

# WAVES

## 2009 Community Hero: Kim Vance

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) is pleased to announce that activist Kim Vance is recipient of the 2009 Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award.

Vance has been a leader in advancing the cause of equality in Nova Scotia, working on the legal, social, and educational fronts. In addition to being a founder of NSRAP, Kim has worked on the national level through lobby group Egale Canada, eventually serving as that organization's President. Her educational work has included a well-respected documentary on LGBT youth in the Nova Scotia school system, which is still used in universities today. Her other community work includes long-standing involvement with Wayves Magazine and the Women Next Door, Nova Scotia's lesbian-feminist choir. Vance's work has also thrust her into the public spotlight as one of the leaders in bringing Registered Domestic Partnerships, and then

same-sex marriage, to Nova Scotia.

Vance is currently an active advocate for LGBT equality on the international front, through ARC International, an organization she helped found and now co-directs.

"It's a pleasure to honour Kim in this way," said Matt Numer, Chair of NSRAP. "Her commitment to activism is extraordinary. She's had a tremendous impact within Nova Scotia, and beyond."

In 2003, when Vance and her co-director, John Fisher, founded ARC, each of them were becoming increasingly active in international issues and recognized the huge gap in privilege between their Canadian realities and some of the realities facing activists in other parts of the world. Not only was there a gap, but in some ways, as advances were being made here, that gap was widening. More restrictive governments were creating laws and policies to prevent the creep of progressive human rights from penetrating their borders. Vance felt an

obligation to act and to try to leverage support from Canadian institutions to assist in this effort.

NSRAP created the award in 2008 as a means of recognizing those who have made significant contributions in Nova Scotia. It is named for the late Reverend Darlene Young, a former NSRAP board member and pastor of the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church.

"Darlene's commitment to equality and sense of service have had a lasting impact on the community, and serve as an inspiration to us," said Numer. "We hope to keep that recognize that same spirit in others through this award, and in doing so, honour Darlene's memory."

The award was presented as part of NSRAP's annual gala fundraiser on October 3, 2009. This year's gala theme was "Beyond our Borders," featuring keynote speaker John Fisher, Co-Director of ARC International and former executive director of EGALÉ Canada.



Kim Vance. Photo by Anita Martinez

## Antigonish Pride Week

By Chris Frazer

Antigonish marked the 40th anniversary of Stonewall with its sixth annual Pride Week, held October 13-18. The week is organized by X-Pride, the LGBTQ student society at St. Francis Xavier University. In all, some 150 members of the LGBT community attended events and celebrated a successful year of community building.

We've had a lot to celebrate in 2009, beginning in February with the annual drag show at StFX, known as "Priscilla, Queen of the Highlands." Performers from ISCANS joined local talent to entertain a crowd in excess of 300 to raise money for the X-Pride scholarship and ISCANS charities. In May, Antigonish marked the National Day Against Homophobia with a forum that drew 100 participants and packed house for an LGBT variety show at the Bauer Theatre. One outcome of the forum was the formation this past summer of a community youth group, called the Rainbow Warriors, mainly high school students who have been repeatedly frustrated in their efforts to form a gay-straight alliance in the local school.

This year, Pride Week kicked off October 13 with a ceremony that saw Anglican Reverend Dawn Leger bless two rainbow flags as they were raised over the office of St. FX University President Sean Riley. St.

FX first raised the flags in 2007, after the former mayor of Antigonish went back on a promise to raise the flag over town hall. Attending the ceremony were university and student union officials, X-Pride, the Rainbow Warriors, and a representative from the Aboriginal Students' Association.

Tuesday evening was a night of queer literature readings, while Wednesday night was a screening of "Milk."

One of the highlights was a forum on October 15 about teaching LGBT issues in high school classes. This brought together two recent graduates of the regional high school, Clodh MacDonal and Marion Millar, along with Dr. Jeff Orr (director of the St. FX School of Education) and Richelle McLaughlin (Antigonish member of regional school board). The discussion focused on the importance of including LGBT issues in high school curricula, and explored the obstacles that students and supportive faculty face in trying to create a positive and inclusive environment at the regional high school.

Friday night saw a full house at-



Three parade participants. Photo by Rachelle Ensuga

tend the annual Variety Show at the university, showcasing local talent including performances by drag queens and kings, singers, and dancers.

Saturday, October 17, was Parade Day on Main Street. This was the second year that the Pride committee has received a permit, and the turn out was proud, loud, and colourful as it left the university grounds and wound through the streets. Members of the Rainbow Warriors led the parade, followed by Nate N Bent, representing both ISCANS and Halifax Pride.

The week closed on Sunday with an ecumenical service at the Well-spring Chapel, "Celebrating Pride and Faith," hosted by Catholic Chaplain Fr. Danny MacLennan, Anglican Rev. Lawn Leger, and United Rev. Peter Smith.

## Danny's Back in Town

by Bill McKinnon

Cape Breton's own Daniel MacIvor, lately of Toronto, has a new-to-Halifax play at the Neptune Studio, presented by the Distinct Theatre Society. "A Beautiful View" runs from October 13 to 31 so you can still go. Here's Neptune's blurb, from its website:

"Michelle and Liz are two friends with a deep connection – but the depth of their love for each other also drives them apart. A Beautiful View follows the women from their first meeting at a camping store through the evolution of their relationship over the next 20 years. Written and directed by Daniel MacIvor, and starring Jackie Torrens and Kathryn MacLellan, this play is about how people re-imagine the truth to absolve



themselves from the minor sins committed in and out of love."

Award-winning Daniel MacIvor is one of Canada's best known play-

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Deadline: the first Friday of every month!

# Events Around Atlantic Canada

## Hallowe'en Hoot

Come to the Halloween Hoot, featuring DJ Pete, on Saturday, November 14, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fredericton. The cost is \$8.00 per person, and the event will take place from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. First and second place prizes will be awarded for best costumes.

Proceeds from this dance go towards AIDS New Brunswick's prevention education and support programs, including GLBTQ health related resources. For more information, e-mail volisidaids@nb.aibn.com or call (506) 459-7518. Be sure to check us out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/aidsnb](http://www.facebook.com/aidsnb).

## Health Workshops

A "Gay Men's Health & HIV Prevention" workshop will be presented in Sydney and in Halifax by Chris Aucoin, Gay Men's Health coordinator of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. The Sydney workshop will take place from 1 to 5 PM on Thursday, November 12th. The tentative Halifax date is Thursday November 19th with details TBA.

The workshop is intended for healthcare workers and others who work with gay and bisexual men as part of their clientele, as well as gay community members and advocates. Areas touched on in the workshop will

include: • population health and the "Gay Men's Health" movement; • harm reduction approaches to HIV prevention; • health related issues of particular concern for gay men; • building cultural capacity with regard to gay men.

There is no charge for the workshops but advance registration is required. Contact Chris Aucoin at (902) 425-4882 ext. 222, toll-free at 1 (800) 566-2437 ext. 222, or e-mail [gmhc@acns.ns.ca](mailto:gmhc@acns.ns.ca) for more information.

## AIDS NB Dinner

By James R. Lord Edwards, President, Board of Directors, AIDS NB

AIDS New Brunswick presents the third annual Red Tie Affair, a progressive culinary experience followed by great music with The Cathy Hutch Band. Saturday, October 31, from 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Tickets \$100.00, with all proceeds to AIDS NB PLWHIV/AIDS. For tickets or more info, call (506) 459 7518.

## ARC PEI News

ARC PEI offers an urban nightclub experience in Charlottetown with fast and friendly hospitality to add

to your night of enjoyment. We play the hottest dance music you want to hear, with the most current tracks from around the world. We encourage requests of your favorite dance music. Our dance parties offer Prince Edward Island the only 100% gay friendly/operated event to go out in a harassment-free environment where you can party safely with you and your friends. To ensure this we have our very own professional security on site for your added protection. After all of that we add in our mix of professional club lighting, lasers and LCD imaging with our new crisp sound with deep thick bass to ensure your night will not disappoint. The party will unfold on Charlottetown's largest dance floor in the Studio, located in the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown. Our upcoming dance party dates are November 28, December 19 and December 31, which will be held at the Mackenzie Theatre.

## Halifax Haunted House

By Chris Capstick

Walking in you see nothing but piles of broken cement from the slowly cracking ceilings, and desiccating walls where blood stains can still be seen on the cracked and peeling paint. When you look down the long dark hallway, every door is open, or broken off and laying on the floor. It is disturbing, knowing you are at what was once a brutal murder scene. No the North Street Church (5657 North Street) is not abandoned and decaying it is playing host to the Youth Project's haunted house and Cameo's Dead Sexy Halloween party.

On Saturday October 31st from 4 pm to 8 pm the public is invited to pay what they can and try to survive this murder mystery themed haunted

house put on by the members of the Youth Project and additional volunteers. At 9:30 pm Cameo opens the doors to the 19+ crowd and their Dead Sexy Halloween party begins, complete with drinks, thumping beats from DJ Needles and spooky performances. \$10 entry, \$7 with a VIP pass costume dress code is both mandatory and strictly enforced.

All proceeds from both events go to the Youth Project, a youth directed group whose mission is to make Nova Scotia a safer, healthier, and happier place for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth from all races, ethnicities genders, sexual orientations, abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Visit [www.CameoHalifax.com](http://www.CameoHalifax.com) for more info on these events and [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca) for a calendar of other upcoming groups and events.

## Sydney PFLAG

My name is Sana Kavanagh and I'm the new coordinator for PFLAG Sydney-NS Chapter. PFLAG Canada is a registered charitable organization that provides support, education and resources to anyone with questions or concerns about sexual orientation or gender identity. I'd like to welcome returning and new members to participate PFLAG Sydney-NS Chapter activities this year. Every participant, new or old, enriches our chapter and helps us help each other!

Our peer support group normally gathers at Family Place Resource Centre, 106 Townsend St., Sydney, on the last Sunday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual,

two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, together with our parents, friends, family members and allies.

The main activity of our group is monthly peer support discussions in which we provide support by telling our own stories, and by listening. We can also look forward to regular guest speakers at meetings this year. Those interested in volunteering can help support local Gay-Straight Alliances, bring PFLAG meetings to surrounding communities, and organize special events such as International Day Against Homophobia. There are lots of ways to get support and as many ways to give support.

Meeting Schedule: Sept. 27 6:30-8:30 PM; Oct. 25 6:30-8:30 PM; Nov. 29 6:30-8:30 PM; Dec. TBA; Jan. 31 6:30-8:30 PM; Feb. 28 6:30-8:30 PM; Mar. 28 6:30-8:30 PM; Apr. 25 6:30-8:30 PM; May 30 6:30-8:30 PM; June 27 6:30-8:30 PM; July NO MEETING; Aug. TBA, usually during Cape Breton Pride Week.

I'm very excited about the upcoming year with PFLAG - the leadership of past coordinator Michael Gillis and the participation of chapter members created a safe venue for speaking and learning, combined with the empowerment to reach out into the greater community to educate and support. I know we can continue to grow and that every participant in our Sydney chapter enriches our group and extends our reach - whether a newcomer or a familiar face. Feel free to contact me for more information on PFLAG or simply drop in on a meeting. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely, Sana Kavanagh, PFLAG Sydney-NS Chapter Coordinator

## Canadian Queer Zine Art Show

SPEW Fo(u)rth, a Canadian Queer Zine Art Show, was displayed at Venus Envy in downtown Halifax in September and October.

A zine is a nonprofessional and nonofficial publication of a particular cultural phenomenon for others who share their interest. The term was coined in an October 1940 science fiction fanzine by Russ Chauvenet and first popularized within science fiction fandom, from whom it was adopted by others.

The show was curated by Christopher Wilde as part of a two week Artist in Residency program at Anchor Zine Library and Archive in Halifax.

Using the street style art format of "wheatpaste posters," Wilde combed the collections at Anchor and QZAP to bring to life over 35 queer zine highlights from the 25 year history of a phenomenon that originated in Canada and quickly spread throughout the world in an era before the Internet. Using pages from the first issue of Dr. Smith from 1984 up to zines published in the summer of 2009, he sought to contextualize

marginalized groups within radical queer culture by enlarging their original work as it appeared on the printed page to appear in large format poster size.

The show will tour other Canadian cities in 2010. SPEW is a banner name for a series of queer zine convergences that took place across North America in the mid 1990s in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Toronto. SPEW Fo(u)rth picks up where those events left off, by featuring a gallery show of the wheat paste poster work and having concurrent events such as zine readings as part of each stop on the tour, working with local groups in these cities to connect their work and communities to the broader history of Canadian queer zines. The dates and places for this tour have not yet been decided, but organizations such as The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives in Toronto, the Agitate! Collective in Ottawa, the Edmonton Small Press Association, and Ste Emilie Skillshare in Montréal are included in planning the tour.

For further information please contact [www.qzap.org](http://www.qzap.org).

## Your Events Here!

By Daniel MacKay

As you read last month, we are switching the format of the Events section. Instead of events being tucked away in the back of the magazine we're moving event submissions to the front of the magazine where we put our other Atlantic news pieces.

We need events from all over the region! If you know of events that are coming up in your city or rural area in NB, PEI, Cape Breton or NL, please send your news to Wayves at [events@wayves.ca](mailto:events@wayves.ca). You'll find our deadlines on page 3 of every issue, and online at [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca).



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# Gay Men's HIV Myths: Part 2

By Chris Aucoin

Last month I wrote about two common myths that many gay men have about HIV. See "Knowledge is Power: Shattering Gay Men's HIV Myths" in the October issue page 3 (which can be viewed or downloaded from [http://wayves.ca/online/Wayves\\_2009\\_09.pdf](http://wayves.ca/online/Wayves_2009_09.pdf)). This month I'm going to talk about two more HIV myths that we as gay and bi men need to shatter.

## MYTH #3

### "Disease free – U B 2"

Ever see that, or write that, in a personal or online hook-up site? Ever really think about what it means? First off here's a good example of stigmatizing those who know they are HIV-positive. Second, if a guy tells you he's HIV-negative—at best he's misinformed. Why? Because it's not ever realistic to be certain that one is "disease free." Even if he (or you) got an HIV-negative test result back today that information is already three to six months out of date! The reason the test info is always three to six months out of date is because of a little something called the "window

period."

The "window period" is the delay between when you become infected with the HIV virus and when your body starts producing the HIV antibodies that will show up in a typical

*amongst gay men those under 24 are the fastest growing group of new HIV infections!*

HIV test. Normally these antibodies appear about three months after infection, but they may take as long as six months to show up: that's the window period. Even though a newly infected person will have no HIV antibodies that can be detected, they may still have high levels of HIV virus in their blood, their cum, or their butt/anal fluids. This means that HIV can still be transmitted to someone else during this period. In fact, individuals are often most infectious during the window period (shortly after they have been infected with HIV).

While you can be certain that you

are HIV-positive (if you've tested as such), because of the window period it's hard to be sure that you are HIV-negative. This is why knowing how to protect yourself and others is important. To know where your limits are and to be comfortable saying, "I don't know my status, but I know how we can reduce our risk." Getting tested regularly is also really important for you and for those you have sex with. You can't tell if someone is HIV-positive by how they look. A person can be HIV-positive for up to a decade—even without any medications—before they start to get visibly ill. Still sure you're HIV-negative?

## MYTH #4

### "Well, so what if I get infected. I could just take a pill for that now, right?"

If only it were that easy. There is not yet any cure for HIV and there is not yet any vaccine for HIV; despite recent media reports about the Thai Vaccine trials it will be a minimum of 5-6 years, and likely much, much longer before a viable HIV prevention vaccine is available. Today's HIV treatments have moved an HIV diag-

nosis from being the death sentence it was twenty years ago to what is now more of a manageable illness. However, without proper treatment HIV disease will destroy your immune system (leading to AIDS). Even with the great progress that has been made over the past dozen years with drugs to control HIV disease, it's still no cakewalk. There are many treatment side effects (ranging from annoying to life-altering) and life challenges (from taking lots and lots of daily pills and supplements, to managing the unfair but all too real social costs). There is still a lot of fear, stigma and discrimination against people who are HIV-positive, in society generally and even in the gay communities where HIV-positive gay men look for more informed and far more compassionate community members who will support them.

## Knowledge is Power

Gay men are 50 times more likely to get infected with HIV than the general population. And amongst gay men those under 24 are the fastest growing group of new HIV infec-

tions! It's still important to get tested for HIV on an annual basis. The sooner you know if you've become infected the better (and likely easier) your HIV treatment options will be. The sooner you know the greater the likelihood that you'll be able to keep HIV disease from taking over your life. The sooner you know the less likely you're going to pass on the virus to someone else.

With 75% of all new infections among men who have sex with men resulting from unprotected sex with the 25% of men who don't yet know they are infected, it's important to take measures to reduce your risk of getting or giving HIV as much as you can. There are lots of things you can do to reduce your risk. It's not only a matter of what you do, but how you do it? To learn more about both "the what" and "the how" contact me or your local AIDS service organization.

*Chris Aucoin is the Gay Men's Health Coordinator at ACNS. If you have questions or would like to talk, contact Chris (or any ACNS staff member). He can be reached at [gmbc@acns.ns.ca](mailto:gmbc@acns.ns.ca) or (902) 425-4882, ext. 222 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.*

# ISCANS Update

By Nathan Boudreau

Hello to everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed October and Hallowe'en and is thus ready for a great month of November with ISCANS. Let me take this time to thank everyone at Menz Bar—Doug, David, and staff—for having us on not one but three occasions during the month of October: Mz Vicki's Birthday, Thanksgiving Dinner and for our Hallowe'en show. All three fun events were well attended.

We have two events planned for November. On November 8 we will hold a spaghetti lunch at Menz Bar from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Our annual Community Achievement Awards show will take place at Menz Bar on November 29. The awards show is not to be missed this year, as the show has a new format and we

plan to give out some new awards this year. Come out for both events and support your community members and Reign 9's charities.

ISCANS is also selling tickets on a Coronation weekend package. The prize includes two nights at the host hotel (Atlantica), two tickets to State Dinner, Coronation and Victory Brunch, along with free admission to the Out of Town show. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are selling quickly. Be sure to get yours at any of our shows or contact any member of the Executive.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, don't hesitate to let any of us know as we would love to hear from our members and our community. You can contact us by e-mail at [events@imperialcourtns.com](mailto:events@imperialcourtns.com).

## Important WAYVES Dates!

### Issue Content Deadlines:

**Fridays:** Nov 6, Dec 4, Feb 5, Mar 5; that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) any time!

### Production Meetings (Halifax):

**Mondays:** Nov 9, Dec 7, Feb 8, Mar 8. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

### Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Nov 15, Dec 13, Feb 14, Mar 14. Help build the paper – no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

**We are on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month.**

## Our Cover:

Back: Lee-Anne Poole, Samantha Wilson, Jane Kansas, Mauralee Austin, Annie Valentina Front: Kevin Kindred, Eric Benson, Hugh Thompson, Hugo Dann, Rhys Bevan John.  
Cover by Cam MacLeod

## 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](http://www.wayves.ca), and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have lots of back issues on line too. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca)!

## 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 February 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 *Important Wayves Dates* section of this page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and may be edited for length. Submissions should be emailed in plain text to the address below. Articles and letters may be published with pseudonyms or anonymously, but Wayves must have contact information for the author. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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distributors in Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) and tell us where we should be!

# The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later

## Hugo Dann

The important thing about Laramie is that it could be any town. Wyoming and Nova Scotia share some commonalities. We are a people living in some connection with our environment and proud of our heritage. People of strong faith and principles. And the important thing about Matthew Shepard's murder, I won't say for all of us—but certainly for many in the LGBTQ world, is that we felt it personally. Whether or not we've felt ourselves the fear that comes with angry slurs, or for our friends who've experienced that hate, it is personal.

I was in Toronto in 1998 when the news broke of the attack on Matthew. I went to the candlelight vigil in Cawthra Park behind the 519 Community Centre; all the while thinking of my friend Greg Jodrey who had been brutally beaten to death 5 years previously in Wolfville. The trial was a classic example of "blame the victim" with Greg's killer accusing him of rape. We'll never know the truth of what happened because the only other witness has been forever silenced, but many of us were outraged when Greg's killer received a mere two years for manslaughter.

In the years since then, I've seen the original "Laramie Project" on stage and screen half a dozen times, always thinking of Greg.

Late September: I find out that Tectonic Theater—the creators of the original Laramie Project had not only returned to Laramie last year for the anniversary of Matthew's murder, intending to come up with a brief after-piece, but instead had created a whole new play, "The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later, An Epilogue." On The Advocate's website ([www.advocate.com](http://www.advocate.com)), I learn that Tectonic's writer/creators, Moisés Kaufman, Stephen Belber, Leigh Fondakowski, Andy Paris and Greg Pierotti were making the new script available to any group that wanted to join them in premiering the play on October 12, 2009, the eleventh anniversary of Matthew's death. 150 theatres around the world are already on board. I call them in New York.

October 2: Tectonic agrees to my proposal to do a staged reading and gives us the rights. NSRAP comes on board with a small budget for publicity and printing costs.

October 4: I'm blown away by the script. Where the first play dealt

almost legalistically with the events around Matthew's death and the trial, "Epilogue" tackles what has and hasn't changed in the intervening decade. It's both more nuanced and more political and includes interviews with the two killers, Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney, both still in jail serving consecutive life sentences.

October 5: Mary Anne Daye offers The Company House. Casting is a challenge, eight actors playing about 30 different roles. I decide I want two extra performers reading just McKinney and Matthew's mother Judy Shepard. These interviews are juxtaposed at the end of the play, so the actors will sit as a silent chorus on stage during the reading—my one theatrical gesture.

October 7: Five days away and still haven't finalized casting. Posters are up. For the press release I've compiled a sample of homophobic incidents from across Canada just from the last 12 months. Lesbian moms beaten in the face by an irate man in front of their 6 year old boy. Terrible attacks in Vancouver. A trans man fired in Edmonton from a publicly funded Catholic school board. Recent attacks in Thunder Bay and London,

Ont. I'm getting these just from the headlines in Xtra ([www.xtra.ca](http://www.xtra.ca)), what about all the local attacks that don't make the headlines or aren't reported. Depressing.

October 9: Casting complete. Along with myself, the core ensemble is Eric Benson, Jane Kansas, Kevin Kindred, Lee-Anne Poole, Hugh Thompson, Samantha Wilson, and Annie Valentina. Rhys Bevan John and Mauralea Austin will read Aaron McKinney and Judy Shepard.

October 12, 4:00 p.m.: Decide not to try linking with New York as it would mean starting the reading at 9:30 p.m. Cast all in the same room together! All we'll be able to do is rehearse a couple of the big scenes, tackling the logistics of music stands, when to stand, etc. (more complicated than it sounds). I love my actors! Georgia, the sound tech is a gem!

8:30 p.m.: Given the short notice and that it's Thanksgiving a good sized crowd turns out. Matt Numer from NSRAP reads my director's notes: "Tonight, in more than 150 theatres—more than 1,000 actors will read the words of the people of Laramie. Hundreds of thousands of us will listen. Laramie becomes the



Actor Jane Kansas prepares before the performance.

world, becomes Our Town. There is a global conversation taking place tonight and we are here to say that Halifax, Nova Scotia is listening, that Halifax is taking part." A moment of silence for Matthew; for Greg.

Here we go.

## Randall Perry



Toronto, late 1998: The Matthew Shepard incident pierces the heart of queer communities around the continent. My then-partner and I are in Toronto for a long weekend, and this night we're at the candlelight vigil at Cawthra Park behind the 519 Community Centre. We're thinking about Matthew and the life that was cruelly taken away from him. We're thinking about the people we've loved lost to violence and disease and intolerance. We mourn but we take comfort in the knowledge the families we create will continue, stronger now in our resolve to see this crisis through. The pain felt by Shepard's family and friends in Laramie is ours, collectively. I ponder the shared psychic bond between us, illuminated by flickering candles under the last quarter moon in the harsh October sky.

I think about the time of my own physical assault, thirteen years earlier. I remember the fear I felt and how it rode on the razor-thin edge of a strange calm. In those few minutes my life was no longer my own; it was

someone else's to toy with, to decide how to alter it with a fist. A rock. A knife. A broken bottle.

Almost a decade will pass before Hugo and I meet in Halifax. We exchange a few words about the vigil and discover we were both there. We might have been at opposite ends of the park. We might have stood next to each other.

Halifax, late 2009: The Company House on Gottingen St. hums with activity in the minutes before the reading. I snap a few photos of actors in their last minute preparations; meditating, page-flipping, chatting. Patrons mill about, drinks in hand, socializing, finding their seats.

It begins. Newly-minted NSRAP chair Matt Numer sets the mood with a prepared statement from Hugo, and when the company appears we take a moment to reflect on what has gone before us—and what is yet to come.

In the next ninety minutes or so I experience the words of residents of a city irrevocably affected by the decade-old tragedy. Two lone actors who each play a single role (Rhys Bevan John's Aaron McKinney sits smirking and bored; Mauralea Austin's Judy Shepard ponders wisdom no parent should be forced to attain) are set apart from the rest of the company. The eight remaining players inhabit the residents of Laramie and the members of the Tectonic—myriad roles, each word, line, gesture magnificently crafted and delivered. We revisit a city which has moved on with the inexorable march of time, yet frozen in place by way of a brutal back-woods crucifixion. The shocking murder of Matthew Shepard is a blood stain on this place. Eleven years on, Laramie has found itself a reluctant entry in the canon of the infamous, rubbing elbows with locales scarred by needless tragedies.

Waco. Jonestown.

This second offering from Tectonic is as astonishing a work as the first. I feel privileged to experience it in this venue, among people who are my friends and comrades. The Laramie Project serves as the flashpoint

for a wave of change and activism which has touched, and will continue to touch, millions of lives.

Bravo. Bravo.

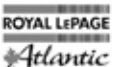
Photo: Hugo Dann reading. Both photos by Randall Perry



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# I Am What I Amherst

By Gerard Veldhoven

We continually hear about fall-outs from various factions in our country and elsewhere. The queer community is constantly raked over the carpet by the likes of Pope Benedict, certain politicians—and let us not forget Stephen Harper is still Prime Minister of Canada. The recent revelation that Crandall University (formerly the Atlantic Baptist University), outside Moncton, is about to be awarded \$12,000,000 is beyond all reason and indeed a recognition that it is okay to be discriminatory. As a matter of fact, this institution has an anti-gay policy regarding the hiring of faculty, plus admission of gay and lesbian students is forbidden. Here we have it: the Conservative government condoning such a practice. This outrageous news must be responded to by members of the queer community. I urge you to contact your local MP and strongly protest this action. Realizing the

equal rights we have attained, we must remain vigilant regarding equal treatment and oppose an anti-gay government that apparently feels it

*The Atlantic Baptist University is about to be awarded \$12,000,000 ... this outrageous news must be responded to by members of the queer community.*

is quite okay to support a university with a policy that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation.

Forty years ago Pierre Trudeau proclaimed, "The State has no business in the bedrooms of the Nation."

Shortly thereafter, on August 26, 1969, a law was passed decriminalizing homosexuality. Trudeau was a champion for our cause. Svend Robinson introduced Bill C-250 which sought protection for gays and lesbians under the Criminal Code. After a lengthy debate that saw the likes of Jason Kenney and Stockwell Day opposing the inclusion, the bill was passed. Individuals such as Trudeau and Robinson deserve adulation for their accomplishments and our community must speak out about this as we are all in a much different Canada.

The end of 2009 approaches and so we ready ourselves for another year of celebrating Pride, raising awareness in our communities across the province, fighting for equal treatment and above all, we must become more visible in order to gain control of our own destiny.

## Cumberland Pride News

Amherst and area's queer community is ready for the challenge. Province by province and town by town, we are up to the challenge.

As 2010 approaches GLBT's in Cumberland County and Westmoreland County in New Brunswick are preparing for the challenges of the upcoming new year.

As reported in my last column, a change in leadership at Cumberland Pride has taken place. Incoming chair Susan Reid promises an exiting time for our society by bringing new ideas to the group, as well as attempting to reach out to young GLBT individuals in our area. More visibility is also a priority and Sue has indicated she will be a strong force in Cumberland Pride. We look forward to a growth in membership and this is possible with the group getting involved in the community at large. Sue is a dynamic



individual certain to make it work. I had the experience of working alongside her when she was vice-chair and have a great admiration for this inimitable Amherst citizen and leader in the GLBTQ community.

On October 30 a Halloween Masquerade Dance was held in Amherst. Organizers were hopeful for a great attendance. Amherst and the neighbouring Sackville area generally support our special events, indicating that the GLBT community, as well as the community at large, is excited to attending functions organized by members of the Cumberland Pride society.

# Living Our Authentic Life

By Ellie Dexter

"Living our authentic life" is a common catch phrase these days. Oprah has used it as a mission statement to renew an otherwise obsolete format for the TV interview show. As stressors in our lives pile up we often find ourselves pondering, "Am I living my authentic life?" What does this mean for us living in the queer community? I think we have a special affinity for this process. We have been evaluating our need or choice to be in the closet. I wonder if there will ever be a generation who will not know the phrase, "in the closet." It would be nice but I am getting ahead of myself.

I believe that Harvey Milk must have wondered about this. His dedication to equal rights for all of us would

imply this. During his life, queer folk did not have the choice to live their authentic life. Being in the closet was not a choice. It was a given – and it still is a given for some of us today. It's still not easy for some people with particular professions. We know what happened to Lindsay Willow, the school teacher accused of assaulting a female student. When was the last time you heard of a gay quarterback in the NFL or a hockey player in the NHL? Mark Tewksbury has encouraged change in the world of sport but we have a long way to go. How about a gay priest? That one opens up a can of worms. We know that you can be gay and celibate. I think you get the picture. I apologize if I have not mentioned all the professions that are still

restrictive. I haven't even touched on the need to be in the closet if you are transgendered. The fact that we have a yearly memorial with additions to the list of those we've lost to violence is reason enough.

Trying to explain to straight people can be frustrating when they don't understand why people are still in the closet. They are surprised when you point out situations wherein a queer person was denied their rights. Yearly at a lecture in the Human Sexuality course at Dalhousie University a transgendered women is met with surprise and disbelief when she describes how her rights and those of other queer people are violated on a daily basis. These situations of injustice seldom make it to the Hu-

man Rights Commission and don't make the news. Who has the energy to fight day in and day out? There are undercurrents in the workplace that are insidious but hard to prove. Does that mean they don't exist? Does it mean it doesn't affect our lives? Even in a workplace that promotes equality and diversity can not claim that it does not exist. Ask a man working in a traditional female profession like nursing if he knows about this and he'll agree. Ask an African Nova Scotian if they experience this and they will agree.

How can we affect change without it taking over our lives? There are those like Harvey Milk whose entire lives are dedicated to the causes. But he did this at a great cost to his

personal life and then ultimately life itself. There are people who go out and lecture in the community. This still has a cost to their personal and professional life and potentially puts them at risk for violence. There are those who affect change just by living openly gay. When people see their neighbours, a married couple – Jim and Josh living day to day and realize it's not that big a deal. They have made a contribution to change. Living an authentic life by being openly gay, we can have a great impact on society and how we are viewed.

What do you do to affect change? How are you living your authentic life?

Ellie Dexter is Emma Devost.

# Moncton Safe Spaces Workshop

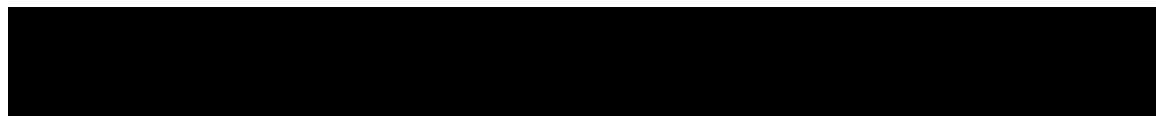
By Cherie MacLeod

If you know Bill Ryan or his research on LGBTQ issues, then you know what a rare and wonderful opportunity it is to hear him speak. If you do not know Bill, then his upcoming workshop in Moncton, "Creating Safe Spaces: Affirming Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth and Adults," is highly recommended and should not be missed.

The session will be delivered in French and English at the Université de Moncton. The English session

will be held on Thursday, November 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The French session will be held on Friday, November 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Co-presenting is clinical psychologist Françoise Susset. The cost is very reasonable. For more information contact Cherie MacLeod, Executive Director, Moncton chapter of PFLAG Canada at (506) 869-8191, or toll-free at 1 (888) 530-6777. Check the website at [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://www.pflagcanada.ca).



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## Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tomás!

As I mentioned last time, the next stop was Puerto Vallarta—THE gay destination in Mexico! Also very popular I'm told with the American naval fleet. Not sure what the connection is... Don't Ask, Don't Tell?

We were greeted at the airport by a representative of the department of tourism who took me aside to tell me that he had arranged for me to meet someone in the gay part of Puerto Vallarta and that he and his department were very anxious to make sure my trip was a very pleasant one. No, Tom, he was not offering to get me an escort! There was some mention of "pink dollars," a phrase he seemed to have recently learned. How nice to be welcomed because I'm gay, rather than in spite of it, especially in this land of machismo. First impressions of PV are that the air is warm and the men are hot. Well, not every Mexican man will make you want to drop your serape but there is something about those flashing white smiles and friendly, compelling dark eyes that make a Canadian boy like me feel all tingly south of the border.

Our hotel had an amazing reception area. It was open on all sides. You could walk between the pillars and continue on, past the pool, to the beach. Not an architectural style that would work in, say, Winnipeg in February. They gave a special dinner for us that evening at a huge dining table whose top was made of yellow onyx, lit too. And with the amount of wine that accompanied our eight courses, we were soon lit from within. The food, as everywhere we ate in Mexico, was beautifully prepared and the mingling of spicy and savoury flavours was masterful. Pistachio risotto, salmon crusted with herbs, mahi mahi with tabule. Muy sabroso! We raised our glasses again and again to toast the chef.

Morning found us strolling along the boardwalk, or la malecón. When I first heard this word I confused it with maricón, which means fag. It's important to speak Spanish distinctly especially when telling the taxi driver what you are looking for. The boardwalk is perfect for strolling along watching people build sand sculptures on the beach, gazing at pelicans taking flight over the Pacific or watching the tourists and locals browse through shops. La malecón is also a kind of mini art gallery with metal sculptures of fantastical shapes and figures. Most famous is the boy on the sea horse.

After a brief period at el Mercado, haggling over the value of clothing and knick knacks—one has to buy souvenirs! —it was time to head to la zona de la tolerancia, i.e. the gay part of town. Soon I was sipping a margarita under a palapa on the private beach of Blue Chairs, talking to a slightly fey young man about queer life in PV. There are three main gay cities

in Mexico, he told me: Guadalajara, Mexico City (the part called el distrito federal, where he was from) and Puerto Vallarta, gesturing with a languid hand towards the beach where a wide variety of ethnicities and body types were comingling. Mexican gay men, I discovered, do not have our notions about perfect gym bodies and they never ask about your body fat ratio. Nor do they expect a man in his forties to look like he's twenty, nor a young twink to have the experience and knowledge of an older man. Very revolutionary idea! Think it will ever catch on, Tom?

After, I went strolling along enjoying the sunshine, the margarita afterglow and the number of rainbow flags in shop windows. In the doorway of one such establishment was a young man who beckoned me into the shop. I felt a slight thrill as if I might be whisked off to a dark room to suffer untold sexual indignities—it was a very large margarita I'd had—but no, he wanted to show me silver rings! Well, next to sexual humiliation in foreign countries, buying jewellery is my favourite thing when travelling. We did the usual haggling: his grandmother – 93 and still designing jewellery—his brother, the business is the sole support of the whole family etc. etc. He complimented me on my Spanish, was a bit flirtatious, remarked on how the turquoise complimented my eyes—which are grey/green. In short, I bought the ring and it is gleaming on my finger as I type these words to you.

Our last evening in Puerto Vallarta and in Mexico was spent having a drink in a bar watching the sun set over the Ocean, while the music was so loud it made my hair follicles vibrate. Off to another dinner of exquisite food and wine. When we finally tumbled out into the streets at 1 a.m. the whole city was alive with crowds of people on the streets, music was blasting from dance bars—many of which are open until 7 a.m. Regretfully, I made my way back to the hotel to get ready for my early morning flight home.

Love ya!

*Crawford*

## Acceptance = Progress

By Nathan Adams

"Coming out" at any age is never an easy thing to do, especially in school. There is always the fear that the ones you love will turn their backs on you, your friends won't feel comfortable around you, and you will be labeled as One of them!!

I am a very proud member of Moncton's LGBT Community, and although it has been ten years since I graduated from High School I know from experience that being gay in school was not an easy thing to deal with.

I was not "out" in school, and although I knew I was gay, it was definitely not the place to announce it. I don't think there was a day that went by that the words faggot, queer, dyke or some variation didn't echo the halls or were yelled at a poor kid in the school yard. It pissed me off so much to see someone being cornered by a bunch of guys, all taking their turns calling their newest victim a worthless fag and saying such comments as "I hope you get Aids and die." Sometimes it took everything I could do to keep my mouth shut and not walk over and break it up, but there was always that fear that the tables would turn and I would be the next person in the firing line.

In the ten years since I graduated from High School there definitely has been a lot of progress made. I have numerous gay friends that are attending High School that are openly gay, and I know a few people that even brought their same-sex partner to the prom. However, there is still a large number of youth that feel very unaccepted, afraid, and don't know where to find the help and the support that they need to give them that boost and the self-confidence that they need to be proud of who they are and to realize that being gay does not make them any different than anyone else. EVERYONE, no matter who they are, deserves to love and to be loved, and nobody has the right to tell them any different.

Students who experience discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, culture and sexual orientation deserve to be protected. There have been many studies done on homosexuality in schools and the bullying and stress that these students go through every day, and the results are scary.

Studies show that LGBT students or those labeled as such are at the

highest risk of

1) Attempting suicide 2) Being kicked out of their home or running away 3) Dropping out of school 4) abusing drugs and alcohol.

There are many things that can be done to let these students know that for the most part, schools and classrooms are an inclusive environment, and that minority

students should feel safe and supported. They need to know that there are adults available to talk to and that will give them the support and the help that they need.

Puberty is difficult at the best of times, Imagine how a student must feel who is also dealing with homosexuality in what they think is an unsupportive and hostile environment, and often enough this student can't count on support from home.

Some simple things that teachers can do can make a difference, Placing a small gay pride flag on your desk or posting a small pink triangle or a rainbow sticker in your classroom will

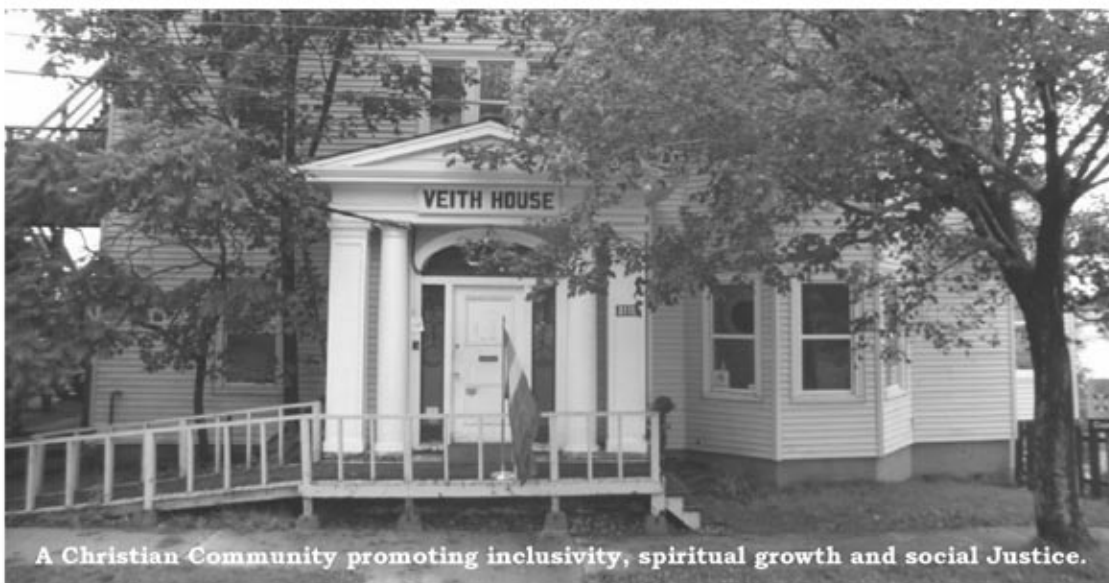
*EVERYONE, no matter who they are, deserves to love and to be loved, and nobody has the right to tell them any different.*

help show students that you know and care about LGBT youth. Whether you're teaching about abstinence or safe sex make it clear that your message applies to LGBT students as well. Become an Ally; show that you have respect for human

rights. School teachers, employers, community members, EVERYONE has the responsibility to make our LGBT members welcome in our schools and work places. Challenge homophobic jokes and interrupt bullying, use language that tells you are open minded and that you are a safe person to talk to, show that you are committed to the struggle for stronger human rights and equality and that you see us as a whole people, and let the people you care about know that no matter who they choose to love, you will celebrate it with them. Schools should be equipped with user friendly libraries that have books about teens and homosexuality, reference material and contact information for groups such as Safe Spaces and the local gay committee should be kept at all schools and readily available for all students. Hold information seminars in schools as well as workplaces that show how you can get involved with events and activities and show your support. The most important thing of all is to be well informed and ready to help.

Cont'd on page 11

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## Anita's Blast From the Past



I can tell you about this one. It's the first Lesbian and Gay Rights NS demonstration for inclusion in the NS Human Rights Act. It took place in front of Province House on April 12, 1989. The speaker in the photo was Marilyn Peers, the first speaking on behalf of LGRNS. To her right is sign language interpreter Linda Clark, now Linda Maxwell. To Marilyn's left, in the suit and tie, is Kevin Crombie, who was an active but underground member of LGRNS because he was covering Province House for Broadcast News. Just behind Linda you can see Andrea Currie, who emceed the event, speaking with Pam Mason. Andrea and I (Anne Bishop) led the singing. The other speakers were Brenda Richard (visible on the far right of the photo), Royden Traynor, Gary Kinsman and a group of people who read brief scenarios illustrating the experience of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Robin Metcalfe and Pam Mason were among that group. The others' faces are so familiar to me but I can't pull their names out of my aging memory! -

In the foreground the distinctive long, grey hair was indeed that of Shelley Finson, and to her left and ahead of her is the white head of Muriel Duckworth. This photo prompted me to get out the video tape of that demonstration, taken by Carol Millet. There are many scans of the whole group; some, like Shelley and Muriel, no longer with us, others still very much alive and active.

Sometime we should have a history video night. When I was pulling the video of this demo off of my bookshelf I realized I have one of the 1989 Pride March, which I had forgotten about. I also have the LGRNS demo on May 30, 1990, where we did a piece of theatre based on the Jeopardy game show, and most of the TV coverage of the Human Rights Act lobbying efforts. I'm sure others have this kind of material in their archives—and yes, I know, I should be getting all this stuff organized and into the new Queer collection in the NS Archives. Soon, I promise.

Thanks for the stimulating blast from the past. It's easy to forget how hard we worked for some of the rights we now have. Anne Bishop

Photo credit: Anita Martinez

## NAC AIDS Walk Success

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) is very pleased to report that the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life, held in September, was a huge success. From the four walks in Truro, Elmsdale, Amherst and New Glasgow the society raised approximately \$15,000. The weather cooperated each day and we had a great turnout of people and new teams. NACS would like to thank all the sponsors, teams, individuals and volunteers for a job well done.

As you may know, NACS has been working on a new project called the Hepatitis C Aware Project. We have been holding focus groups and one-on-one interviews in the northern region of Nova Scotia. It's still not too late to have your input on the barriers, challenges and needs you have as a person living with HCV or a person affected by it. Individuals not comfortable participating in group sessions can still get their message out through one-on-one interviews. All information is completely confidential. Some of the dialogue raised has been obstacles and barriers, discrimination in the workplace, needing information about treatment, marginalization and stigmatization issues. To have your say please call (902) 895-0931 or e-mail [hepcordinator@eastlink.ca](mailto:hepcordinator@eastlink.ca). The Northern AIDS Connection Society also conducted a survey at the Exhibition in Truro and 200 people responded by completing the general Hepatitis C survey which provided a great way to have dialogue and discuss HCV with the general public.

In October, NACS organized and co-hosted with CATIE the Atlantic Educational Conference. This conference was held at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel in Truro on October 7 and 8. The over 60 delegates covered many educational seminars for AIDS service organizations and their staff. NACS was honored to have this opportunity to be involved in such a large scale information sharing event with one of its partners, a partnership that has grown and strengthened over the years along with NACS.

Something very exciting: due to expansion of the organization over the last year we have hired an Executive Director to oversee the operations at NACS. This step will make everyday operations of the society smoother and more productive. We have had a very busy year and the next year looks to be filled with new exciting challenges and projects. Don't worry, though, as our intrepid Al McNutt is still fully engaged in the Society and will have an opportunity for more outreach, education and awareness throughout northern NS—something he is incredibly passionate about.

Coming up soon: news of our first open house event and more from the Hep C project.

### Maureen MacDonald

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## Cleophas And His Own



*Cleophas And His Own*  
By Michael Maglaras  
Movie Review by Daniel MacKay

"Why did they intentionally make it something that could not possibly be a commercial success?" a friend asked, when I told him I was going to a movie that was essentially a two-and-a-half hour reading of a diary.

A synopsis of the story: artist Hartley lives a lonely, miserable life as a drifter. In 1935 he travels to Blue

Rocks to stay for a few weeks with a fellow painter—who isn't there. He lodges with the family of a big butch fisherman with two big butch sons, and Hartley falls in love with all of them, feels like he has a home and has people who care for him: one day one of the sons comes home, strips to the waist and asks Hartley to wash his back; in the diary, Hartley writes breathlessly, "It was like scrubbing an acre of granite!" This first domestic bliss he's ever experienced is destroyed when the two sons drown in a drunken boating accident. He returns to Maine to live in a scruffy farm outbuilding, and dies a few years later, of heart trouble, leaving behind not exactly a diary, but a collection of essays about the experience totaling, I'm guessing, about ten thousand words, entitled *Cleophas And His Own*.

The Halifax showing of *Cleophas And His Own* was introduced by the filmmaker Michael Maglaras and his partner and the movie's editor, Terri Templeton. Maglaras was inspired

We get the impression that Hartley was a little frail, and perhaps a lot effeminate. When he talks about the men in the family, he uniformly uses the adjectives "giant," "strong"

and "powerful;" in the paintings, he depicts the men as tall, broad-chested, with impossibly long, hairy-fingered hands.

The film is somewhat programmatic; when Hartley talks about a hand, a rose, or a seascape, we almost always see that object on the screen. However, you forgive the filmmaker for that, because Hartley's writing is lush and lyrical and Maglaras' delivery is plausible and mellifluous. Each chapter has its own arc, and the chapters, although not chronological, are arranged in a careful and deliberate structure.

In the early chapters of the piece, Hartley also describes many things and people as "archaic." From the context it is obvious that he means it to be complimentary, but it wasn't until after the movie that Maglaras explained that Hartley means "cute," not old-fashioned or uselessly antiquated.

My friend attended the showing. At the end he said, "I take back everything I said. It's exactly right."

## Mz. Vicki Celebrates



Tenacious in fundraising for AIDS Walk, Manna for Health and the Imperial Court Association of Nova Scotia, Mz Vicki de-Knight (aka, sometimes, as Bruce Hayre) was mildly roasted on Sunday, October 4, the occasion of her fiftieth birthday by her friends at Halifax's Menz Bar.

Members of the GBLT community showed their gratitude for the infamous Mz Vicki in performances of her favorite songs from over the years such as "I Am What I Am" and "Every Time I See Your Picture I Cry," performed by Boom Boom Lubilicious; "Last Dance" and "Fame," performed by Elle Noir; "... on the Radio" by Mame Saint Clair, and two Dr. Hook songs by Adam Dowling. Lee Bent performed a funny number and presented a cane as a birthday present to Mz Vicki adding, "It needed to be glamorized with rhinestones."

Several members of the audience also paid tribute to Mz Vicki by sharing anecdotes of how they met her or how she has touched their lives. Laughter filled the room whenever anyone would mention in their storytelling of Mz Vicki's notorious line, "Who wants to buy some 50/50 tickets?"

Dawn Sloane, city councillor for downtown Halifax, also attended and presented Mz Vicki with a certifi-

cate honouring her fiftieth birthday, signed both by Sloane and by His Worship, Mayor Peter Kelly.

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**Rod MacInnis**

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**www.mortgagecentre.com**



Congratulations to Stephen Felik and Shane McPhail on their marriage Sunday September 20 in Halifax. Photo by Wade Swinimer



South Shore Pride: Eric and Jeff are two of several dedicated workers who continue to work towards keeping the monthly dances in the Bridgewater area. The couple sits at the information table set up at every dance. Wayves magazine is among the various information offerings available. Photo from South Shore Pride



# celebrates 50 Years

# Two Views of the Fig Tree



Atlantic Film Festival - That's So Gay  
The Fig Tree  
By John Greyson

## Review #1

by Garry Williams

In February 2002, I was half dozing in an Acadian Lines bus, returning from Wolfville to Halifax after an audition for the now defunct Atlantic Theatre Festival. As we pulled into a Mainway gas station, I thought: 'Yawn! I am at a Mainway!' It was a perfect impossibility, a real life palindrome describing my situation truthfully, whimsically, yet in a strict linguistic form: a perfect symmetry of letters.

In many ways, John Greyson's Fig Trees, aired as part of the "That's So Gay" series at the Atlantic Film Festival, is such a film. Truth and whimsy co-exist with strict form in this unlikely documentary about opera, AIDS, albino squirrels, Gertrude Stein, palindromes and twenty years of political, corporate and public denial of the AIDS crisis – and, more devastatingly, the denial of medication.

Interviews with South African activist Zackie Achmat and Canadian activist Tim McCaskell provide factual backbone for the film, supported by archival footage. A fanciful operatic foil – recitative, arias, duets, quartets, echoes of Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thompson's Four Saints in Three Act – distills sometimes comic, sometimes chilling truths.

The often surreal juxtaposition of fact and fiction tell a powerful story without gloom or pathos. In one scene, the on-screen audience celebrates Achmat's operatic Doppelgänger's collapse after a defiant aria. Here, the audience seems complicit, as guilty as the pharmaceutical companies denying Achmat medication. In another, the music appears to be etched onto the singers' necks, suggesting a martyrdom of saints. However, Greyson is more interested in celebration and survival, not defeat.



Using an eclectic array of techniques such as music video, text sampling, and visual and narrative symmetries, Greyson brings a triumphant internationalism to the struggle for human rights and dignity. Singing squirrels, a parade a queer composers and camp hospital drag celebrate the fact that these stories can be unapologetically told. Greyson depicts Achmat's Treatment Action Campaign as courageous, not merely tragic; McCaskell's advocacy for AIDS Action Now! as a victory, not a melodrama.

This is a challenging, uplifting and sometimes hilariously mystifying, film. Meticulously well crafted, it is a layered and artful work, political and intelligent. In it, images and language are slippery, as the issues are complex. Hats off to Andrew Murphy for bringing this outstanding film to Halifax.

## Review #2

by Sonia Edworthy

John Greyson has been called a Canadian queer cinema visionary for films such as Lillies (1996), Proteus (2003) and Zero Patience (1993). His latest work, Fig Trees, certainly demonstrates his ability to represent complex social issues with wild

abandon, through a critical, queer lens. Combining opera, documentary and experimental filmmaking techniques, Greyson stirs up a cocktail of provocative messages about AIDS, homophobia, racism, opera and political action.

The film features in-depth interviews with two prominent AIDS activists, Zackie Achmat of Treatment Action Campaign in South Africa and Tim McCaskell of AIDS Action Now! in Toronto. The late author, Gertrude Stein, also makes an appearance as token dyke and co-founder of a made-up Korporation called GSK, Gertrude Stein Karmaceuticals.

Originally Fig Trees was a multimedia opera performance on the stage and was translated to film in 2006, with spectacular results. The sombre content about global AIDS activism is presented in a seductive veil of special effects including; an animated squirrel puppet, fun fur costumes, shots of Niagara Falls superimposed on cascades of colourful pills, witty palindromes ("flee to me remote elf"), and a countdown of top 100 AIDS anthem music videos.

Brimming with information and powerful imagery, underscored with humour and strong political analysis, Fig Trees is sure to inspire and provoke.



Far top Left - Mx Vicki, Far bottom left - BoomBoom Lubalicious, top - Elle Noir, middle - Adam Dowling, Below - the birthday girl herself - Mx Vicki.  
Photo credits Dawn Sloane



# Pornography



the adult movie industry for a book and ultimately the disappearance of Mark Anton. While completely unrelated and coincidentally the second story is a Los Angeles actor turned director writing and producing a screenplay about the life of Mark Anton.

If more care had been taken in the structuring of the plot and Kittredge hadn't tried to throw in every element of a scary suspense thriller he could think of then Pornography could actually have been a good movie. Using the same actors as different characters in the New York and Los Angeles stories was a dreadful mistake. It added too much uncertainty to an already confused and disjointed plot.

The entire movie reeked of Verbinski's The Ring, Kubrick's Eyes Wide Shut, Wan's Saw and a host of other thrillers too numerous to mention. Clairvoyant dreams, channelling the dead, a secret society of snuff film producers who are everywhere, stalkers, paranormal activity and endlessly jumping back and forth from dream sequences and hallucinations to real time made Pornography a completely unwatchable and painful experience. If you consider Pornography a vessel for aging adult movie actors and unknown extras to get their names in the credits of a full length feature film to build credibility and bolster their resumes then it is a success, beyond that a complete and utter failure.

Atlantic Film Festival - That's So Gay  
Pornography  
David Kittredge  
Review by Conor Woods

David Kittredge has neither the literary or cinematographic skills to write and direct a film. Pornography was 113 minutes of incoherent plot and soft core porn filler with an absurd overuse of camera effects and an ever present "edge of your seat" thriller score building suspense to an endless series of anticlimaxes.

You could relate it to watching synchronized swimming to the Jaws theme. It begins with the final week of Mark Anton, an adult film star and the events leading up to his disappearance. Then Kittredge attempted to show two concurrent stories, one an author in New York researching

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## Chef's Corner



This dessert is well-known and well-loved by Acadians all over southeastern New Brunswick. These confections are essentially little apple, cranberry and/or raisin pies formed into balls, with a hole cut out on the top center to act as a vent during cooking and to pour the accompanying sauce into when serving. They were mostly served still warm from the oven with a brown sugar sauce. This version is my interpretation of the old Acadian classic served with warm rum butter sauce and a vanilla bean crème anglaise. Makes 12 poutines.

Chef Darren is Chef/Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, 1537 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S. Voted "Establishment of the Year 2008" by the Nova Scotia Association of Chefs and Cooks; awarded two out of three stars "Where to Eat in Canada 2009"; new member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs International." Reservations (902) 420-9626.

## Ask Ian

### Advice for the advisors

Dear Ian,  
I seem to be falling into a pattern lately. It seems that I have been attracting very needy, clingy individuals. I try to be a friendly person and treat everyone with dignity and respect, but it turns out I am quickly becoming a hospital for wounded souls. Now, I've checked my Facebook and no where does it say, "Are you lonely? Need someone to talk to? Message me and/or find me in person, you random Facebook creeper!" So what is going on here? I can't change who I am, and I would feel so guilty hurting anyone.

Über Scared of Everything Desperate

Dear Desperate,  
My attention is drawn to your phrase, "I would feel so guilty hurting anyone." That is not always the best plan when you give advice. "Dignity" and "respect" are important things to keep in mind when dishing your views

and attitudes, but sometimes it's good to be realistic, no-nonsense and cut to the point. Maybe these clingy friends come to you because you're going to tell them it'll be all right, that all their decisions have been good ones, and that they are beautiful and unique, blah blah blah. Right, I agree—kind of. You don't tell a seven-year-old the reason she's failing math is maybe she's not good at it and she should focus on her strengths, like playing house. She's seven, maybe she's not good at it but you need math to survive in the world (hard or not hard) and playing house will not pay for said house.

These people you talk to—I doubt they're kids anymore. If they make the same mistakes call them on it. If they are seeking you out as some "hospital for wounded souls" then wound their soul some more, get them on the defensive because if they're defensive they're going to do

### Poutine a Trou (Dumplings with a hole)

#### Crust

2 1/2 cups flour  
4 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
2 tbsp white sugar  
1/4 cup lard or unsalted butter  
3/4 cup milk

#### Filling

4 cooking apples (peeled, cored and small diced)  
2 cooking pears (peeled cored and small diced)  
1/2 cup golden raisins  
1/2 cup dried cranberries  
pinch salt  
2 tbsp brown sugar  
1/4 tsp ground cloves

#### Rum butter sauce

1 cup brown sugar  
3/4 cup butter  
2 oz spiced rum

#### Vanilla bean crème anglaise

6 egg yolks  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 cups 10% cream  
2 vanilla beans

#### To make the poutines:

1. Sift flour, baking powder salt and sugar. Cut lard into flour until well coated and broken down to pea size pieces. Add milk and mix to form a dough. Form the dough onto a flat disk, wrap in plastic and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
2. While dough rests, prepare the filling mixture and toss them all together.
3. Roll out dough to thickness of 1/4 inch. With a 6-inch round pastry cutter, cut out 12 rounds disks. Divide the filling evenly into the center of each of the disk of dough. Moisten the edge of the dough lightly with an egg wash. Carefully bring the edges of the dough up to all meet and fully closing in the center creating a ball. Invert the poutines onto a parchment-covered cookie sheet.
4. Cut a 1/2 inch round hole in the top center of each poutine, brush them with a light coating the egg wash (egg and milk beaten together) and dust the entire surface with sugar and bake 30-35 minutes in a pre-heated 375° F oven.

#### Rum butter sauce

Melt butter and brown sugar over medium high heat until sugar is dissolved. Away from the heat carefully add the rum. Be careful here, as the rum may ignite! Return the pan to the heat, and cook out until a clear amber colour.

#### Vanilla bean crème anglaise

Cut the vanilla beans in half length wise, scrape out the seeds and add seeds and pods to milk and sugar in a deep saucepan. Bring the mixture to the boil, remove from the heat, cover and let steep for 15-20 minutes. Remove the pods and temper the eggs with the warm cream. Place in a double boiler on medium heat and stir the mixture constantly until it thickens to coat the back of a wooden spoon. Pass the sauce through a fine mesh sieve to ensure a lump free sauce. Refrigerate covered. This sauce is served cold.

#### Serving suggestions

Make a pool of the crème anglaise in the center of a dessert plate. Place a warm poutine on the center of the anglaise then pour the rum sauce into the poutine's vent. Dust with powdered sugar and serve.

something for themselves—something you don't have to hold their hand through. Or sometimes you need to say, "maybe you're not good at that" or "maybe you should stop doing that."

At this point they have the basic building blocks of living. They are familiar with the concept of right and wrong and what works for them. All advice can be broken into four solu-

tions: 1) Stop doing it. 2) Keep doing it. 3) Manage it. 4) Shut the fuck up and stop complaining. Or the fifth option is to write into me and I can tell you one of the four in my own creative way. You get dragged in (in a bad way) when you're constantly being asked approval for each petty piece of the puzzle.

For problems that have solutions tell them your course of action in

well-defined terms and be done with it. I know that some people have issues with depression and counseling or medication is the proper route. But giving someone advice to seek that advice is still good advice. Don't get sucked in.

You can write to Ian for advice at [ian@trrrash.com](mailto:ian@trrrash.com). Ian will respond to all letters.

### MacIvor

Cont'd from page 1

wrights. He acts, writes and directs plays and films. His plays include "Never Swim Alone," "This is a Play," "Monster," "Marion Bridge," "You Are Here," "Cul-de-sac," "In on It" and others. He has written, co-written and directed films, including "Marion Bridge," "Whole New Thing" and "Wilby Wonderful and The Fairy Who Didn't Want to be a Fairy Anymore."

Jackie Torrens is a CBC Halifax Radio, columnist writer and actor. Her plays include "Tales from the Glockenspiel," "That Is My Heart," "Strange Antiques" and "Fables." Her play, "Georama," premiered at Ottawa's NAC and another play, "Live! Nude! Animal!" (in which she starred) was filmed for Bravo TV.

Kathryn MacLellan won an award for her role in the 2008 Luna/Sea production of "Girl in the Goldfish Bowl." She has many film and TV credits, including recently "Poor Boy's Game" (2007), "A Stone's Throw" (2006) and "Whole New Thing" (2005).

"A Beautiful View" has been well-received in New York City, Washington DC, Austin, Toronto, Edmonton and other places since 2006 and is said to be poignant, witty and ranking with MacIvor's best. It was workshopped

on Gottingen before the Toronto run but this is the first regular production in Halifax.

Ticket prices are \$15 to \$35, depending on seat, date and time; some less for students and seniors. See [www.neptunetheatre.com](http://www.neptunetheatre.com) or call (902) 429-7070.

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# Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden

By Bethana Sullivan

This column concerns a question that is more than what is asked. The question in its simplest form is, "What does it mean to be a gay woman today?" How does it shape my views, my values, my philosophy of life, my politics, my everyday life with all its inherent decisions and actions. This returning question has emerged at the turning of the wheel following Hallowe'en and before all the festivals and rituals of November, spiritually a time when rest and renewal within the arms of the coming winter will open us to what will come.

For example, I am noticing as I read the Chronicle Herald and the Saturday Globe & Mail that the sports section is becoming more and more male-dominated. "What world has she been living in?" you say! Other preoccupations I suppose, but lately I am more and more irritated as I search for stories about the women's world triathlon (in September) or for a story that isn't about hockey, football, men's golf and race cars. Or on my mind is a recent story about the latest Lutheran edict issued after the 23rd World Conference of the

International Lutheran Council in August, 2009, in Seoul, Korea. The conference theme was "In Christ: Living Life to the Full." They felt compelled, due to their desire "...to proclaim and to live the abundant life in Christ" to make a statement in light of the current turmoil regarding same-gender relationships—the point of it being that you and I are living a sinful life. But at the same time, they declared "...their resolve to approach those with homosexual inclinations with the deepest possible Christian love and pastoral concern, in whatever situation they may be living" (LCC InfoDigest). Let me say that it might be stretching things to see these two as related events yet somehow I do and being gay informs this. But it is not just about being gay. It is about living on the edge, on the margins, out in left field or some other metaphoric or symbolic linguistic foreplay that speaks to more than what the words mean.

The relationship is shaped by the intermediary form of the self who sees that a page filled with words is empty of meaning when it excludes

images and information. Words speaking of love and concern in the same breath as equating loving behaviour with sin and violation are empty too. Does it take living on the margins to see this? Maybe yes, maybe no. Is it just the difference between the haves and the haves-not, or

*Words speaking of love and concern in the same breath as equating loving behaviour with sin and violation are empty too. Does it take living on the margins to see this?*

might it also be the internal/external margins we create within the self? Narrow margins means we see in or out, metaphorically speaking, a long way, whereas broad margins may be like blinkers, obscuring vision of any sort. But maybe the margins are too artificial a creation to be of much good in these changing times.

In my daily life I have a voice and I use it to protest, to connect, to struggle with, to share and to touch with love. I speak of what it means to be gay, a woman, to have suffered trauma. I speak authoritatively, angrily, lovingly, with understanding or with confusion. In doing so I engage with another, patiently or impatiently, open to hearing their voice. And when I do hear them they are telling me about their margins, about what shaped them, gives them heart or makes them afraid. The margins seem crowded these days in ways different from what living on the

margins meant when I first heard the term and gathered love, strength and knowledge from marginalized people. Sometimes the margins seem to take up more space than the middle. Now there are all sorts of vulnerables living here: the poor, the disabled, the wounded, the gays, the minorities, the rich, the educated, the white, conservatives and liberals of all stripes and colours.

The systemic definition of life, according to biologists Maturana and Varela, is that "...living networks continually create, or re-create, themselves by transforming or replacing their components. In this way they undergo continual structural change while preserving their weblike patterns of organization. This dynamic of self-generation is known as "autopoiesis" and is a key characteristic of life" (Capra, F., P.10). Linked with this basic definition of life flows the broader understanding of cognition, The Santiago Theory of Cognition, which involves the entire process of life, and understanding cognition as "including perception, emotions and behaviour." According to the Santiago theory, cognition is linked to the process of autopoiesis, which implies, according to Capra is that "a living system maintains the freedom to decide what to notice and what will disturb it. ...You can never direct a living system, you can only disturb it" (p.34). Linking this deeper, broader sense of cognition with the "process of life" implies cognition as a creative force of life. So the whole page of living systems (meaning all of us) disturbs each other, causing structural changes in the self and



in the relationship and meaning of margins to the whole, creating a new relationship or way of being.

So to be a gay woman today means to me that I act with care, speak and act against injustices, protest inequities, demand more integrity of myself and others; play, love and most of all stay awake to the triggers and disturbances of life around me. You and I as a living system in a network of systems, can choose what, how and when to disturb or be disturbed, sometimes in loving loudly and with agitation, sometimes in loving acceptance. Either way we will respond to environmental influences with a structural change that inherently "alters" our future behaviour. So what I do today changes tomorrow but not necessarily in the direction I might anticipate. Being gay, being alive means living with a certain ambiguity, as well as with a thrilling sense of being a co-creator of what is coming.

Capra, F. (2002): The Hidden Connections: Integrating the Biological, Cognitive, and Social Dimensions of Life Into A Science of Sustainability. New York: Doubleday.

## Acceptance

Cont'd from page 6

National Coming Out Day is October 11th. The idea is that if more of us came out, then more people would realize that many people that they love and respect happen to be LGBT and result in the speeding up of societal acceptance. This is a great day and a great opportunity to get involved and bring awareness to those that are struggling with their sexuality that we are here to help and support them any way we can.

As of September 20th this year I have been nominated one of the vice-chairpersons on River of Pride-Riviere de Fierce Inc. We want you to know that we are here to help and to listen to those of you who are struggling with your sexuality, having difficulties in school due to bullying or feeling unaccepted because you are homosexual, and for those of you that don't know where to find the support you need. We are a non-profit wholly volunteered managed non-partisan Committee, and we are here to help and support our LGBT members anyway we can. For contact information and to stay informed on upcoming events in the Moncton area, check out our website at www.

fiercemonctonpride.ca As well, you can view my own personal site, the greater Moncton LGBT forum at www.moncton-magic.webs.com

Things would have been so much easier for me when I was in school if I knew that the support that I needed was out there and that there was a committee such as River Of Pride. We need to make it more visible and obtainable for these students. We need to show that our teachers, work places, support groups, and other community committees and groups are here to help you feel accepted and welcome, because acceptance equals progress, and together we can keep reaching out and moving forward.

You may reach Nathan at: monctonmagic@gmail.com

## wayves

Moncton Pride, Atlantic News, Kibitz & Bitch, DAIQUT, Movie Reviews, Truro Pride, Editorials, Free CDs, Events Calendar, LGBT-MUN, Theatre Reviews, Charlottetown Pride, Political Commentary, Spectrum, Groups & Services, Fredericton Pride, Recipes, Sports Briefs, Legal Briefs & Grievs, Drag 101, Halifax Pride, Svend Robinson, Marc Hall, Scott Erson, and more all the time! Moncton Pride, Atlantic News, Kibitz & Bitch, DAIQUT, Movie Reviews, Truro Pride, Editorials, Free CDs, Events Calendar, LGBT-MUN, Theatre Reviews, Charlottetown Pride, Political Commentary, Spectrum, Groups & Services, Fredericton Pride, Recipes, Sports Briefs, Legal Briefs & Grievs, Drag

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# WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

## Atlantic Canada

Al-Anon/Alateen: for families & friends of problem drinkers. Does someone you know have a drinking problem? 466-7077 web: www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces.

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: 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 Transsexuals. email: gender\_expressions@hotmail.com web: www.geocities.com/gender\_expressions/ (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Healing Our Nations: 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: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. (902)568-2935 email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society: 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/xprojecte/ at available via web page

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Deadline: the first Friday of every month; Editorial meeting: the Monday following that; layout the Sunday following that. Email us to be put on our notification list!)

## New Brunswick (506)

### Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: 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)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays: Email list-serv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

Integrity: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: integrityfredericton@live.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46207976587, meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton at 874 York Street

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. (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

Spectrum: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unbf.ca/clubs/spectrum (Meets Fridays during the school year. See webpage for location.)

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

Moncton

AIDS Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

Moncton Line Dancing: 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: 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

River Of Pride: River of Pride INC. is a wholly volunteer-managed, non-partisan, not-for-profit committee that organizes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Two-Spirit Pride events in Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe to commemorate and celebrate vast diversity within our communities. email: riverofpride@hotmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

Safe Spaces Moncton Region: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton: Visé 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.)

## Mount Allison University, Sackville

Catalyst: Catalyst, Mt. A's Queer-Straight Alliance, provides support & information for all Mt. A students, staff, and faculty through meetings, seminars, and social events. Everyone is welcome. email: catalyst@mta.ca web: www.mta.ca/clubs/catalyst/ (Catalyst meets approximately every week from Sept-Dec and Jan-April. For meeting info contact the president at catalyst@mta.ca or the Students' Administrative Council at sac@mta.ca.)

## Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG): 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.

## Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: 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

## Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: 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 Saint John: improve quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV, reduce the spread through education 652-2437 email: aidssj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aidssaintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.port-cityrainbowpride.com, meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St

PFLAG: 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: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: events@portcityrainbowpride.com web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

Safe Spaces Fundy Region: 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)

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library: 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.

The UNBSJ Q-Collective: 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 LGBTQ 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".

## Woodstock

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

## Newfoundland & Labrador (709)

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 gemmamhickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

## St. John's

AIDS Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador: 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: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness 579-8656 (ext. 28) 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: 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!

St. John's Pride: St. John's Official Pride Organization. 709-746-6564

## Nova Scotia (902)

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL YOUTH

GROUP AT Q.E.H.: Jeanie Buffet, Counselor, at 421-6797

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

Hepatitis Outreach Society: Since 1999 the Hepatitis Outreach Society has been providing support, education and prevention information for those infected and affected by hepatitis in the province of Nova Scotia. 420-1767 in HRM or 1-800-521-0572 email: info@HepatitisOutreach.com web: www.HepatitisOutreach.com at Our office is located at 2973 Oxford Street, between Liverpool and Cork streets. Please call to make an appointment or email Program@HepatitisOutreach.com.

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.

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society:

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society: email: pineo@hotmail.com

Venus Envy Bursary Society: An annual award open to all women studying in NS. web: www.venusenvy.ca/halifax

## Amherst

Sexual Health Centre Cumberland County: Open and inclusive services: information, education, workshops, free condoms. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.cfsh.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive. Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms.

The Cumberland Pride Society: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Sunday (2-4pm)

## Antigonish

X-Pride: social & support group at X. 867-5007 web: www.stfx.ca/people/xpride

## Bridgewater

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.LunCo.cfsh.info (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead. ) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

South Shore Pride Social Club: for 19 & older. 530-5986 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca, meets 3rd Saturday (-- dances -- 9:00PM to 1:00AM) at Call or email for location.

## Halifax

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: courage449@yahoo.com, 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: 455-9656

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Ministry 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. Please 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: Bi Sexauls,

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 Drive-way) Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Bluenose Bears (BnB): BnB is a private men's membership based social group for Bears and their admirers. Membership Fees are \$5 for a year. Event Fees are \$1 for Members and \$2 for Guests. Email for more info!. email: BluenoseBears2008@yahoo.ca (Social Gatherings are generally held once a month, on a Tuesday evening. ) at Menz Bar (often) but venues vary. Sorry, no 'drop ins'. Members and their Guests only!!

DalOUT: 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

Fronrunners Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.fronrunners.org/clubs/index.php?club=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.

Get Out, 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: 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

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

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: 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: 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

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Call or email Pastor Elaine for more information. 876-8771 email: koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca (bi-weekly at 12:30pm) at Halifax Feast, Maritime Centre

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

Mount Pride: GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@yahogroups.com, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 12 noon) at The Diversity Center in Roseria on campus, and online (see email) 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.

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

Outlaw: 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: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (902-431-8500) at Halifax Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St

Play Group for Queer Families: 422-8780 (3-5pm) at 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.

Pride Week: Producers of Atlantic Canada's largest LGBTQ cultural festival. 431-1194 email: info@halifaxpride.ca web: www.halifaxpride.ca (July 19 - 26, 2009)

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

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

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

Spirituality For Lesbians: 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. 459-2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

Team Halifax: All GLBT over 18, athletes and performance artists, as well as anyone willing to help out. 422-9510 web: www.teamhalifax.com (No fixed schedule at this time, look on website for further details.)

The Youth Project: Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (6-9pm) at 2281 Brunswick Street. 25 and under. Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events. 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,

Trans Family Nova Scotia: We are the Parents, Partners, Family, Friends & Allies of Trans-Identified Individuals. supporting one another. 902-431-8500 email: transfamily@eastlink.ca, meets 3rd Monday (6:30 to 8:30 pm) at The Youth Project (2281 Brunswick St., Halifax)

Universalist Unitarian Church: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500 email: uuchurch@eastlink.ca web: UUCH.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30; see website for special events) at 5500 Inglis St Kentville

Red Door, The: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 web: thered-door.ca (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 150 Park Street

**Kingston**

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 765-2821 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: facetwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception of in November. There is two dances held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

**Lunenburg**

Second Story Women's Centre: 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.

**Middleton**

PFLAG: 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)

**New Glasgow**

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: 695-3366 email: youth.access@ns.sympatico.ca

Pride of Pictou County: All GBLT in Pictou County. web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

**New Minas / Annapolis Valley**

Valley Youth Project: Sexual Orientation. Gender Identity. Allies. Youth. email: valleyyouthproject@gmail.com (6-8:30 most

Wednesdays through May) at New Minas Civic Center, 9209 Commercial St. Ages 25 & under. Free bus tickets available. Free food. Fun activities. Join us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995

**Sackville NB/ Amherst NS**

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT2IQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-liste.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

**Sydney**

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@acbc.ns.ca, christineporter@acbc.ns.ca web: www.acbc.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

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre: 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.

Group Harrison Society: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. (902)371-8752 web: groupharrisonsociety-dancespi.piczo.com, meets every Saturday (of every month Admission \$6.50 -\$5.50 for members- Restricted 19 yrs and over) at 780 Upper Prince Street Horizon Achievement Centre (Kinsmen), Sydney

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneyns@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

Pride Cape Breton Society: 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.

**Tatamagouche**

Tatamagouche Centre: We are an affirming centre, welcoming all gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. 1.800.218.2220 email: tatacentre@tatacentre.ca web: www.tatacentre.ca

**Truro**

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre: 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

Northern AIDS Connection Society: 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.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 662.3774

RESPECT: 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): Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 893-6300 email: lyoung@nsac.ns.ca (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

Truro Pride: A group supporting GLBT individuals in the Colchester County. 895-0931 email: truropride@hotmail.com, meets every Wednesday (6:30 p.m.) at FairTrade Cafe

on Prince Street, between Commercial and Dominion Streets.

**Wolfville**

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

Acadia Women's Centre: 585-2140 email: womens.centre@acadiau.ca (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

**Prince Edward Island (902)**

AIDS PEI: AIDS PEI creates a supportive environment for PHA's to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 144 Prince Street Charlottetown, PE C1A 2R6

ARC -- Abegweit Rainbow Collective: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.com, meets 2nd Tuesday (7:30 PM) at 144 Prince Street

Gay PEI Mailing List: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-peioverner@yahoogroups.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-peI at All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list.

GLBT Youth group: Safe Space Drop-Ins. 367-3408 or toll free 1 877 380 5776 (E-mail us for further details.) at 144 Prince St.

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pflagpei@eastlink.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca, meets 3rd Tuesday at Ferry Road Centre, 24 Ferry Road, Cornwall, PE or Stratford City Hall check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.






**PFLAG CANADA**  
*we believe in love and acceptance*

**PEI Chapter**

**Contact: Mary & Bill Kendrick 902-887-3620**  
marykendrick@summerside.ca

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6080 Young Street, Suite 202, Halifax, NS B3K 5L2

# The Last Word

## Thanks Be

By Randall Perry

Thanksgiving has come and gone. All manner of beast and tofu have been consumed and hopefully what's left over will not sit mellowing in the back of the fridge until the next turkey-focussed holiday a month and a bit down the road. As my Thanksgiving pot roast was slow-roasting in the crock pot I scrolled through the current activities on Facebook, reading updates on the things people were thankful for. I sniffed at the cliché of it all. "Yeah, yeah, yeah," I thought. "We're all thankful for our families and the food and our health and the sun in the sky and fluffy kittens and the kitchen sink, yadda, yadda, yadda."

Off went the computer and on went the vegetables.

I admit that I take my life for granted. I have a (fairly) stable job which pays me (fairly) well, I have a great apartment in Halifax, a well-stocked fridge, good friends, good family, good health, and a way with

words that makes many people envious. I have a tendency to complain about my lack of luck in the boyfriend department, but it could be worse. I'm fortunate to live in a society which is open to the idea of change—I even helped to bring about some of those changes.

Other people are not so fortunate. In the October 12 issue of New York magazine I read an article called "The Hunted," which tells a horrifying tale of the violent and sometimes deadly persecution of gay men in Iraq and some people in New York City who are helping to shepherd them to safety. The story follows four men and their efforts to escape the tyranny of those who seek to eliminate them and all others like them in the name of "cleansing."

Fadi. Nuri. Sami. Ahmed. These are human beings with names. Real people with real lives. These men are just like me, with hopes and dreams, fears and longings. They are part of

our community, even though they're an ocean and a cultural world away. This is not the dark ages. Gay people should not have to fear torture and death at the hands of their governments.

Seems like my mantra these days is, there's always more work to do. We've worked long and fought hard for our equalities in this country and we deserve to pat ourselves on the back. And once that pat has been administered, we need to go talk with Kim Vance.

Kim and I go back a few years. We first met in the mid-1990's when we were both Egale board members for the Atlantic region. I was ramping up my activism and Kim was already an experienced, many-fingers-in-many-pots advocate for GLBT equality. I learned a great deal from her. And NSRAP's choice of Kim as this year's recipient of the Rev. Darlene Young Community HERO Award is spot on. I attended this year's Gala (my first

time, too) and was pleased to run into my old friend, and was impressed to find out she co-founded, along with Egale's John Fisher, ARC International, a new organization to advocate for GLBT equality worldwide.

Good on you, Kim. If anyone deserves the recognition, it's you. Give yourself a few minutes to enjoy

the laurels before diving back into the fray. I think the Fadis, Nuris, Samis and Ahmeds of the world are fortunate to have people like you and John in their corner.

And with that, I have something more to be thankful for.



### Last month's question

"Does your doctor know you're queer? Why or why not?" seemed to arouse the sleepers out there because we received nearly two dozen responses. In total, 11 answered "yes," 7 answered "no," and 3 provided comments only, but still leaned toward the idea of yes.

Some of the more interesting responses from the "yes" camp: "In order to be an effective clinician, he needs to know about all aspects of my life. For better or worse, there are illnesses/conditions that are more prevalent in the gay community. Not knowing of me being gay would blind him to possible important information." "I always interview my doctors before settling my case into their practice. My current MD is OK with it; in fact, she's a lesbian, too!" "My doctor knows that I'm gay... I figure we have earned the right to be treated equal to anyone else and if she can't handle it perhaps she should question her own work ethics! However, she is fine with it, and so have my past doctors... [I] never had any negative results due to my sexuality."

From the "no" camp: "I haven't felt the need to tell him yet. I've only recently become sexually active and until I change partners, I don't plan on making my doctor aware." "I told my doctor I was gay when I went and got tested and he told me to go to another doctor... I was not very happy, so I need to find a new doctor... I won't be telling this one I'm gay!" (If this ever happened to me, I would not only find another doctor, but I would also report this one to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.)

### This month's question:

"When will people in the GLBT community stop having to 'come out'? Will that phrase ever disappear?" You Tell Us at [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca).

# Affirming Churches

By Anne Hebb

The United Church of Canada, the second-largest Christian denomination in Canada after the Roman Catholic Church, has about 3400 congregations across Canada. Although many Protestant denominations have drifted toward the "right", the United Church has been a very progressive and liberal denomination.

Affirm United is connected to, but not part of, the United Church of Canada. The Affirming Ministry Program was launched in 1992 as a way for United Churches to stand up and publicly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Since 1992, over 50 local churches, presbyteries, conferences, educational centres, theological schools and outreach ministries have committed to the full inclusion of GLBT folks into the life of ministries as well as working to promote reconciliation within church and society.

There are 8 Affirming Ministries of the United Church in Atlantic Canada. In New Brunswick there is Centenary-Queen Square United Church, Saint John (2001); in Newfoundland and Labrador there is Carol United Church, Labrador City (2008); and in Nova Scotia the Tatamagouche Centre (2003), Bedford United Church, Bedford (2006) and St. John's United Church, Halifax (2007); as of this fall Nova Scotia will also include, St. Andrew's United Church, Truro; Trinity United Church, Shelburne; and Lower Ohio Union Church, Lower Ohio.

There are several United Churches across Canada which are currently going through the program. For more information in Affirm United and the Affirming Ministries Program, go to [www.affirmunited.ca](http://www.affirmunited.ca).

Anne Hebb is Chair, Inclusivity Committee, Bedford United Church and Co-Chair, Affirming Ministry Program, Affirm United



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Photo: Calbryn Young of St. Andrew's United Church, Truro, accepting Affirming Ministry certificate from Anne Hebb, co-chair of the Affirming Ministry Program.

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### Lay Chaplaincy Services

Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax  
5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1J8  
[uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca)  
902-429-5500

Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw Lay Chaplains  
[sstephen57@gmail.com](mailto:sstephen57@gmail.com) ♦ [armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca)

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