Public Lecture – Free – A joint event hosted by the Surrey Pride Society and the Dept of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, SFU

Preserving Queer History – Stories from a Seasoned Activist

Speakers: Chairman and Founder, Q Hall of Fame Canada, Paul Therien, Founder of the Canadian Court System, The Empress of Canada, Mr. ted northe

Thursday 14th June, 7pm, SFU Surrey room 3310.

ted northe was born in 1937 into a military family from Cooking Lake Alberta, and raised in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. He has spearheaded a plethora of actions that were monumental in achieving the rights and freedoms for many in the Queer community. From the early days of handwritten letter-writing campaign that fought for the decriminalization of homosexuality, to organizing events in support of the right to have a gay business or belong to a gay organization without government interference, Mr. northe has spent many years working with others to ensure the rights of the LGBT community are fought for and defended. Moreover, Mr. northe has carried his passion to improve the quality of life for others in his many works with the Canadian Red Cross and the BC Cancer Society.

In 1964, Mr. northe founded the Imperial Court System in Canada and in 1967 became the Empress of Canada. Through this organization, Mr. northe perfected his powerful ability to raise funds and awareness across Canada, and as a result, many current LGBT organizations were born from his support and energy. Mr. northe created the Imperial Court System in Canada, the first Community Christmas Dinner, and the first gay community disaster relief fund in Vancouver. He collaborated with business owners to develop the first Gay Businessmen’s Guild and worked with the lesbian community to host the first openly gay Breast Cancer fundraiser.

Mr. northe has been honoured with the Canadian Red Cross Humanitarian and Distinguished Citizen Award; British Columbia Cancer Society Citizen’s Award for Fundraising; the Governor General’s Special Service Medal for Distinguished Citizen and Humanitarian; Certificate of Special USA Congressional Recognition; the Saskatchewan Canadian Award; Rita Rhinestone Pegasus Humanitarian Award; 1st recipient of the Jose’ Sarria Award; Key to San Francisco; Key to Portland; Citizenship Award (Bay Area Reporter); Honorary Empress of Ensenada Mexico and many others.