



Venus Envy 10th Anniversary

By Shelley Taylor

Venus Envy is celebrating its tenth anniversary on May 10, 2008. So much has changed over the past ten years—at the store, in our community, and for me personally. In 1998, I opened Venus Envy, “a store for women and the people who love them,” on Inglis Street, near the corner of Barrington. Most of the people who came to the store were women, with the occasional man dropping in for a vibrator for his girlfriend. The customers were almost all under 40 years old, and many days went by with only a few people coming to the shop. I had lots and lots of time to chat, get to know people, and read all the books that we were bringing in. I remember thinking that if this venture didn’t work out, I would go back to cooking or bartending after the first year and that a year of running a business was cheaper and better experience than doing a business degree.

In 1999 we moved to our current location on Barrington, and with a more exposed storefront, everything changed. We became more mainstream, with many more

straight, middle-class, and older folks coming into the shop, but we were able to happily maintain our queer and sex-positive focus at the same time. It was at this time that health care providers began to recognize us as a sexual health resource, and began referring their clients to us for everything from constriction rings to vibrators and lubricants.

The community was changing as well: the division between gay, lesbian, queer, straight and bisexual was closing. The rigidity of the community is falling away and being replaced with an acceptance of each other that I wouldn’t have thought possible in 1998. I went into this business as a straight(ish) married girl, not seeing how I could fit in or where my part of the community was. Lesbians were still fairly suspicious of bisexual women ten years ago, the word queer was just starting to be reclaimed, and in small places such as Halifax, the fluidity of gender and desire and identity that you might have found in bigger cities was very much for the minority.

Ten years later, Venus Envy—and, I would venture to say, the



Staff, circa 2000: Maggie Haywood, Shelley Taylor, Tracey Kornblum, Sara Lamb, Megan Butcher, Fran Cumming

community in general—has found its stride. Our customers have changed, both in terms of diversity

(age, sexuality, gender) and in terms of their knowledge about gender and sex. The store has figured out

what balance of toys, books, and safer sex gear we want to carry. We know who we are, what we want

Cont’d on p. 4

ACNS Tackles HIV Stigma & Discrimination

In response to the stigma and discrimination experienced by People with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in our province, a project funded by the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia is underway to increase the public’s awareness of HIV related stigma & discrimination. The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) in Halifax will oversee the project in collaboration with the Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) in Truro and the AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton (ACCB) in Sydney.

Last winter, PHA focus groups held in Halifax, Truro and Sydney told of experiences of rejection, stigmatization and discrimination from health professionals, friends and family members. The participants were also asked their opinion on how to cope with the reality of stigma and discrimination. There appeared to be a general consensus from PHAs that public education is required to make people more

aware of the reality of the disease, and decrease irrational fears around it. They would like to see education, not discrimination in Nova Scotia.

In April, ACNS released a series of Human Rights fact sheets in the form of six trifold brochures. Wayves asked the ACNS a few questions about the kit:

Q: Although Fact Sheet #1 has definitions that are relevant to anyone, the rest of the Fact Sheets deal entirely with how to deal with stigma and discriminations when you encounter it. What was the reasoning behind focussing information on coping with discrimination, rather an education focus which would work towards preventing it?

ACNS: Our Stigma & Discrimination project will offer a public education component and programming that will assist persons living with HIV/AIDS to develop coping skills to combat

HIV/AIDS related stigma in their daily lives. Our education component will consist of a 6 part series poster social marketing campaign and pamphlet distribution across Nova Scotia. The final aspect of the project, presently in development, will involve Community Based AIDS Organizations across NS in the delivery of programming that will seek to address the development of coping strategies in collaboration with those most impacted by HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination.

Q: We have been living with HIV for over a quarter century. Why are we beginning to talk about this now in 2008, rather than 1998 or 1988?

ACNS: Stigma and discrimination has been at the forefront of the AIDS Movement within NS as well as across Canada. The face of HIV/AIDS continues to change and we are met with new challenges while recognizing the

longstanding need to continue to address stigma and discrimination in new and innovative ways. It is an important strategy in improving the quality of life of persons living with HIV/AIDS and to assist in our prevention efforts.

Printed copies of the Fact Sheets

can be obtained at the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia 1-800-566-2437 or 425-4882. ACNS hopes to have the campaign materials on our website at www.acns.ns.ca; in the meantime, you can obtain electronic versions by emailing pc@acns.ns.ca

Town Hall Meeting In Truro!

Mark your calendars! Wayves is hosting a town hall meeting in Truro!

Everyone interested in the health, vitality, and development of the LGBT community is welcome to a rainbow town hall meeting from 7:00pm to 10:00pm on Tuesday, June 17, at Neenamo’s, 515 Prince Street.

Discussion topics for the meeting could include: improved health care, alternative health care, recreational activities, seniors, police, Wayves magazine, political action, homophobia, gay positive businesses, flags of course, and anything

else that the participants bring. At the beginning of the meeting we’ll collect topics for discussion from the attendees.

An RSVP would be appreciated so that we know how many muffins to buy, but is not necessary. You may RSVP in Facebook: search for Wayves to find the “Wayves Magazine Rocks” group, click on the event there, and click “Attending.” To RSVP by phone or email, or for more information, email to submissions@wayves.ca or call the Northern AIDS Connection Society at 902 895-0931.

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May 17: International Day Against Homophobia

by Hugo Dann, Chair Halifax Pride.

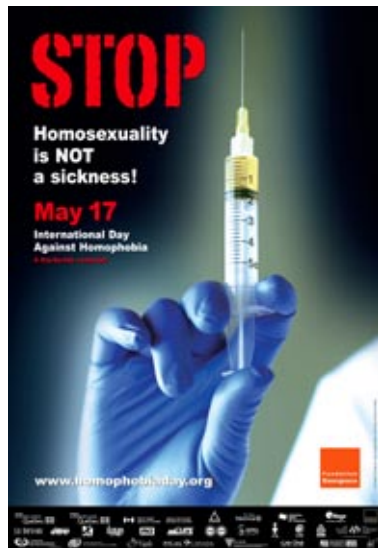
It's been a long, cold winter for LGBT Canadians, thanks to the fear-based policy of Health Canada banning organ donations by gay men and actions by some Nova Scotia municipalities to restrict raising of the Rainbow Flag. By rights we should be enjoying the spring and anticipating the heady, hedonistic days of summer.

Ordinarily, I'd be writing to share with you the progress Halifax Pride is making towards our 20th Anniversary, but this is Wayves' May Issue, and that means May 17, plans for the Day of Action Against Homophobia & Transphobia loom large in my mind, as do the issues around MP Tom Lukiwski's apol-

ogy for his homophobic remarks of 17 years ago.

Wherever you are this May 17 please feel the power to speak. Contact your local Pride or AIDS organization to see if they have anything planned. If they don't, plan something yourself! Attend a rally or a march or a dance! Write a letter to your MP, MLA or councillor! Kiss your lover on the sidewalk! Or take courage from knowing that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folk the world over are standing in solidarity with you; taking pride in ourselves to end the silence, ignorance and fear.

For information on plans for May 17 in the Halifax area, please go to www.halifaxpride.com.



IDAH In Your Community

For your local IDAH plans, contact your Pride Committee:

Charlottetown - Nola Etkin Netkin@upe.ca • Moncton: T. Hillier ilaisha@nbnet.nb.ca • Pictou: Ramona Westgate pride-n-joy0821@hotmail.com • Saint John — Service of Prayer and Hope at CQS United. For details, contact CQS United or Mack MacKenzie at mackmack@nb.sympatico.ca • Sydney: Peter Steele artist.steele@gmail.com

Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of *Wayves*? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have 2007 back issues on line now and will be adding 2006 soon. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at submissions@wayves.ca!

ARC of P.E.I. News

by Michael Walsh

The Abegweit Rainbow Collective (ARC) of P.E.I. will host another grand slam Dance Party on Saturday, May 24, at Mavor's, located in the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown. With the new board in place and with a new direction, our dance parties have taken off and have become the best place to find the hottest music and sexiest atmosphere in the city. During our last dance party we welcomed almost 200 people through the doors.

As Pride approaches we invite all of the Maritimes to come and party with us on our Island and help us celebrate our tenth year. Our theme this year is, "Diamonds are Forever." We want everyone to amp up the glitz, glam and glitter! Come to the parade and then party the night away to fresh beats from Ibiza and the UK, complete with a professional light show that is sure to impress. Our Pride Power Party and parade are scheduled for July 12, with the parade beginning at 1:00 p.m.

This year we are dragging the queens back into Pride and extend a special invitation to all drag queens (and everyone else, of course) across Atlantic Canada and elsewhere to come and show your pride. For more information, please e-mail info@arcopei.com or visit our website at www.arcopei.com.

We will be putting on a drag show on Friday, July 11; once again, if you would like to perform a drag number in our show please e-mail your information or visit



the website and we will get back to you. We want this year's show to be another one to remember

and are looking for all sorts of amazing acts.

Photo credit: Alana Leard

Our Cover:

Venus Envy on Barrington Street in Halifax.

Mea Culpa

On Page 10 in the April issue, the dinner event associated with the Diamond Divas fundraiser is called "Amore Passion Diamond Divas Gastronomical Supper," put on by Mario and Jacky Bourgeois-Leduc. We apologize for the error.

Also, the April cover photograph was taken by Raymond Taavel.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: May 2, Jun 6, Jul 4; that is, the first Friday of each month. You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax): Monday May 5, Jun 9, Jul 7.

Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, location: AIDS Coalition, 1675 Bedford Row. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): May 11, Jun 15, Jul 13, Aug 10. Help build the paper – no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and helping even once or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM,

On the stands and in the mail: May 23, Jun 27, Jul 25.

wayves

wayves exists to inform Atlantic Canadian lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people of activities in their communities, to promote those activities and to support their aims and objectives.

wayves is an independent publication, published every month – except January - by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to **wayves** is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. **wayves** reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in **wayves** are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the calendar of the Community Events page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and might be edited for length. Submissions should be e-mailed - in plain text - to the address noted below. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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AIDS Network Meeting in Charlottetown

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has awarded the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) funding to host the first official meeting of the Regional Atlantic AIDS Network (RAAN) in Charlottetown, P.E.I. this May.

This announcement is both exciting and newsworthy as the Atlantic region is one of the only regions in Canada that doesn't have a community-based HIV/AIDS network. A meeting to discuss the possibility of forming this network was held in Halifax during March, attended by 17 participants from Atlantic ASOs (AIDS service organizations) attended.

CATIE staff facilitated a discussion with participants, which determined that a community-based HIV/AIDS network could support six major objectives:

1. Assist all participants to share

skills and knowledge;

2. Build and strengthen the Atlantic region's response to HIV/AIDS;

3. Provide continuity and allow regional shared projects to be developed;

4. Build capacity for PHA leadership;

5. Improve communication and build a collaborative vision of HIV prevention, treatment and support; and

6. Provide professional peer support.

Organizations from the four Atlantic provinces that will make up RAAN include AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, AIDS P.E.I., AIDS New Brunswick, AIDS Saint John, SIDA/AIDS Moncton, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Healing

our Nations, AIDS Committee of Western Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS. Membership in RAAN will consist of two members per ASO: an executive director, or other appointed staff person; and a person living with HIV/AIDS (PHA) who volunteers or works with the organization.

Al McNutt of Northern AIDS Connection Society believes this would be an excellent opportunity for community-based HIV organizations in Atlantic Canada to collaborate and transfer knowledge. In light of the fact that a formal network does not currently exist in the Atlantic area, it is a welcomed initiative.

"It is an important time for community-based AIDS organizations in the Atlantic to join together to share knowledge, skills and

resources," says Maria MacIntosh, executive director of AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. "Embarking on the development of a regional network has long been thought

of and we are now taking steps to move forward that will, without question, increase our ability to serve our communities across the Atlantic."

Venus Envy

from p. 1

to offer to the community and our place in it. And the community has developed incredible support and recreational opportunities. The Youth Project, ACNS, Girlish Productions, Halifax Pride, Sea (and She) Dogs are all thriving and working with our community to make this the kind of place that queers want to live and play. And many organizations that we don't think of as necessarily queer have taken it upon themselves to become allies. I'm thinking of Pink Velvet Burlesque, the Halifax Sexual Health Centre, Capital Health, and Destination Halifax, among others.

And I've even figured out who I am in all of this, which is certainly not something I would have learned in business school. I'm extremely grateful to Halifax and to the people who I've learned so much from here. From the first people to tell me they were trans and explain what that meant, to the first guy who bought a harness for his girlfriend to use on

him, and of course all the staff and volunteers who have taught me so much about how to run a business. These people, and particularly my partner Steve McCullough and the long-time manager of Venus Envy Halifax, Maggie Haywood, have allowed me to start the Venus Envy Bursary society, expand the business online, and open a Venus Envy in Ottawa by virtue of their dedication and talents.

It's been an incredible time for our community, in my life, and for Venus Envy, and I'm excited to see what the next ten (twenty, thirty!) years will bring. I hope

to see you all at the store on May 10 for cupcakes and our sale or to just come by and say hello. And, what's more, come to our big party at the Seahorse that night to help us celebrate with the Maynards, the Stolen Minks, and DJ Simon Thibeault.

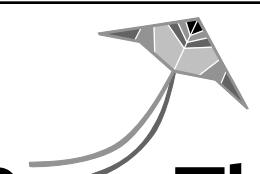


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Catherine Meade Speaks to DalOUT



By Peter Walker

On March 13, Catherine Meade spoke with DalOUT at the Dalhousie Weldon Law Building about LGBT athletes in the sporting community. Catherine started out with an activity where the audience was asked to name ten openly gay, professional athletes. Catherine was positive we wouldn't be able to name more than a few. There are presently no openly gay male athletes in North America of the approximately 4,800 men currently competing at the professional level. This is something that Catherine, as co-president of the Gay and Lesbian International Sporting Association (GLISA), would like to change. GLISA is the organization that oversees the Outgames.

Catherine believes it isn't the fans that are keeping athletes in the closet. Rather, it's advertisers, coaches and the locker-room mentality that encourages LGBT athletes to hide themselves. Not a single person at the talk on March 13 self-identified as LGBT when they were personally involved in

competitive sport. I attend aerobics classes as an openly gay male, but apparently that's not competitive (or a sport).

The fact that LGBT athletes were feeling marginalized is what sparked the LGBT sporting movement. The first Gay Games were held in 1982 in San Francisco and have become bigger ever since. In 2006, following the split into Outgames and Gay Games, there were approximately 22,000 competitors between Montreal and Chicago. Some of the key sponsors have been IBM, Mercedes and CBC. The Outgames are officially sanctioned, which means records set at the Outgames are recognized by the international sporting community. Catherine didn't want to go into details about the Gay Games/Outgames split, but suggested looking at Mark Tewkesbury's book, "Inside Out: Straight Talk from a Gay Jock," for more information.

GLISA is not only committed to running the Outgames but has also taken an important human rights initiative. The Montreal Declaration is a document that came about as a result of the first Outgames in 2006 and summarizes the major demands of the LGBT movement. Several important international organization and lobbies are currently adopting the declaration. Check it out at: <http://www.declarationofmontreal.org/declaration>. There are a couple challenges that GLISA has run into. One of which is the importance of reaching transsexuals and incorporating them into the games. The International Olympic Committee has stated

that any competitor who has been post-operative for more than two years may participate with their gender-identified group. This is great on paper but doesn't address the disparity across the globe in

respect to access to surgery. Nonetheless, GLISA has been working towards a solution that attempts to include all of the LGBT movement.

Catherine is committed to the

GLBT sporting movement and encourages everyone to make it to the next Outgames in Copenhagen in 2009. It's great to see a Haligonian playing such an important role in LGBT sporting.

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Erica Rutherford

Erica Rutherford—an artist, actor, filmmaker, farmer, teacher and writer—died Friday, April 11, in Charlottetown.

Rutherford's remarkably multi-disciplined career earned her membership of the Royal Canadian Academy of Art. Her work has been exhibited in hundreds of group and solo shows, and is in the collections of the Canada Council Art Bank, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Arts Council of Great Britain.

Born male, in 1923, Rutherford struggled with gender identity and eventually underwent transsexual surgery. Her life and struggles were documented in her autobiography *Nine Lives*.

The book also details her first visit to P.E.I. and how she made the Island her permanent home in 1985.

Rutherford was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and lived in the United States, Spain, South Africa and England before eventually settling on P.E.I.

Rutherford made lasting contributions to the Island arts scene, including being instrumental in the formation of the Great George Street Gallery.

She also organized printmaking workshops that eventually led to the formation of the P.E.I. Print-

makers Council. Her last show was at the Confederation Centre, entitled *Enigmatic Whispers*.

Rutherford's health had deteriorated in recent years. She leaves behind her life partner, Gail Ambica Rutherford, their daughter Susana, Susana's husband, and their two children.

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITEH

Dear Tom

Well, the date with Mr. Montreal - or as I more affectionately call him, Monsieur Montréal - went very well but I realized, Tommo, that gay dating is really an odd process. Events happen slightly out of sequence. For example, I invite MM to spend the weekend with me at my one bedroom apartment, and it is only two days later, on Sunday, that we really start to get to know each other. Concupiscence before conversation seems to be the queer rule of... well, not thumb exactly, but you know what I mean. Not that MM had put the slightest pressure on me, quite the contrary, he offered to stay at a hotel, but really at my age it is a little late to start being coy, don't you think? Given the option between playing hard to get and getting hard, the choice is easy for me. But I do remember asking myself, on Friday as I was driving us home from the airport, what exactly do I really know about this man with whom I am about to be in close, steady contact for the next two and half days? A brief snow squall came up on the highway about then, a mini blizzard really, which I only later learned made MM very nervous (he has bad night vision.) So he was too preoccupied with the certainty of his imminent death in a car accident to concern himself about any social awkwardness that might occur should he survive to see the remainder of the weekend.

In spite of this somewhat rocky start, we ended up thoroughly enjoying each other's company - talked almost non-stop, laughed a lot. He met several of my friends although I think the experience is probably rather a blur to him since it happened at one of the Anthill's parties with wall to wall people, tons of food and a steady roar of conversation something akin to standing next to a jet engine just before takeoff.

Very quickly, it was Monday and we were back at the airport for his return flight home. A swirl of emotions was running through me at that point - happiness that the weekend had gone well, regret that the visit was over so soon, uncertainty about when or if we'd see each other again and another emotion that surprised me, Tom. It was anger. The anger arose when MM was about to check in and the moment had come to take our leave of each other. Just before I leaned in to give him a kiss and a hug, I hesitated. I stopped for a split second to consider whether or not I should kiss him, whether it would be safe to do so because we were in a public place and I didn't know if this natural display of affection would make for any raised eyebrows for him at the check in counter or give rise to some jeering remark or disgusted look from a passerby. That's what made me angry,

Tom, the fact that I still have to question when and where I can be myself and act on my feelings.

A recent newspaper article states that a top cabinet member in the Harper government is gay. This has given rise to great speculation, of course. I sent the story to Butch right away so he can begin the national version of Spot the Hidden Homo. The journalist goes on to say that the Prime Minister is very aware of the homosexuality of several members of his staff and among elected officials and has no problem with it. His opposition to same-sex marriage, it is explained by the writer, was political not personal. The difficulty I have with this, Tom, is the fact that for me and for millions of people on this planet, there can be no separation of the two. I am sure the cabinet minister who is obliged to hide his sexuality feels the effect both personally and politically.

Maybe it isn't just sexuality that dismays Stephen Harper but any show of emotion. After all this is the man who shakes hands with his children when he drops them off at school and was apparently astounded when Bob Rae and Michael Ignatieff greeted each other with a hug. He seems to have trained his facial muscles to be so still and unsmiling one might almost suspect him of getting botox injections.

Big emotions were certainly not hidden on the day of the chorus' Carmina Burana concert, Tom. Oh, it was a grand success! The extra adrenaline rush of being onstage before a sold out house gave extra energy and intensity to our voices and at the end the audience surged to their feet. It was really very thrilling and satisfying. Reviews have been good and I've gotten nice phone calls from friends giving congratulations. One of my favourite reactions came from a neighbour who stopped me on the street to give me a big hug and tell how moved she had been by the performance.

I'm sure Stephen Harper would not approve.

Love ya!

Crawford

Masq!

You take one last look in the mirror before leaving the change room; you can feel the beat of the music within your chest as you enter the main room, blackened

fun, wild or sexy and you'll have no problem getting through the gates.

The name is "Masq," short for masquerade. Its goal is to be a fun and sexy costume party aimed at the alternative-minded community. This is reflected through getting patrons to dress creatively and openly and hosting DJs who spin alternative music like



out mostly minus a few candles on the tables and the lights on the dance floor. A lady walks by you in a black PVC corset and fishnet stockings; she drags her date behind her on a leash. It's time to dance but you need a drink first.

The idea for this 19+ evening is to have a sexy Halloween once a month instead of just once a year. Dress code will be mandatory and enforced: no blue jeans or ball caps allowed. Leather, lace and lingerie encouraged, the hotter the better. PVC, spandex and alternative dress welcomed. There is a change room available for those who may need it. Wear, or bring, something

industrial, goth, trance, noise, techno, electronica, and EBM. Masq will be happening on the third Saturday of every month and every month we'll have a new theme to keep things interesting.

Masq opens on Saturday, May 17, 10:00pm - 2:00am, with a cover of \$7 or \$5 in theme, at The Bus Stop Theatre, 2203 Gottingen St.

Be prepared for some great, unique alternative music, the kind not heard at other dance bars in the city.

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PriapeWear 2009 Contest



Gary, Mr. PriapeWear 2008. Photo by Priape.Com

What is it about men on the east coast that makes them so attractive? Is it the clean sea air, genetics, the dulse in the diet or just plain good luck that is responsible for granting us Atlantic Canadians more than a fair share of sexy males? You'll have a great opportunity to ponder these questions at Menz Bar on May 18 when your favourite online store, Priape.com presents the Mr. PriapeWear International Model Search. Friday May 16 will kick off the fun with a "meet and greet" of the contestants at the new Menz location, 2182 Gottingen Street, level 2. Doug and David have always been strong support-

ers of every aspect of queer life in Halifax and now with the Mr. PriapeWear International Model Search, they are excited to help showcase what has been a secret to much of the world until now: when it comes to talent, male beauty, charm and personality Atlantic Canadians are second to none. If you have not already done so, go to www.priape.com/modelsearch (version française www.priape.com/modele2008) for registration and further details. While you're there also check out the Youtube clip of last year's contest final in Montreal for a look at hot guys with great bodies and big smiles wearing sexy clothes and having a blast. This is exactly the kind of atmosphere that will be happening at Menz bar Victoria Day weekend. One contestant in the Halifax chapter of the PriapeWear International Model Search will go on to Montreal for a chance to become Mr. PriapeWear International and start an exciting year of travel, modelling, and international exposure. Better than reality television, this is reality!! So come on out and show your encouragement and pride for Atlantic Canada's sexiest men and your support for Menz bar. It is going to be one fabulous party!

Destination Halifax's LGBT Bus Tour

By Raymond Taavel
Halifax is a gay-friendly place to visit and play. That's the message Destination Halifax has been working to hone in conjunction with many community partners of the LGBT community over the last three years. In November, 2007 Destination Halifax sponsored the first LGBT Travel and Tourism conference in Halifax. The culmination of that occurred recently with the first Halifax "fam" (familiarization in travel and tourism industry lingo) tour for travel/tourism/service industry types on Thursday, April 3, 2008. Halifax Pride Chair Hugo Dann wrote the script and narrated the Ambassatours bus tour as it navigated its way throughout HRM, making plenty of stops to such places as the Hydrostone, Fred's on Agricola Street, and by well-known—Blue Moon Bistro, Menz Bar, Seadog's, Reflections—and not-so-well-known gay haunts, hangouts and several gay-friendly

places and restaurants—Janes on the Common, Chives Canadian Bistro.

Lynn Ledwidge, Marketing Director for Destination Halifax, has been working hard on this project to bring together many facets of community organizations and businesses to make this happen.

The tour was not without its "campy" side

The bus tour gave participants an opportunity to see and experience some of what "gay Halifax" has to offer. The participants then can take this information and tailor travel and tour packages to market to LGBT abroad and here at home to tap into what travel industry insiders say is a multi-billion dollar industry.

The tour was not without its "campy" side as it made a drive-by pick-up at Reflections to bring Rouge Fatale and Elle Noire onto the bus for the remainder of the tour. The finale was held at the Casino Nova Scotia with a short cocktail party that included live music entertainment and smart

and saucy numbers by Rouge and Elle.

Based on the immense success of this "fam" tour it is hoped there will be many more opportunities to showcase what gay Halifax has to offer in the future to continue to build stronger relationships between gay owned/gay friendly businesses, community organizations, the city and the province.

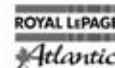
For more information, visit www.rainbowhalifax.com.



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Fierté Canada Pride Conference

By Raymond Taavel
Ottawa's Capital Pride hosted this year's Fierté Canada Pride conference during the last weekend of March. This was an opportunity to bring together a number of Pride organizations from across the country from Vancouver and Toronto to Montreal and two Atlantic Canadian Prides.

The FCP conference allows Pride organizations to network, exchange ideas and to continue development of Pride through topical workshops. This year the workshops focused on finances, post-Pride depression and how boards can work better together through the development of conflict resolution skills.

Atlantic Canada again made its presence known with a strong contingent—Irl Washburn and Marcie Walton from Port City Pride, Saint John, New Brunswick; Hugo Dann and Ramona Westgate from Halifax-Pictou; and outgoing FCP president Raymond Taavel. The Atlantic Canada contingent even rented a van to ensure as much participation as possible and made the 18-hour journey into a "Partridge family-style" road trip.

The conference also included numerous events where delegates were able to meet local politicians. At the Friday evening meet-and-greet delegates and guests met at a popular downtown restaurant "The Biz" where the guest speaker was former Liberal Deputy Prime Minister, Sheila Copps.

The national conference is also an opportunity to hold FCP's annual general meeting to elect a new executive. This year the entire executive was up for re-election due to board members resigning and not re-offering.

Ramona Westgate from Pictou was elected President. Hugo Dann was elected as the Atlantic Canada Regional Director. The rest of the board positions with the exception of the Prairies and Arctic were also elected from delegates present, which included the Chair of Fierté Montreal Pride for the Quebec Regional directorship.

Newly-elected FCP President Ramona Westgate outlined a

number of goals she has in mind for the upcoming year. Now that we are "on the radar" with many Pride organizations across the country, Ramona intends to continue to build those relationships. Ramona intends for the FCP board to work on a needs assessment strategy with member Pride organizations to develop a meaningful membership benefit program that builds on the national insurance program FCP currently offers its member organizations. She also wants educate Pride organizations about the defined roles of FCP and InterPride and how they can play out on the Canadian scene.

Funding is still an ongoing issue with FCP, so beyond membership dues, which will support administration, FCP will continue to work on independent funding to sustain the organization and support member Pride organizations.

This is the first time a rural Pride organizer has been elected president of FCP. Ramona says she recognizes that places her at a slight disadvantage not having the resources at the ready as the larger Pride organizations would have. Nevertheless her intent is

"to work hard to fulfill the role entrusted to me with the resources I've got."

"Last year my predecessor made strides in spreading the word through his efforts to reach out to Prides across the country and developing one-on-one relationships," she added. "That leadership has given me an excellent foundation to work on with this newly elected board which I'm also very excited about. So I fully intend to continue to build on the progress FCP made last year."

Next year's FCP conference will be hosted by Fierté Montreal Pride in the spring 2009.

For more information and membership inquiries please visit www.fiertecanadapride.ca. For Atlantic Canadian Prides please e-mail Hugo Dann, Atlantic Canada Regional Director at atlantic@fiertecanadapride.ca.

In October, 2008, Vancouver will host the world InterPride conference. Ramona says Vancouver Pride has been working hard



Reception at "The Biz" in Ottawa: Former Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, outgoing FCP President Raymond Taavel (Halifax), and New FCP President Ramona Westgate (Halifax-Pictou)

to develop this conference and encourages Pride organizations across the country to consider attending this "once-in-a-lifetime"

opportunity for Canadians. For more information about the world InterPride conference please visit <http://www.interpride08.com>.

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Arthur C. Clarke Remembered

by Will Beckett

On March 19, 2008, the GLBT community lost another family member. At least that's the way I felt that morning when I learned of the death of Science Fiction author, Arthur C. Clarke at the age of 90.

The man who wrote the classic "2001: A Space Odyssey" and dreamed of orbital satellites years before their inception also dreamed of a better society where such things as sexuality and race were non-issues. Clarke himself never openly acknowledged his own homosexuality, but he didn't particularly deny it either. The bulk of his fiction posited that for humanity to evolve into a truly enlightened, inclusive society it needed to ditch our old beliefs and embrace our diversity as a human community; very encouraging stuff, particularly to young readers such as myself.

Clarke has been in my life for a long time. At the tender age of eight, my mother bought me a copy of his 1953 classic, "Child-

hood's End." The cover looked quite cool with its big silvery flying saucer hovering over a semi-transparent city. While the novel certainly started off like typical Invaders-From-Space fare, with UFOs arriving over every major city on Earth, it quickly evolved into something else entirely. It told the story of benign, satanic-looking aliens who came not to conquer humanity, but to oversee

"2010: Odyssey Two" introduced me to the term, "bear," when used to describe a large hairy man

its evolution into the next non-corporeal phase of its existence. "Childhood's End" provided my first exposure to intelligent science fiction and it opened my eyes to the wider possibilities of storytelling beyond "Star Wars" and "The War of the Worlds."

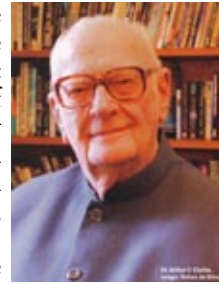
Later in life, I noticed subtle

subtexts in Clarke's work hinting at something deeper. Oh, sure, the novels, "Rendezvous With Rama," "2061: Odyssey Three," and "The Songs of Distant Earth" all painted grandiose vistas of alien environments, futuristic cities, and space exploration, but I began to notice that some of Clarke's characters exhibited bisexual—if not outright homosexual—tendencies; there was clearly something gay going on here.

"2010: Odyssey Two" introduced me to the term, "bear," when used to describe a large hairy man (with preference for same). Its sequel and the aforementioned "Rendezvous With Rama" contained same-sex couples interacting with the main characters in ways indicating their sexual preferences as being no big deal to anyone involved. "The Songs of Distant Earth" featured characters who enjoyed the company of both male and female

partners while living in the intergalactic equivalent of the Earthly Paradise. All this, and cool spaceships, too.

These characters resonated strongly with me; a young man awakening to his own burgeoning homosexuality while living in small town Nova Scotia. Through his fiction, Clarke showed me that I could attain a measure of acceptance and even importance in this world. Having grown up in an environment where coming out would've been akin to social suicide, these stories showed me (and doubtless many others in my situation) that we could be accepted and loved for simply being ourselves. For all of the hope and encouragement Clarke gave to me, I am forever grateful to him.



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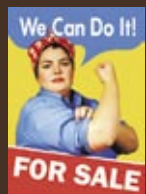
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AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces. email: AtlanticCanadianLesbians@groups.msn.com web: groups.msn.com/AtlanticCanadianLesbians

AtlanticPoz: A new discussion group is for individuals living with HIV in Atlantic Canada. web: health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/ Egale Canada - Atlantic: (888) 204-7777 email: egale.canada@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

GaySpaces, Fredericton: Free postings of GLBT-friendly places to live in Canada. email: info@gayspaces.org web: www.gayspaces.org

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transexuals. email: gender_expressions@hotmail.com web: www.geocities.com/gender_expressions/ (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Healing Our Nations, Dartmouth: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: director@accesswave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Healing Our Nations staff meet once on a weekly basis. Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project, Upper Musquodoboit: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. (902)568-2935 email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.3ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society, assorted cities: Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: waydo7@hotmail.com

Names Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt): panels - helping create, and lending. 902-454-5158 email: larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.quilt.ca (Call if interested in volunteering or making a panel) at 3544 Acadia St. Halifax, NS B3K 3P2

Narcotics Anonymous: a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 1-800-205-8402 web: centralnovaarea.ca at Call the phone number or visit the web page for meeting times and places.

Project E: Presentation for youth, on gender expression, myth busters, proper terminology and other facts. web: www.freewebs.com/xprojece/ at available via web page

Propitiation, Toronto: A fellowship of gay and lesbian Anglicans and their friends. 416-977-4359 email: propitiation@hotmail.com (We meet on a Saturday or Sunday Evening once every other month for Evening Prayer Discussion, refreshments and fellowship. Contact for meeting location) at members homes. We prefer our heritage, worship, and Spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer. We are troubled by such right wing organizations as the prayer book society and Essentials.

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Editorial meeting one Monday night a month; layout one Sunday a month; email us to be notified of meetings & deadlines!)

New Brunswick (506)

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church, Saint John: invites you to worship!. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick, Fredericton: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. 459-7518 email: sidaids@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.aidsnb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

AIDS Saint John, Saint John: improve quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV, reduce the spread through education 652-2437 email: aidsj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aidsaintjohn.com

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton: Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074 Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG), Petit-Rocher

(Bathurst area): A bilingual volunteer association serving gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of northern New Brunswick. email: info@gngnb.ca web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

Integrity, Fredericton: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. web: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity/ (Watch our website for details of 2007 planned events, (coming soon). Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation.) at St John's Anglican Church, 59 Broad Road, Oromocto, New Brunswick.

Moncton Line Dancing, Moncton: LINE DANCING for all levels from beginner to advanced. No partner required. No dress code. , meets every Wednesday (8:30pm sharp) at Triangles Bar, corner of St. George and Archibald.

PFLAG Canada, Moncton: Supporting all people with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday — please call) at 7:30-9:30pm, University of Moncton, Adrien-J.-Cormier Bldg., Room 302

PFLAG Canada - Fredericton, Fredericton: all welcome. (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-list-e.asp?RegionNo =6&ProvAbbr=NB, meets 2nd Monday (Phone or e-mail for meeting location and details.) at Sackville:112 Main Street or Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst, Sackville NB/Amherst NS: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

PFLAG Canada - Saint John NB, Saint John: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (506)648-9700 or 648-9227 email: saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn, meets 1st Friday (1st Friday of each month September - June from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

Port City Rainbow Pride, Saint John: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: events@portcityrainbowpride.com web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

River Of Pride, Moncton: Organizes, promotes and produces Moncton's Pride events!. email: monctonriverofpride2008@gmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca, meets 1st Sunday, and 3rd Sunday (contact ilaisha@nbnet.nb.ca for further meeting and event dates) at Triangles bar 234 St. George St. Moncton NB

Safe Spaces Fundy Region, Saint John: Committed to ending discrimination around issues of sexual orientation in youth. email: safespaces@gmail.com web: www.safespacesfundy.com (See our webpage for schedule of meetings and socials etc @ www.safespacesfundy.com)

Safe Spaces Moncton Region, Moncton: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049 email: info@safespaces.ca web: www.safespaces.ca

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library, Saint John: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com (open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noon.) at the office of Centenary Queen Square United Church at 215 Wentworth Street.

SIDA AIDS Moncton, Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaidsm@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 165A Gordon St., Moncton, NB, E1C 1N1

Spectrum, Fredericton: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum, meets every Tuesday (See webpage for schedule.)

The UNBSJ Q-Collective, Saint John: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email:

QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LG-BTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News". Past events include the annual Rainbow Peace March, guest speakers, movie nights, participation in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton, Moncton: Vise à éduquer, à sensibiliser et à offrir des ressources dans la langue française. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/ (Visitez le site Web ou envoyez un courriel pour en apprendre davantage au sujet du travail que nous accomplissons.)

UNB/STU Women's Collective, Fredericton: Women of all ages and orientations. , meets every Monday at 5pm at the University Women's Centre at the SUB

Woodstock GLBT Youth Advocate and Family Outreach, Woodstock: Books, movies, advice, directions, contacts, and support etc. for the family. 328-4868 email: richardb@nbnet.nb.ca

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

AIDS Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador, St. John's: HIV/AIDS education and support for male/female/transgendered, all ages, Newfoundland and Labrador 579-8656 email: info@acnl.net web: www.acnl.net

Gay Urban Youth Zone Project, St John's: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness 579-8656 (ext. 28) email: chris@acnl.net web: www.acnl.net at Tommy Sexton Centre 47 Janeway Place Pleasantville, across from the old Janeway Hospital AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador

LBGT-MUN Resource Centre, St John's: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers!. 737-7619 email: lbgt@munsu.ca (Open Monday-Friday 9-4. Biweekly meetings for members and volunteers.) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved!

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gemmahickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's Pride, St. John's: St. John's Official Pride Organization. 709-746-6564 email: info@stjohnspride.net web: www.stjohnspride.net

Nova Scotia (902)

Acadia Pride, Wolfville: Acadia Student Union's LGBT2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadiaipride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre, Wolfville: 585-2140 email: 057996c@acadiau.ca web: axe.acadiau.ca/womencentre (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

Affirm United, Halifax Metro: GLBT & Friends support, action and worshipping community within the United Church. 461-4528 email: alstew@eastlink.ca

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Sydney: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@accb.ns.ca ;christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Halifax: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)425-4882 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous, Halifax: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: courage449@yahoo.com web: www.rationalunlucacy.com/cout, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews United Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, Halifax: 455-9656

Bedford United Church, HRM/ Bedford: An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email:

bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. Call to confirm worship times as occasionally we have a 10 am combined service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

BLT-Womyn of Halifax, Halifax: Bi Sex-uals, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynof-halifax/ (Every second Sunday evening 6pm - 7:30pm) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Bluenose Bears, Halifax: Club for bears and those who like them. 463-4312 email: bluenosebears@accesswave.ca, meets 3rd Wednesday

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre, Sydney: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbusu.com (M-F 9-4pm. Call or drop by for event listings, Ally Training, and Anti-Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshops!) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre, Truro: Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive

Cumberland Pride, Amherst & Area: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com, meets 3rd Thursday (7:30 PM)

DalOUT, Halifax: LGBTQ Society at Dalhousie. 494-2190 email: dalout@dal.ca web: societies.dsu.ca/dalout, meets every Thursday (During the academic year we meet at about 7pm each Thursday night.) at Dalhousie University, check OUT our website or contact us for details

Frontrunners Halifax, Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/halifax/, meets every Saturday, and every Tuesday, and every Thursday (Sat: 9:30am, Tue: 6:00 pm, Thu: 6:00pm) at Main gates of the Halifax Public Gardens, corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL YOUTH GROUP AT Q.E.H.: Jeanie Buffet, Counsellor, at 421-6797

Get Out, Halifax!, Halifax: Recreation activities (team activities, cycling, running, rowing - you name it) for metro & beyond!. web: www.getouthalifax.ca at Visit and get on the email list for more info.

Girl-ish Productions, Halifax: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. email: girlishproductions@yahoo.ca web: www.girlish.ca

GLB CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE (SUNS): 494-6654 at c/o the Students' Union of NS

Group Harrison Society, Cape Breton: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. (902)270-6969 email: groupharrisonociety@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/groupharrisonociety, meets last Saturday (of every month Admission \$6.50 - \$5.50 for members- Best light and sound show around! Restricted 19 yrs and over) at Steel Workers Hall, Sydney

Hal-Gal Mailing List, Halifax: Low-traffic Yahoo group providing events and information for queer women in the Halifax area. email: halgal@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal/ (Join the list to keep in touch or post your events.)

Halifax Sexual Health Centre, Halifax: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 455-9656 web: www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society, Halifax: Fundraising. 902-449-7612 web: www.imperialcourtns.com, meets 1st Sunday, and 2nd Sunday (Executive Meetings Are Currently Held Every Second Sunday) at Meeting Locations Vary

Manna For Health, Halifax: A special needs referral food bank for those living with life threatening illness. 429-7670

Northern AIDS Connection Society, Truro: HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland & East Hants. 895-0931 email: nacs@eastlink.ca web: northernaidsconnectionsociety.ca (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See

webpage for contact numbers in your area of northern Nova Scotia.) at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, N.S.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, Halifax: fostering change through networking, education, outreach & community education. 902-444-7887 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrap.ca at TBA

Outlaw, Halifax: GLBTQ & Allies Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School. email: chad.skinner@dal.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2416842853 (Meetings vary. Please email for further information or check out our Facebook group.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG Canada - Halifax, Halifax: support and education for parents, family and friends. (902) 443-3747 (September-March: 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-4 PM April-June: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM) at individual homes

PFLAG Canada - Middleton, Middleton: Information and support for GLBT community and their friends and families. 902-825-0548 email: middletonns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/middleton.html (Check online for meeting times and locations- or phone 825-0548)

PFLAG Canada - Sydney, Sydney: PFLAG Sydney provides support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydney@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month) at 7:30pm. No meetings for July and August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

PFLAG Truro: 662.3774

Positive Connections: Teleconferenced support groups for people living with AIDS. email: connections@acns.ns.ca, meets every Monday (evening 7:00pm - 8:00pm) at by phone. No long distance charges. For more info call 425-4882 ext 228 or 1-800-566-2437 ext 228 or e-mail.

Pride Cape Breton Society, Sydney: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: info@pridecapebreton.com web: www.pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

Pride Guide Publishing: publisher of community focused maps, directories, event programs and more. 902-423-6999 email: prideguide@eastlink.ca

Pride of Pictou County, New Glasgow: All GBLT in Pictou County. email: chair@prideofpictoucounty.ca web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

Quakers, Halifax: Quakerism emphasizes that we all manifest the Divine. 429-2904 web: halifax.quaker.ca, meets every Sunday at Library at Atlantic School of Theology, Franklyn St. All very welcome.

Queer Play, Halifax: A Queer performing arts group in Halifax NS. email: queerplay@gmail.com

Rainbow Playtime, Halifax: Food & social meetings for same sex families with tots or couples considering parenthood. 461-9414

Red Door, The, Kentville: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 28 Webster Court

RESPECT, Truro: Students Making Healthy Decisions. 893-6300 email: respect@nsac.ca at P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment), Truro: Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 893-6300 email: lyoung@nsac.ns.ca (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GBLT community. Everyone is welcome!. 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbour-mcc.com, meets every Sunday (11 am) at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society:

Second Story Women's Centre, Lunenburg: We offer a meeting space for women, support counselling, programs, and referrals. (902)640-3044 email: secstory@eastlink.ca web: www.secstory.com at Second Story Women's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland County, Amherst: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberland-county.cfsh.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 12 LaPlanche St. Confidential, hassle-free. Free

Chef's Corner



Can you believe it? We actually had a few days in a row above the 10oC mark and sun, all at the same time! I don't know about you, but it sure has put a spring in my step. As the old saying goes, Ah, spring, when a young man's fancy turns to...well, other young men's fancies, actually. For chefs, our fancy turns to the first crop of local young baby spinach. It's now available at market and is at its best. There are a thousand and one ways to use spinach, but the best way to get the most of its nutritional value is to eat it raw. So I offer you this month one of Chives's variations on spinach salad, which we currently are offering on our spring menu. Give it a try and let me know what you think, and remember that spinach makes you strong like Popeye.

Chef Darren is Chef and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, Halifax's newest two star restaurant, 1537 Barrington Street, Halifax, N.S. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, www.chives.ca.

Spring Spinach with Pickled Beets & Charred Red Onions with Buttermilk Dressing

Salad

1 lb new organic baby spinach
 1/4 cup pickled beets (julienned)
 1/4 cup toasted pecan halves
 1/4 cup crumbled soft goat cheese
 Buttermilk dressing to toss and coat

Dressing

1/4 cup cider vinegar
 1/4 cup extra thick sour cream
 1/4 cup buttermilk
 1 tsp crushed garlic
 1 red onion (sliced thick slabs)
 4 tbsp honey
 1/2 to 2/3 cup olive oil
 Salt & pepper to taste

Method

1. On a hot grill top or stove top grill pan, lay the onion rounds down to char well on one side. When blackened, remove to a resting tray charred side up, sprinkle with a splash of cider vinegar, and cover with plastic wrap. Set aside.
2. In a food processor, add all remaining ingredients except for the oil and process, when the mix is smooth, begin adding oil in a thin stream until completely incorporated. Transfer the mixture to a mixing bowl. Give the charred onions a rough chop and add to the dressing. Season with salt and pepper, place in an airtight container and refrigerate for at least 3 hours to overnight.
3. Toss the spinach, pickled beets, half of the cheese and enough dressing to coat the salad together, portion into 4 serving plates, and garnish with remaining cheese and toasted pecan halves. Makes four individual salads.

Think You Might Have a Drug Problem?

Gays and lesbians can use drugs for the same reasons as anyone else—because they help them feel great or cover up feeling bad. But the tendency for gays and lesbians to frequent bars as a social meeting place and the connection between sex and drugs increases the potential for development of drug and alcohol problems.

Party and play (often abbreviated “PNP” or “PnP,” especially in online jargon), also known as a “chem” or chemical session or simply as partying, is a phenomenon and subculture of illegal drug users who play together sexually, either one-on-one or in groups. The drug of choice is typically methamphetamine, known as crystal, tina or tweak in the gay community. It has been called both an “epidemic” and “plague” in the gay community (Wikipedia, 2008).

Methamphetamine has become a popular sex club drug in the US. Sixty-two percent of New York's gay club scene uses methamphetamine regularly. In 2005, 20 to 25% of gay and bisexual New Yorkers used methamphetamine. Methamphetamine users who thought they were HIV-negative but were actually positive are 11 times more likely to receptively (bottom) bareback while PNPing than their HIV-negative counterparts. Gay

men in California who use methamphetamine are twice as likely to be HIV-positive (Wikipedia, 2008).

The popularity of the drug in the Big Apple seems to have settled “primarily among gay men”—so says the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. And the New York Times offers up some anecdotal evidence: “...a recent survey of

AIDS and STIs are not necessarily worse than some other effects

gay men found that 25 percent had tried crystal meth in the last few months.” Tina, after all, will loosen any inhibitions they have and enable them to take part in marathon sex sessions sometimes lasting days with large numbers of people, including complete strangers. At least partly because of the growing fondness for PnP, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention says HIV infections rose 11 percent among gay men from 2000 to 2003, while the rest of the population's infection rate remained virtually stable. As for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), in the last five years syphilis cases have increased a whopping 400 percent among gay

men in New York City (Katherine Ernst, City Journal 2005).

Cocaine or coke largely replaces crystal in the Maritimes because Montreal tends to form a barrier to the move of crystal from the West, but the lower cost of crystal and its relatively simple manufacture probably means it's only a matter of time. The relationship of coke and crystal to sex are similar and both can kill in the end through an accidental overdose, but crystal is more likely to end up in severe psychological damage that can leave permanent effects.

But AIDS and STIs are not necessarily worse than some other effects of drug use if it leads to addiction. And interestingly the first sign of addiction is denial, so the user may not even know its happening. Drug addiction—remember that alcohol is a drug—can lead to loss of everything of value: money, family, friends, self-respect; and leave the addict in a downward spiral of self-loathing and despair.

One help to deal with this once it gets to the problem stage is Narcotics Anonymous. The NA program is highly effective at helping addicts recover and meetings are held every night in Halifax at different locations. If you want to find a meeting, just look at the meeting list on www.centralnova-rea.ca or google “Halifax NA” to find it. These meetings are great at helping recover from addiction and improve all aspects of life, including self-respect—NA helps addicts love themselves. But for those addicted to both sex and drugs, a gay/lesbian NA group might help as a forum for specific discussions to deal with the strong lure of the combination. If you're interested in a gay/lesbian NA group, drop a note to gaynans@hotmail.com. Anonymity assured.



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Events >>

Amherst

Second Monday

PFLAG Amherst/Sackville - in Amherst one month, Sackville the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street.

First and Third Wednesdays

Amherst and Area, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group Meeting, 7-9pm. Anyone who is GLBT or questioning their sexuality in the Amherst, Oxford, Springhill, Pugwash and Parrsboro areas is welcome, this is a safe space where anyone can come and feel safe in talking about their sexuality and just being themselves without fear of ridicule or harassment. lgbyp_amherst@hotmail.com, all emails confidential.

Third Sunday of each month

Cumberland Pride Support Group: Social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Thursday of each month from 2-4pm. Contact information: Gerard Veldhoven at 902-660-5004 or E-mail: gaylords_1975@hotmail.com

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday and First Saturday of each month

The Annapolis Valley Gay Men's Coffee House meets every Thursday Evening from 7-9pm. Also on the first Saturday of each month we host an over 19 gay/lesbian dance from 9pm-1am. There are various themes for dances so call or e-mail for directions and info to the following: 902-765-2821 or menembracingmen@hotmail.com or yahoo.ca.

Every Sunday

Valley Girls is a social group for lesbians in the Annapolis Valley. Coffee Group on Sundays. For more information e-mail the group at Valley_Girls@yahoo.com.

Bridgewater

Third Saturday of each month

Wileville Dance. Smoke free. For more details call 685-3297 or email info@southshorepride.ca or www.southshorepride.ca

Cape Breton

Every 2nd Saturday

Pride Cape Breton Society hosts community dances at the Southend Community Centre in Sydney; admission just \$5, and open to those 19 yrs. of age and older.

Charlottetown

...see Prince Edward Island

Fredericton

Every Tuesday

Spectrum, UNB and STU's social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, etc. students. As a group, our aim is to create a safe and supportive space for those who are questioning or discovering their sexuality, as well as providing a social outlet for members of the campus LGBTQ community. While our membership is primarily composed of UNB and STU students, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. 7 pm, Top floor of SUB 203 (in the Sexuality Centre, across from the Ballroom) Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at spectrum@unb.ca

Every Wednesday

UNB/STU Women's Collective, at the University Women's Centre in the SUB, 5pm. Contact Lyndsey Gallant at gvnkr@stu.ca or call 450-3870.

Third Sunday of each month

GLB ANGLICANS AND FRIENDS Integrity is a nonprofit organization of Gay and Lesbian Anglicans and Friends. Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation. Integrity Fredericton was formed in October 2004 and supports and encourages Gay Men and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. A Eucharist followed by a coffee hour discussion is held at 4:00 PM on the third Sunday of each month at St. John's, 58 Broad Road, Oromocto. For more details check out website: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity

Fourth Wednesday of each month

PFLAG Fredericton meets at 7 PM at the Unitarian Fellowship, 874 York Street. Everyone welcome. Discussion, guest speakers, support and special events. For more information email pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca. Confidentiality

assured.

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

BOOM! NIGHTCLUB

Fredericton Nb, 474 Queen St. 463-boom (2666)

www.boomnightclub.ca

Thursdays:

3 Sum Thursday's 8-cl

Music: 3 Recent, 3 Retro, 3 Requests

Specials: On beer and spirits

Cover: None

Fridays:

NEW HOT NIGHT "CIRCUS" 8-cl

Music: Indietronic/ Dancers/ Special events

Cover: \$4

Deal: Be here before 12, pay \$4 and receive \$10

CIRCUS cash

Saturdays:

POWER 8-cl

Music: Main stream big city/ High energy

Cover: \$4 after 11, \$4.50 after 12

Sundays double header:

4-7 Sunday Social

Music: Laid back inviting social atmosphere

Cover: None

10-cl Sunday Open Turntables

Music: Live dj's spinning at crowd level

Specials: On beer and spirits

Cover: \$2

Halifax

Every Sunday

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: a Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome! 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets at 11 am at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax

Every Sunday

Bedford United Church. 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an Affirming Congregation and welcome everyone. Services at 9 am (Casual & Contemporary) and 11 am (Quieter & More Reverent in tone) Starting June 24-Sept. 9, one 10 am service. For more info, call 835-8497.

Second Sunday of each month

Play Group for Queer Families! 3-5pm Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week. For info, call 422-8780 or email lynnmacdonald@hfx.eastlink.ca

First and Third Tuesdays

Formerly known as the Queer/Straight Alliance, Mount Pride in the GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. We are an active and online group that meets bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 12 noon in the diversity center in Roseria on campus, and online at mountpride@yahoo.com. Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers, and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

First and Third Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project Social Drop-in Nights. This is an unstructured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-9pm, 25 and under, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project 18 and under Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

First and Third Sundays

BLT-WOMYN OF HALIFAX DISCUSSION GROUP! This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered womyn's Only! -Free Group, NO Dues, NO Fees- MEETINGS are every second SUNDAY. @6pm - 7:30pm(Please remember when applying to this group, send full name and a contact number or call sue at 499-0335, everything is kept PRIVATE!) LOCATION: DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S CENTRE 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) HOW TO JOIN THIS GROUP: Come to a discussion night or send us your e-mail address or call a

moderator (Sue @ 499-0335). If you have any questions. A discussion group for Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered women, who will meet to have open discussions, in a positive environment. To discuss topics concerning ourselves and our community. This is a bi-weekly meeting on Sundays. <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/> or sueandrews1964@hotmail.com

First and Third Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project Movie Night, 25 and under, starting at 7pm. 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project ages 18-25 Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second Wednesday of each month

Spirituality for Lesbians, 7:30-9PM. We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. For info about the place of the next meeting call 459-2649 and leave name and number. Personal mailbox: confidentiality assured.

May 8, 22, June 5, 19, June 3, 17, 31

Anonymous HIV Testing, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia 1657 Barrington St, Suite 321, 5-8pm. 425-4882 for an appointment.

May 11, 25, June 8, 22, June 6, 20

Koinonia Ecumenical Church - Meaning 'community'. Services bi-weekly at 12:30pm at Halifax Feast downtown. Pastor Elaine, 876-8771 or koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca

April 27

Erika Kulnys & friends Musical Poetry Reading with special guests: Morrigan, Matter, Inti. This will be an afternoon of steamy queer songs and spoken word in celebration of Erika Kulnys' Champagne Birthday: come ready to be surprised and delighted! 5pm, Tickets \$15 in advance at Venus Envy, \$20 at the door. Ticket price includes hors d'oeuvres.

May 10

"Perfect 10"—Venus Envy's 10th anniversary bash! 10pm - 2am, Seahorse Tavern, 1665 Argyle Street. We're ten! Come party with us and the Maynards, the Stolen Minks, and DJ Simon Thibault to celebrate Venus Envy's tenth anniversary in Halifax! All proceeds to the Venus Envy Bursary Society! Tickets available in advance (as of April 1) at Venus Envy and at the door. \$7, 19+.

Halifax Youth Project Calendar

Youth Project events operate in a 4-week schedule. To find out what week we're operating in, please see our website or contact us! www.youthproject.ns.ca, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, 429-5429

Week 1

Monday - Transgender Discussion Group: A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what trans youth have to say, rather than the facilitators

lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. A place to talk about trans issues and make new friends! 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Tuesday - Discussion Group (ages 18 and under) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Wednesday - Discussion Group (ages 18-25) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 2

Tuesday - Social Drop-in Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick Street

Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 3


Tuesday - Guest Speaker & Discussion night (ages 25 & under) A new speaker every week to educate & spark discussion. This is a structured environment. 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street

Week 4

Wednesday - Activity night (ages 25 & under) A chance to have fun and perhaps learn something new. Activities will be on this night lasting two and a half months. First activity class IMPROV classes. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick St

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Tuesday - Social Drop-in Themed Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event with a fun & exciting theme. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick Street
 Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Halifax Bar & Business Calendar

BLUE MOON BISTRO/BACK BAR

2099B Gottingen St., Halifax, (902) 446-3644
 5 pm-2 am, 7 days a week
 Mondays - Poor Student Night--Cheap drinks and Halifax Has Talent! Come join Mz. Vicki and Friends. You could win a fabulous prize from Blue Moon or Mz. Vicki. \$3.00 cover
 Tuesdays - Karaoke w/ Troy Cheap drinks and Cash prizes for the Karaoke winners! 10pm.
 Wednesdays - Swing Out! Hot happenin' students of Dal, SMU, and MSU swing dance til the wee hours. Come watch or learn how to swing dance to the great tunes of Big Band Mary you DJ Hostess! NO COVER.
 Thursdays - Karaoke w/ DJ Specialtee. Cheap drinks and cash prizes for the karaoke winners. 10pm.
 Fridays - DJ Specialtee. Spinning the latest tunes and the hottest remixes. No cover. Cheap drinks all night long! 10pm.
 Saturdays - DJ Troy or Special house DJ's imported for your dancing pleasure. Hot bartenders and even hotter drink specials. 10pm No cover.
 Sundays - ISCANS presents...ReignVII's chosen charities benefit 100% from an inexpensive cover or silver collection. 10pm Visit us for more details @ Friends of BlueMoon on Facebook or www.imperialcourtns.com

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Moncton

Every Thursday
 LGBT AND FRIENDS VOLLEY BALL! École carrefour de l'acadie gym. No experience required. Info: Roger 383-1410 or Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00 / player includes refreshments.

Tous les jeudis
 VOLLEY BALL POUR LGBT et AMI-E-S. École carrefour de l'acadie. Aucune expérience requise. Infos: Roger 383-1410 ou Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00 / joueur (rafraichissements inclus)

Third Monday of each month
 PFLAG Moncton has monthly support meeting from 7:30-9:30 in room 302 of the Adrien-J.-Cormier bldg at U de M campus. Everyone is welcome at our meetings.

Second and Fourth Mondays
 SAFE SPACES MEETING, 7pm. Support group for GLB youth, 14-25. For more info, 869-6224 or safespaces@nb.aibn.com

Last Saturday
 Moncton Leather Chapter Leather Nights at Triangles! With the interest and number of people that have started wearing Leather in Moncton, it only seems natural to have a monthly Leather Night so that any man or woman can wear their Leather and know that they will not be alone in doing so when they go to Triangles.

Moncton Bar & Business Calendar

TRIANGLES
 234 St. George St, open Tues-Sun 8pm-2am
 Tuesday & Wednesday: Free Pool, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters \$3 all night
 Wednesday: Learn to Line Dance - no charge!
 Thursday: Karaoke Mystery Song - \$25 added each week until the correct song is picked! Beer / Bar Shots \$3 until midnight, Shooters \$2.75 all night
 Friday & Saturday: Dance Music with DJ daBoss, Summer Special Beer with Shooter \$4

11pm-midnight
 Sunday: Request all your favourite songs with DJ daBoss, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters \$3 all night
 Check out our monthly events page at www.trianglesbar.com, and send comments & suggestions to thegirls@nb.sympatico.ca
 Our colour parties are back - watch for the blue party, coming up June 2. Check our website for upcoming Colour Party dates.

Sackville

Second Monday
 PFLAG Sackville / Amherst - in Sackville one month, Amherst the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street.

Saint John

Third Saturday
 Gay Men's Supper Club, 220 Germain St. <http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com/> for more information.

Saint John Bar & Business Calendar

CLUB MONTREAL
 Wednesdays: No cover, free pool
 Thursdays: No cover, karaoke with prizes
 Fridays: No cover, open turntables
 Saturdays: \$5 cover after 10 PM
 Sundays: No cover, free pool
 Your birthday: no cover, one free drink, just show your ID!

St. John's - LGBT-MUN

Every Friday
 Coffee House: Every Friday, 12-2 (LBGT Office, 6th Floor UC, 6002) Every Friday we invite anyone and everyone to come to LBGT and enjoy a cup of Coffee or Tea (regular or herbal) with us (members, non-members, etc). It's a great chance to vent, meet some new people, etc. Our office is located in UC-6022.

Every Second Friday
 General Meeting every second week. They take place at UC-6022 at 11:00am.

St. John's Bar & Business Calendar

Zone 216
 216 Water St, 754-2492
<http://www.hello.to/zone216>
 Winter Hours
 Open Fri&Sat Nights 10pm-late
 No cover before 12 Friday
 No Cover before 11 Saturday

Sydney

...see Cape Breton

Truro

Every Wednesday
 Truro Pride: GLBT support group in Colchester County, Nova Scotia. (Coffee hour at the Fair Trade Café on 535 Prince Street in Truro, every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm. For information call Northern AIDS Connection Society at 902-895-0931 or email truropride@hotmail.com

Wileville

...see Bridgewater

Wolfville

Every Second Tuesday
 Kings County Prostate Cancer Support Group, 7-9 pm in the East Kings Memorial Public Health Centre on Earncliffe Ave in Wolfville. You can ask questions you forgot to ask the doctor or nurse and you can think aloud to help you make your decisions. There is growing evidence that your participation in a group of people who have gone through the processes you are now facing is mentally beneficial and may well contribute to your recovery from prostate cancer interventions. We are an easy-going informal group of 12 men, some of whom bring their spouses/partners to our monthly meetings. Know that you are truly welcome to join us and if you need more information please get in touch with me by e mail dickgroot2003@yahoo.ca or by phone 542 6125. Our correspondence address is the same as my home address: 210 Main Street, Wolfville NS B4P 1C4.

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Same Sex CPP Survivor's Pensions

**NOTICE OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION REQUIRED
COURT ORDERED DEADLINE**

ALL INDIVIDUALS WHOSE SAME SEX PARTNER CONTRIBUTED TO THE CANADA PENSION PLAN AND DIED AFTER APRIL 17, 1985 AND BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1998, ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO MAKE A CLAIM FOR A CPP SURVIVOR'S PENSION PURSUANT TO THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA'S RULING IN *HISLOP et al. v. CANADA*. THE INDIVIDUALS WHO BENEFIT FROM THIS RULING ARE DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE AS CLASS MEMBERS.

FAILURE ON THE PART OF ANY CLASS MEMBER TO TAKE STEPS TO CLAIM THEIR SURVIVOR'S PENSION BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, WILL RESULT IN THE CLASS MEMBER NOT BEING ELIGIBLE FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF ARREARS ALLOWED UNDER THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA'S JUDGMENT WITHOUT LEAVE OF THE COURT.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EACH CLASS MEMBER ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE MADE AN APPLICATION FOR THEIR SURVIVOR'S PENSION.

The common issues in the class proceeding *Hislop et al. v. Canada* have been finally determined. Class members had been barred by statutory restrictions from claiming a survivor's pension because they were in same sex relationships. The Court's ruling struck down those restrictions under the Charter of Rights. As a result, class members are now entitled to claim a CPP survivor's pension on the same basis as survivors of opposite sex relationships.

What This Means to Class Members

Subject to the general eligibility criteria under the CPP, all Class Members are entitled to claim their Survivors' Pension retrospectively, at least to December 21, 2000, and prospectively through ongoing monthly payments.

How To Make A Claim

Each Class Member must file an application for their Survivor's Pension with the department of Human Resources and Social Development Canada ("HRSDC"). All applications are confidential. To obtain an application from HRSDC directly they can be reached at 1-800-311-3820 (In Canada); 1-613-990-2244 (Outside Canada); 1-800-255-4786 (T.T.Y./Teletypewriter Users Only) or visit their website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca.

What if I Already Applied or Made Multiple Applications

If you have already applied and are receiving your pension you do not need to reapply.

If you have recently applied for a survivor's pension and your application has been acknowledged but is still incomplete, you do not need to reapply. You need to provide the missing documents /information HRSDC requested.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with the processing of your application, you may contact class counsel as set out below for assistance.

If you have or had an appeal pending before the CPP Review Tribunal or the Pensions Appeal Board respecting your claim, you should advise HRSDC of the appeal. If you subsequently experience any difficulties with your pension claim, you may consult any lawyer who is representing you in connection with any such appeal or one of the class counsel listed below for assistance.

Am I Entitled to Arrears? (Back Payments)

All Class Members who are qualified for a survivor's pension are entitled to arrears back to December 21, 2000, regardless of whether they have made an application to date. However, if you did make an application for your Pension at any time prior to November 21, 2001, you may be entitled to additional payments back beyond December 21, 2000, but no earlier than August 1999.

It is important to note that regardless of the date of your application, once approved you will be entitled to your pension for the rest of your life.

I Am The Executor of a Same Sex Survivor Who Died Without Collecting A Survivor's Pension. Are the Estates of Same Sex Survivors Entitled to a Survivors Pension?

In the past, Survivors Pensions were not being paid to the surviving partner in same sex relationships. Some survivors died prior to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling without receiving their pension.

An Individual same sex survivor who was alive on October 2, 2003, but who subsequently died may still have their claim made by their executor.

There are some class members who survived their same sex partners but died prior to October 2, 2003. The Supreme Court has ruled that such class members are not entitled to have a claim made by their executor.

Normal CPP Rules Apply

Not all Canadians are entitled to a Survivor's Pension. There are rules that apply equally to opposite sex and same sex relationships that must be followed in order to obtain a Survivor's Pension. Some of the important rules are as follows:

- (1) the survivor, at the time of their partners death, must have been the legal spouse or common law partner of the deceased contributor;
- (2) the deceased contributor must have contributed for the minimum contributory period; and
- (3) the survivor must have been over the age of thirty five at the time of their partners death or disabled.

Legal Fees

The amount of fees payable to Class Counsel by any individual class member will not exceed the amount of money payable to such individual.

There will be no deduction from your current monthly pension for legal fees. Class Counsel will only be looking to arrears (back payments) for the payment for their fees. You may use your monthly Pension payments to meet your needs as you see fit without any concern about legal fees.

The legal fees will be paid from three sources subject to court approval. First, the government was required to pay a contribution to the costs in respect of the trial and the appeal in this proceeding. This amount has been paid. However, the amount paid was not enough to pay the full legal fees owing by the class to class counsel as approved by the Court. Second, the Supreme Court confirmed that interest is payable on the amounts awarded in this proceeding. Once the interest rate is fixed by the court, the amount available will be used to reduce the amount of money owed by class members to class counsel. It currently appears that the amount that may be paid as interest will not be sufficient to fully reduce the fees owing to Class Counsel. The third potential source is the back payments or arrears. The Court will be asked to rule on the question of whether the balance of legal fees owed to class counsel can be deducted from up to 50 per cent of the arrears payable to class members under the ruling, as requested by class counsel. This payment from the arrears will not be made unless ordered by the Court. Once the court rules on this issue Class Members will be notified of the amount of arrears that they will be receiving and how their share of arrears will be paid. In no case will the legal fees payable by any class member exceed the amount they will receive for arrears or back payments.

Future legal fees will also be subject to court approval.

If you have any questions about this proceeding please contact Class Counsel in your area:

In Ontario, Quebec, Northwest Territories, Yukon or Nunavut:

Roy Elliott Kim O'Connor LLP
Attn: Sean M. Grayson
200 Front Street West
P.O. Box #45
Toronto, ON M5V 3K2
T. (416) 362-1989
F. (416) 362-6204
Toll Free: 1(866) 877-0109
e-mail: cpp@reko.ca
website www.reko.ca

In Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador and New Brunswick

McInnis Cooper
Attn: Jennifer Biernaskie
George Street Office
1600-5151 George Street
P.O. Box 730
Halifax, NS B3J 2V1
T. (902) 425-6500
F. (902) 425-6350

In Saskatchewan and Alberta:

Selnes, Kapoor & Klimm
Attn: Bill Selnes
417 Main Street
Box 2200
Melfort, SK S0E 1A0
T. (306) 752-5777
F. (306) 752-2712

In Manitoba:

Chapman Goddard Kagan
Attn: Michael Law
1864 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3J 0H2
T. (204) 831-3106
F. (204) 832-3461

In British Columbia:

Camp Fiorante Matthews
Attn: Sharon Matthews
4th Floor, Randall Building
555 West Georgia Street,
Vancouver, BC V6B 1Z6
T. (604) 689-7555
F. (604) 689-7554

Please DO NOT CALL the registrar of the court or Justice Ellen M. Macdonald. They will not be able to answer your questions about the lawsuit.

The Last Word

Skeletons in the VHS Closet

By Randall Perry

Listen closely. Hear that? That's the sound of elected officials across the country, pissing their pants, scanning through boxes of their old home videos, one eye on the screen, the other looking out for queens with un-washed hands who just might drop by their offices to lick the doorknobs. Forget diamonds: YouTube is the new forever, especially when it comes to salacious tidbits found lurking on old videotape.

It might have been a late April fool's joke, but no. It was all there in glorious low-def. Saskatchewan's Tom Lukiwski, MP for Regina-Lumsden-Lake Centre, was suddenly thrust under a very uncomfortable spotlight when a 17-year-old grainy home video unearthed from a former Tory campaign office was released to

the media by the NDP. A clip from the video shows a wide-eyed Lukiwski describing, in a rather unconvincing attempt to impress the ladies, the personality difference between type A men (tipsy old frat boy stupidity) and type B men (homosexual faggots with dirt under their nails spreading diseases).

I don't know about the rest of you, but given a choice, I'd take a pass on column A. A good manicure trumps bad left-over 80's hair.

And I'm impressed, NDP, for tossing the tape to a blood-hungry media—and here I thought Alexa was the only one with balls.

This mini-scandal was fascinating to watch during its short, white-hot burn. Accusations of homophobia were leveled, apologies were made, parliamentary claws came out, more apologies

were made, and countless tits found themselves in a twist when the Prime Minister refused to fire the contrite and embarrassed minister. I believe I overheard, "Meh."

It's certainly a quandary for Canada's queers. Opinion has been divided clear down the middle: serve Lukiwski's head on a platter to Egale and toss his ass out of Ottawa, or leave him alone to ponder his fate with his tail between his legs (and his nuts in a vice). There are valid arguments for both. I'm leaning toward the latter, although I would love to have some of both.

True, Lukiwski did vote against same-sex marriage legislation when it was re-introduced, but he was voting along party lines, and we all know what the ConservAllianceReform party is all about the "be fruitful and multiply." I didn't

expect anything else. It was a collective sin.

This is not the first time Canada's queer community has come under fire from the country's elected officials. We suffered through Elsie Wayne's calls for us to shut up—we were speechless, yes, but only because we were laughing so hard at her ostrich pubic hair sweaters. And who could forget Roseanne Skoke, whose rhetoric and prairie dog stance motivated us all to take up our pens and write, "No page-boy haircuts, EVER!" between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. in our Homosexualist Agendas.

If the Lukiwski debacle has taught us anything, it's that our elected officials need us to watch over them and occasionally give them a little smack upside the head when they do something monumentally stupid. Many of

them forget that elected office is its own kind of celebrity. Once you're in, your life is splayed open for all kinds of scrutiny. If we had ourselves a parliamentary Perez Hilton, more than a few of our representatives would probably hide under their beds and never show their faces in public.

Sorry, Tommy-boy. We didn't care about you before the tape, and, really, we don't care about you now. The pound of flesh has been exacted and your shame will live forever on the internet. Just try not to fuck up again, lest you be relegated to permanent political obscurity.

Now, if someone can find me a tape of Elsie attending the Fetish Ball and getting a paddle across the ass, that would be an absolute scream.

Kevin Kindred is Chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project.

Political homophobia in 2008

By Kevin Kindred

As I write this, we're watching what will probably be the dominant "homophobia" story of 2008 unfold in the national news. The thing is, it embodies precisely the opposite of what I want to say about political homophobia in 2008.

If you haven't seen the 1991 video of Conservative MP Tom Lukiwski, you've probably been hiding under a rock. (Perhaps that's where you got that dirt under your fingernails.) Lukiwski was filmed at a party with some of his political cohorts, making what seems to be an unfunny joke with some pretty vicious comments about homosexuals. Seventeen years later, the tape emerges and opposition parties fall over themselves to see who can be most offended.

It's not that I'm endorsing mean jokes about homosexuals. (At least, unfunny ones made at parties that I wouldn't be invited to.) It's not even the context of the comments—though faulting a guy, even a politician, for a seventeen-year-old drunken joke at a party feels a bit like thought-policing to me. I already know not to be a fan of Lukiwski for his political stands, like gay marriage; I don't think I need to reach into his private history to bolster that conclusion.

No, what frustrates me about this story is just how on-the-nose it is. Politician A makes anti-queer comment B, invoking reaction from politicians X, Y, and Z. Fill in the blanks, if you've been following politics for the last decade or so—Roseanne Skoke, Bob Ringma, Larry Spencer, Elsie Wayne. Good old-fashioned homophobes making public asses of themselves. And politicians and activists, responding on queue with the right mix of outrage and opportunism.

There's a place for that kind of outrage, of course, and a real need for it. There's a place for that kind of opportunism, too. My fear, though, is that this has become our model for what homophobia looks like, our dominant homophobia narrative, with a villain and a posse and a showdown and—sometimes, anyway—a hanging.

That narrative is getting old. This time around, we had to reach back to comments made in the early nineties. There may be voters in the next election who weren't alive when that tape was made. Homophobia is savvier now. It knows—for the most part—how to avoid the spotlight. Elsie and company are a little old school, and aren't likely to be replaced by a fresh crop of black hats.

I worry. Will this dull our senses when it comes to whiffing out homophobia in politics? Will we still see homophobia when it doesn't come with a clear villain attached? Will we detect it when it hides in the cracks, deep into policy that doesn't discriminate on its face?

When politicians happily endorse "Pink Shirt Day"—so long as there's no mention of the anti-gay stereotypes and gender norms that underlie so much school bullying?

When health officials invoke (quasi-legitimate) health risks to ban blood and organ donations based on gay men's sexual practices?

When government tries to

eliminate tax benefits for films with content that it—or its friends in the Christian right—deem offensive?

When our municipalities refuse to raise anyone's flag, just to avoid the possibility of being asked to fly the Rainbow flag at Pride?

Those of us who are politically active in the Rainbow community will always be on the look out for those issues, and even subtler forms of homophobia. Probably a large part of the Rainbow community will continue to care, too. But will the public still see the homophobia in stories like that?

If we train the public to see only the same old homophobia narrative, if the only story they know is the Skoke/Ringma/Spencer/Elsie/Lukiwski story, if we keep telling them that homophobia looks like scandal rather than policy, then I fear we're going to lose them on the important equality issues ahead. I fear that when there's no offensive quote, no caught-on-video moment, no sexy headline, then they'll stop recognizing homophobia when it's right in front of them.

Tom Lukiwski isn't my ideal politician, and I hope he's not yours. But when it comes to homo-

phobia, I hope we can start looking at the present and the future, rather than the past.



My, the enthusiasm! The question posed in the last issue was, "Have you found a place to celebrate spirituality?" Forty-six responses were recorded from the website, a very nice number. Of those 46 responses, 34 were "Yes" (74%) and the remaining 12 were "No" (26%).

Twenty-six comments were received along with the votes; 24 of them were "Yes" and only one "No." The majority of comments, 14 of the 26, cited Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church as your place of celebration. Other established churches included the Universalist Unitarian Church and United Church of Canada.

Others found their spiritual outside the "traditional" bricks and mortar. We heard from a Pagan who leads group rituals; another reminded us that "home is where the heart is." A couple of respondents mentioned gay and lesbian clubs (Triangles, for one), which to many of us are homes in themselves, where we commune with like-minded others. One more preferred the introspective: "My own mind and space. I don't need a church or a building or a congregation."

The lone "no" comment explained, "...I refuse to be treated like an outcast and welcome all and any who are like minded while respecting as many as I can of those who are of a different persuasion."

This month's question: It's May! It's May! Outdoor sex starts today! Where is YOUR favourite place for outdoor sex? Why? You tell us at wayves.ca !!

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