didn't know of any significant landmarks where I could get a pic of me in The Pas, so I stopped on Fisher Street, which is kinda like the towns "Main Street", and set my camera on the ledge by the post office. I used the self timer so I could get a pic of me standing on the main drag (forgive the pun) of The Pas, Manitoba!

Now it was time for dinner! I have been out many times alone on shopping trips but when it comes to going out for dinner it has always been with my girlfriends from Masquerade, girlfriends I have who are visiting

since the waitress ... made me feel so welcome ... I went back



## Sabrina Does Flin Flon and The Pas! Cont'd

from out of town, or my two dates (Thanks Foot Lover & Dave). But I had yet to go out ALONE! So this would be a first for me! And I wanted it to be a nice place, not McDonalds or A & W! So I chose the restaurant that is located inside the Kikiwak Inn. The Kikiwak Inn is a very nice hotel which is located on the First Nation's reserve across the Saskatchewan River from The Pas. And a very high class place at that. Which was good, because I'm a HIGH CLASS kinda girl!

Going out in Winnipeg is one thing, since I know most of the places that I go, yet going out alone, in a small and strange town, to places I've never been, is such a cool experience. I thoroughly enjoyed feeling the cool evening air on my legs as I walked



the atmosphere terrific. A young couple came in and were shown to a table right near the fireplace. How romantic! When I was done with my dinner I asked the waitress if since I was alone could she take a picture of me at the table and she was very happy to do just that! Giving me that wonderful memory to share with here! Of course I tipped her well and as I was leaving she asked where I was from, to which I replied "Winnipeg" and she says "OK, I'm from Winnipeg too. Hope you enjoy your stay here!"

As I walked into the beautiful lobby I passed the fireplace and remembered I wanted a picture! I asked the clerk at the front desk if he could and he asked another staff member on my side of the counter

and with a big smile she said "Sure!" I proudly stood in front of the fireplace with a big smile, just a girl happy to be out enjoying life in a skirt and heels!

When I left the Kikiwak Inn I set up my camera and used the self time to get a pic of me in front of the building!

Still not wanting my evening out to end, I had to find another adventure to experience so I decided to go to the Aseneskak Casino. The Aseneskak Casino is also located on the indian reserve north of The Pas, Manitoba. Talk about "Going OUT!" It's one thing to go out in broad daylight shopping in a big city like Winnipeg. But to be a white girl going to a casino on a reserve??? Of course I was excited! Getting my spending limit, \$5, out of my purse I walked through the parking lot with my heels clicking loud and proud on the concrete! There were people walking all around the parking lot. Some walking to the casino and some walking from, while others just stood around smoking. I did spot one of the security officers inside the building give his partner a nudge as he looked my way, then both had their eye on me! I knew they weren't concerned about me as a "Security threat!" I was the only girl in a leather mini skirt for a hundred miles! I simply walked past them smiling and saying "Hello" as I walked into the casino. It was such a wild experience. So

many people, yet all focused on trying to "Win Back" their money! Me, I had planned to spend \$5 max! That was it so with my five dollar bill in hand I slowly walked through the casino, checking out the various game tables, looking at the wonderful native art which decorated the walls, and thoroughly enjoyed the looks from the guys. Heck! Looking around the place, I have to admit, I was the sexiest looking girl in the place! (OK, so I'm bias)

Finding a free machine I took a seat on a stool and feed it my five dollar bill, which gave me 100 credits. Playing nickel plays I started playing and just sat there thinking to myself "I can't believe I'm actually sitting here! In the middle of a busy casino on an indian reserve in northern Manitoba! And being ACCEPTED!!!" Anyone reading this, if you've ever dreamed of going out and enjoying life as the girl inside you. Just try it once to know you can! I did manage to win an additional 100+ credits and I thought of just taking the payout, but that would mean "Leaving" and I was having simply too much fun!" Not that I wanted to spend the night feeding money into the machine, just that I didn't want the experience of feeling so accepted while out as I was dressed to end too soon. So I kept playing until I did indeed "loose" the \$5! But was I a looser?? No way! I won! I won the wonderful feeling of having so many people accept me as I was presenting myself. A nicely dressed girl out for the evening.

On my way out of the casino I stopped near the entrance to use the pay telephone to call Mary. She was hosting a swap meet party at her place and I was missing it. So this gave me a chance to say hello to her and the girls of Masquerade. I talked with Mary, Rhiannon, Shandi, Chantal, and Vanessa, sharing with them my experience of this evening. All while standing ten feet away from the security dude who just wouldn't keep his eyes off my legs! People walking by and me just out doing real things and enjoying life. Since I wasn't able to get a pic inside the casino I stopped in the parking lot and used the self time again! A native woman stopped to talk with me and she was very curious about the camera and how the picture looked. We talked for a bit and she asked where I was from, to which I of course replied! Such a nice woman too! She went into the casino and I walked proudly through the parking lot back to my

**I was the sexiest looking girl in the place!**

through the parking lot entered the inn. My first thought was "I have to get a picture in front of the fireplace!" I met the waitress inside the restaurant and was shown to a booth along the wall. The restaurant wasn't too busy yet there were several other tables where people were sitting at. The waitress took my drink order, which was a Diet-

Pepsi, and left me with a menu to browse through. Sitting there with so many people around and although I feel I am well beyond worrying about what people think, it still amazes me just how much people seem to accept me wherever I go.

I ordered the lemon chicken dish and enjoyed sitting there, a girl out alone in a strange town, and out for a nice dinner at a nice restaurant, with so many nice people too! It just felt so natural, to be sitting there in my leather mini skirt, feeling so happy with myself. Plus it gave me time to browse through the spring issue of People Extra "Stylewatch". With some forethought I brought the magazine since I knew I'd be alone with no one to talk with! People walking by, staff, patrons, and no bad feelings at all!!! The lemon chicken was delicious and

## Sabrina Does Flin Flon and The Pas! Cont'd

vehicle and you can bet, I was walking on cloud 9!

When I arrived back at my hotel, I thought back to all those nights on the road prior to 2001. When my fem time was spent inside the hotel room and my only venturing out was under the cover of darkness. And even



then only for a short walk around the block or for a drive in my van. When I could be out without really being out. Without having to face people and worrying about how people would react or treat me. Yet now I have come to realize that I was indeed my own worst enemy. Out of all the times I've been out in the last 4 years. Coming in contact with literally thousands of people. There have only been about 7 or 8 times when it was apparent that "Someone" had a problem with me dressed as I was. And that is the key. THEIR problem! Why should I let half a dozen people hold me back when the rest of the world welcomes me with a smile on their face and a very pleasant "May I help you??" And with that happy thought in mind, I look forward to my next adventure!

However, I must say, I'm going to really have to work hard to top my gal pal Shandi, in her dress and heels, going out to the Cher concert in Winnipeg with her sweetie!

There has to be a real message here. To "Never Hold Yourself Back" Do what you want to do and enjoy the experience. Yes, the world really is very accepting of us girls!

Thanks for reading my story,

*Sabrina*

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## Brave?

One of the comments I receive from cross dressers most often has to be about how brave I am to go out in public places while prettied. Am I really all that brave? Sure I don't have any fears or cares on what people think of how I am presenting myself, however I am still hiding my real identity under a wig and make up.

Do I fear that the public would notice that I'm not really a woman? No, I don't have the intention or worries to fool society into thinking that I'm female. I'd like to portray myself as a cross dresser that just loves to mingle about. In my opinion cross dressers worry too much about "passing" as a female to enjoy their outings.

Am I worried about the opinions by the public of my cross dressing? I'd be a liar if I said I'm not, but I don't let it ruin my experience. Society as a whole is very judgmental and no matter of what you look like or do public will have an opinion on you either for the good or for the bad. I've had more people coming up to me and complimenting than having the disputable people. The majority of the people keep their opinions to themselves.

Do I worry about being a target of an act of violence? I sure am, that is why I do most of my

gallivanting during the day and make sure I'm accompanied by someone if I go out at night. How often does act of violence happen during day light at public places?

Am I worried of being recognized as my male identity? Not really. The difference between my feminine look and my masculine look is quite dramatic. The wig and the make up does

a pretty good job of covering my male features.

Some cross dressers worry about tiny things like someone recognizing their cars or even the license plate numbers. How I see it is, look out in the mall parking lot

and see how many cars are similar to yours. Do you even know your own license plate number or even know your friend's number?

Sitting at home all prettied up with the possibility of being caught unexpectedly by friends, spouses, family, or whomever that are

not aware of your dressing is brave too. How do I see this as being brave? The reason being that even though you could

look totally different you'll be recognized instantly by your family members in familiar surroundings. My compliments to those that have no fear in doing this. I however would rather be caught by someone while I'm doing something enjoyable, than while trapped at home.

*Chantal*



Chantal out on the town!



Chantal at a social!



Chantal outside the casino!



**cross  
dressers  
worry too  
much  
about  
"passing"**



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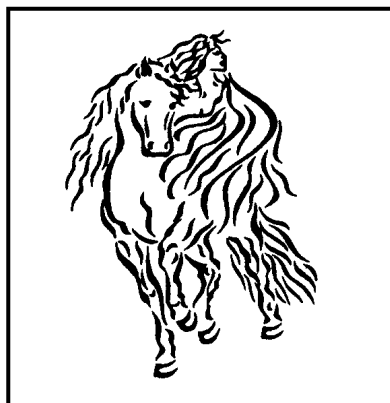


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## Sabrina visits KeyCon 22

May 21, 2005

After visiting Winnipeg's all time BEST science fiction convention, KeyCon 19, KeyCon 20 and KeyCon 21, I just couldn't wait for KeyCon 22. Why??

Because this year I had the perfect outfit to wear. Uhura's little red mini dress from the original Star Trek series! After wearing the uniform to last fall's Key-Con Halloween social I just couldn't wait for the convention.



The photo that Mary took for me!

After getting ready in the afternoon I stopped at Lady Godiva Boutique to show Mary the uniform and get a last minute look in the mirror! Mary took a picture of me while I was there.

By around 3:30 I arrived at the Radisson Hotel on Portage Avenue and found parking in the parkade, which means taking one elevator to the lobby, walking through the lobby, then taking a 2nd elevator to the 11th floor! Great! I get to walk past the front desk in my sexy Star Trek uniform!

On the 11th floor I stopped first at the dealer's room and checked out what the vendors had for sale!. Everything from jewelry, wood crafts, sci fi books and trinkets. The girl from "Dog Eared Books" was there too with her collection of sci fi books. I know her as HIM and it was kinda fun spending

time browsing through her selection and chatting with her. I'll have to remember to ask her next time I'm at her store in drab, if she remembers seeing me at the convention!

I took the staircase to the 12th floor and met my daughter who was selling some kind of food ticket, for which she wanted a dollar. So of course I bought one and was directed to the room where a ritual was about to take place. Something about praising sugar I think as these sci fi

things are kinda outta this world! In the room I met up with "The Danny", who hosted a Con Suite at last years convention.

Now for another "First" for me. In the room I was introduced to my daughter's little step-sister as "Aunt Sabrina". She's only 6 years old and really cute. After so many years of going through life worrying about how I would be accepted it is sure is a wonderful feeling to have people accept me enough to be "OK" with me being around their children. Now for the ceremony, which was much

like a communion in church, and jello, marshmallows, chocolate and coca cola was passed out! I was a lot of fun and I'm glad I spent the buck!

Now it was time for the Masquerade costume contest! Darn, I was too late to enter.. (Note to self, enter early next year!). While the contestants got their little briefing I helped Clif set up a photo backdrop and had to leave the room with the rest, waiting for the contestants to get ready for the show, which was running behind. Nothing unusual at Key-Con. For the show I sat with "The Danny" and enjoyed watching the contestants walk the runway! Some were in costumes of their favorite sci fi characters while others were just plain fun fantasy costumes.

After the Masquerade costume contest I went up to the 15th floor with "The Danny" to where the Con hospitality suites were and went to "Hogwarts" The room was decorated with brick walls, and the four shields from the houses of Hogwarts! Very nicely done. I tried the "Witch's Brew" they were serving, which was a non alcoholic fruit drink. Kinda tasty too.



Me in the audience!

By 7:45 Pm it was time for me to leave and change for the

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these sci-fi things are kinda outta this world!

## Sabrina visits KeyCon 22 cont'd

(Continued from page 22)

KeyCon social to follow that evening. I felt my Uhura uniform was going to be too hot to dance in, and decided my red leather mini skirt, a black sleeveless top and stilettos was the best choice. Since Rhiannon, another Masquerade member, was going to the social and needed a ride I went and picked her up. She wore a nice silver blouse, a black knee length leather skirt and ankle boots!



Rhiannon and I

Rhiannon and I arrived back at the Radisson hotel just before

9PM and I really enjoyed walking through the lobby in my leather and stilettos! (Yes, I turned a few heads). On the 12th floor we stopped to see Leamber who was working the door. Rhiannon registered for her pass and we met my daughter and "The Danny" in the social hall. Dancing had started and the party had begun.

The evening was a lot of fun. Meeting up with friends I've gotten to know from the previous KeyCon's I've been to. An-

draw, who had taken me out to dinner after one of the KeyCon socials entered the room and before sitting at our table leaned over and gave me a hug. He's so sweet! Of course Rhiannon and I spent quite a bit of time on the dance floor with my daughter and my ex. And with me in 5 inch heels too! Rhiannon and I took a break and checked out the Con Suites on the 15th floor and just enjoyed being girls out for a wonderful evening. By about 12:30 AM it was time to call it an evening so Rhiannon and I said our goodbye's and headed for home. With one stop along the way, at Shoppers Drug Mart, just not wanting the night of walking around in a mini skirt and heels to end!

*Sabrina*



My daughter and I

**Meeting up with friends I've gotten to know from the previous KeyCon's**

## Donna Gee to Visit Our City!

Sabrina has gotten to know Donna Gee through her friend Pamela Ann. Donna, who is also member of Crossroads, the group in Detroit, has written to me regarding getting together while she and her supportive wife are passing through Winnipeg in a few weeks.

She arrives on June 15 and leaves on the 17th, so I figured we'd turn it into a "Girls Night Out" on Thursday, June 16, 2005, so she could meet the Masquerade girls! Dinner at perhaps Kristina's On Corydon at 7:30, then hit one of the clubs afterward. The date is confirmed we just need to confirm where.

Donna's e-mail address is [donnagee@sympatico.ca](mailto:donnagee@sympatico.ca) if you'd like to write to her as well.

Let Sabrina know if you are interested so we can book a table BIG enough!! Email her at

[Sabrina\\_marks@masquerade.ca](mailto:Sabrina_marks@masquerade.ca)

Donna and a friend!



c/o Lady Godiva Boutique  
832 Corydon Ave.  
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Phone: 204-452-1100  
Email: girlstuff@masquerade.ca



For the girl inside us all!

We are on the web!  
[www.masquerade.ca](http://www.masquerade.ca)

**ABOUT MASQUERADE**

**We are a FUN LOVING support group for cross-dressers, transvestites, and transsexuals. Our purpose is for people with like/common interests to associate and socialize.**

**It is not for the purpose of soliciting or engaging in sexual activities. All gender gifted individuals, who are 18 years of age or older, and are prepared to respect our bi-laws, are welcome. Spouses and significant others are encouraged and welcome to attend meetings and functions and join if they wish.**

**We regularly meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month. The meetings begin around 7:30 p.m. and go until 9 or 10.**

**Socializing and dancing are done afterwards!**

**We endeavour to maintain a fun, friendly, laid-back atmosphere. We are all there for the same reasons-a place to go to that is accepting, private and relaxing. Change facilities are available. Dressing for the first meeting or two is not required, but encouraged!**

**Birthday Girls!**

- |                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Mary Elizabeth | June 3  |
| Belinda        | June 9  |
| Martina        | June 14 |
| Angela         | July 5  |
| Kira           | July 5  |
| Rhiannon       | July 27 |
| Rhaina         | July 31 |



**Legal Stuff:** Lipstick & Lace is the official newsletter of Masquerade. Edited by Shandi.

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