

WAWES

International Day Against Homophobia Does Sports: Are you "On the Team"?

by Chris AuCoin

I was a competitive athlete growing up. It started with my parents signing me up for pee-wee hockey. As neither parent knew how to ice-skate I was also signed up for skating lessons with the local figure skating club. Hockey only lasted one season but I stuck it out with the group skating lessons and after two years suddenly started to progress very quickly. Not long after that I started taking one-on-one lessons and from that point on I skated as much as possible. I entered my first provincial competition a year or two later and then I was really hooked! In fact figure skating took over my life by training year-round and competing until my final year of high school.

So why did I end up a figure skater and NOT a hockey player? Guaranteed, there are more than a

few reasons. Even at a very young age I was kind of a lone-wolf so skating fit better as I could be a solo skater, not a dance or "pairs" skater. And yes I was clearly "artistic" and expressed myself through skating as the activity kept me fairly sane during an otherwise painful and closeted adolescence. And then there was the knowledge that, even before I understood that I was sexually attracted to guys, I was "different." And different isn't a good thing amongst young teens, most especially groups of young males. While the pee-wee hockey locker room was as homophobic as the school playground, which is to say very homophobic or heterosexist, the adolescent male figure skating locker room was slightly better.

It's true that many young men of my generation avoided figure skating

like the plague and many still do. They avoid it as a result of their homophobic attitudes as much as their fears and lack of knowledge about gay people. On the other

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side, within the 'male skaters locker room' the situation was much different for me where either straight or closeted males gathered together and both groups were particularly sensitive about possible insinuations regarding their sexuality. So, while it wasn't a supportive atmosphere and the silence about the possibility of

something other than an interest in girls was often felt.

In my mid 20's I toured with Ice Capades for a season and the locker room there was quite different from the one I grew up in. The straight male skaters I worked with, and yes they really do exist, had clearly gotten over any hang-ups they might have had undressing in a room with a bunch of (by then) very out gay men. And good natured banter about sex (gay or straight) was pretty common; it was a "live and let live" atmosphere. I question whether the same can be said for most other adult male locker rooms today. In our culture sports, and especially team sports, are one of the ways boys and young men learn to "prove" their masculinity in the eyes of their peers. And even today we are socialized to



believe that the most acceptable version of that masculinity is a heterosexual one. Even if we haven't ever consciously thought about it's how we respond to the world.

Cont'd on next page

International Day Against Homophobia



and Frameline in San Francisco.

The 30th anniversary DVD will soon be mastered and will include the re-mastered, theatrical version of the film, exclusive updates on the cast and the filmmakers, and an homage to Peter Adair, originator and inspired producer of Word is Out who died of AIDS in 1996. There will be a private DVD release to project donors before public release of the DVD in 2009.

A screening of a restored print of the GLBT documentary at CBC Radio Room (1599 South Park St, at Sackville St, just off Spring Garden) 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Presented by culturalproduct.com. Cost: \$10.

Truro

Go fly a kite on May 16 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Victoria Park. Wear rainbow colors, or maybe even pink! Dig out your old kite and come on out, and maybe afterward we'll hit a coffee shop.

Moncton

Movie to Commemorate International Day Against Homophobia by Sandy Harquail Media Relations Coordinator, River of Pride- Rivière de fierté Inc.

May 17 is International Day Against Homophobia and to commemorate this day, River of Pride – Rivière de fierté Inc. has partnered with Empire Theatres, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Human Rights Committee and PFLAG Canada Moncton Chapter to screen A Single Man at Crystal Palace in Dieppe. Staring Academy

Award nominee Colin Firth, this movie is based on the 1964 Christopher Isherwood novel which was described as "one of the first and best novels of the modern gay liberation movement." The movie depicts the era's pervasive homophobia more explicitly. For more details on the time and price, please check out our website, www.fiertemonctonpride.ca or Moncton's River of Pride Facebook group.

Being a day for reflection for all of us on our challenges and successes, I read various articles on the subject and came across a comment that I would like to share with you. Someone posted a comment at the end of an internet article, entitled "Finding Safe Spaces to Be Ourselves," indicating that they were tired of having the word homophobia thrown around most times without cause. I would have to agree. I have heard



too many times one of my LGBT brothers or sisters say that someone who disagrees with our lifestyle was homophobic.

If we look at the Webster's dictionary, the word "homophobia" comes from combining the Greek "homo" (meaning same, equal, like) and "phobos" (meaning an irrational, excessive and persistent fear of some thing or situation). Now, with that in mind, if someone just doesn't understand or doesn't agree with homosexuality, we cannot label them as being homophobic.

That person could just be uneducated. They might just not know that our love for one another is felt the same as his or hers for their opposite-gender partner. That person might not know that it isn't a choice that we make but rather the way we were born, just like them. We don't choose to be heterosexual or homosexual, it is just like that.

So on this International Day Against Homophobia, let us be a little more open-minded in our labelling of homophobia. It might just be a question of gently educating them.

Come and celebrate who you are, be it gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, two-spirited, questioning, undecided

or heterosexual allies, and let's have a great night at the movies.

St. John's

International Day Against Homophobia Breakfast featuring Dr. Ailsa Craig

The International Day Against Homophobia Breakfast is an opportunity for people to get together and reach out to one another. The purpose of this event is to raise people's awareness of homophobia's harmful effects, to provide a positive image of sexual and gender diversity, and to end exclusion.

Location: The Capital Hotel, 208 Kenmount Road, Monday, May 17th, 2010, 7:15 am - 8:30 am. Schedule: 7:15 Doors open; 7:30 Breakfast is Served; 7:40 Introductions; 7:45 Keynote Speaker.

Please reserve tickets by phoning 709-579-1009. Tickets are \$15.00 picked up in advance and \$20.00 picked up at the door. Vegetarian alternative is available, please request in advance. Tickets can be picked up at Planned Parenthood, 203 Merymeeting Road

Cash and cheques only please. For more information please contact Costa at 579-1009.

Regular Columns

Chef's Corner 10 • Groups & Services 12 • ISCANs News 3 • Kibitz and Bitch 6 • The Last Word 14 • Northern AIDS Society 6 • Ramblings from the Sanctuary Garden 10 • You Tell Us 14

June Deadline: Friday, May 7 (first Friday of every month!)

Events Around Atlantic Canada

Imagine Bloomfield

Halifax — We have two important upcoming events to announce. On Sunday, May 16, Imagine Bloomfield will host our Spring Fair. On Wednesday, May 19, we will hold our annual general meeting from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the Bloomfield Centre.

At this time we would like to make a call for new Board Members. If you are interested, please forward a Statement of Interest and a short biographical statement.

We would also like to make a call for Special Resolutions. If you are a member of Imagine Bloomfield and you would like to raise a specific voting issue at the AGM please contact the Centre for details.

More information, including a membership form, are available on the website, www.imaginebloomfield.ca. E-mail imaginebloomfield@gmail.com.

Imagine Bloomfield is a non-profit society of Bloomfield tenants, neighbours and community initiatives who are working to ensure that the Bloomfield Centre fulfills its potential to be an integral, creative and viable part of Halifax's North End community.

Mermaid & The Cow Campground

Nova Scotia's one and only campground for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folk is opening on May 21 for its ninth season. The Mermaid & The Cow Campground is located in central Nova Scotia in the rural community of West Branch, Pictou

County, between Earltown and Pictou. It is a campground like no other in the province, dedicated to providing a relaxing and congenial camping experience for members of

the LGBT communities and their queer-positive friends. The person most likely to greet you when you arrive is owner/operator Jane Morigan. Jane is looking forward to getting reacquainted with returning campers and meeting new people from far and wide. "I can accommodate up to 100 people so the campground is a unique queer space for organizations or groups of friends to consider when planning gatherings and events," she says. Jane is excited about introducing the campground's new logo. "It's a great new look. People kept asking me about T-shirts. This year, they'll be available."

The Mermaid & The Cow's amenities include large campsites with picnic tables and fire pits, RV sites with water and 20 amp service, shower house with flush toilets and hot showers, and an above ground swimming pool with large deck. A cosy cabin that sleeps four is also available. Several miles of trails await hikers and there is a communal campfire on Friday and Saturday evenings. You'll find an extensive lesbian and gay themed lending library for your reading pleasure. On rainy nights, enjoy queer movies on the big screen in the summer kitchen. Croquet, washer-toss, and badminton/volley ball games are available. Ice, firewood, humanely-raised premium hamburger and farm-fresh eggs can be purchased.

Jane is happy to share her love and knowledge of agriculture with campers, taking time to talk about the animals. This year there will be five beef cows with calves out on pasture, along with big Nellie, the Belgian mare, and Rosie the pony.



You will also see a flock of free-range laying hens making their rounds on the farm property. There's so much to do within a 30-minute radius of the campground.

usually have done so long after their sports career has ended or they have achieved success.

So why stay in the closet, even in this day and age? Even at the local gym where I work out it's still common to overhear some pretty overt homophobic remarks from time to time. It's clear that many men there are oblivious to just how many gay men are (invisibly) around them every day. They are also likely oblivious to how what they say around invisible gay people may impact them. When I go to the gym I'm careful not to draw attention to the fact that I'm gay, not because I'm not out, but because

it's still an environment that may be hostile and potentially dangerous and in some instances I just don't want to take it on as I prefer my experience to be hassle-free. There is still much to do about homophobia and heterosexist societal views that harm all of us. Our friends, brothers, sisters, mothers, lovers, and so on and so on.

This year's International Day Against Homophobia campaign is aimed at the sports world. With the goal to make athletes, organizers, the media, and the general public more aware of the need to combat homophobia linked to both amateur and professional sports. Laurent Mc-

Fierté Canada Pride Conference

Explore the North Shore's beaches, museums, and historic sites or take in one of the many summer festivals and events in the area. Enjoy a visit to Carver's Pub in Pictou, breakfast at Sugar Moon in Earltown, or head out for a day of sea kayaking at Cape John.

The Mermaid & The Cow is well-situated for visitors travelling from points west on their way to Cape Breton, making it an ideal stopping place. It is the campground to go to where couples don't have to worry about showing affection and where lesbian and gay parents can bring their children to enjoy holiday time together without fear of ridicule, judgement or discomfort. It is a place where you can be free to be yourself, spending time with friends, old and new, laughing and swapping stories. Check out the website at www.themermaidandthecow.ca or give Jane a call at (902) 351-2714.

Fierté Canada Pride held a conference, "Building the Foundation," at its annual general meeting in Toronto from March 26 – 29, 2010. Fierté Canada Pride is a membership-based organization run by volunteers to promote gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, intersex and two-spirited Pride events on a national level. Co-hosted by Pride Toronto, the event brought together some 14 Pride organizations and over 40 delegates including American representatives of Inter-Pride.

For the first time ever, Greater Moncton's River of Pride- Rivière de fierté Inc was represented by chairperson Paul LeBlanc. We are very proud to announce that at this meeting Paul was elected as Regional Director, Atlantic to the national board of FCP. In his new role Paul will act as liaison for all pride organizations in



Paul LeBlanc, Chairperson/Président, River of Pride-Rivière de fierté Inc

Atlantic Canada as well as a conduit for FCP information. Hopefully it will result in bringing new members into the national organization.

Other important business during the AGM was the welcome presentation by Halifax Pride Co-host of the next conference and AGM to be held in the spring of 2011 in Halifax. Okanagan Pride was selected to co-host the 2012 event in Kelowna, BC.

Paul welcomes any inquiries. E-mail him at paulleblanc@rogers.com or check out the Fierté Canada Pride website at www.fiertecanadapride.org.

ARCPEI Schedule

Our dance-party dates are as follows: May 1, May 15, May 29, June 12 and June 26. The next dance after this date will be PRIDE on PEI. Any updates will be posted at www.arcofpei.com. For all the latest info, please log on and join our mailing list.

PUMP It Up!

This month, a new GLBT nightclub is opening up in Saint John, NB. Located in a former bank building built in the late 1800's, PUMP will cover two levels to serve the community. Your hosts are Jenny Gillingham and Troy Morehouse. The main floor will house the main dance floor, with access to the backyard patio. The lounge is located on the lower level where one can relax, socialize (without having to shout over loud music), and



play a few games. Both floors will house full-serve bars.

PUMP Nightclub is located at 507 Main Street, just across from the Lord Beaverbrook Rink. For more information, and exact opening dates, check PUMP's website at www.pumpnightclub.ca. PUMP can also be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PUMPnightclub.

Healthcare Conference

Towards Inclusive Health Care for LGBT Communities Conference St. John's NL June 12 -15, 2010

The conference will focus on three general areas: Bridge knowledge gaps; Enhance Skills; Share experiences.

Schedule: June 12 -13 - MUN

Cutcheon of Fondation Émergence (the organization that organizes Day Against Homophobia) states, "The sports world remains one of the last strongholds that apparently continue to lack concern toward the fight against homophobia. We've got to tear down the prejudice that stems from a heterosexist upbringing." Fondation Émergence plans on joining national-level athletic organisations across Canada and sports celebrities by asking them to support a declaration against any form of discrimination in the sports world.

*International Day Against Homophobia commemorates the

removal of homosexuality from the World Health Organization's list of mental illnesses on May 17, 1990, and promotes greater understanding of minority sexuality issues. For more info visit www.homophobiaday.org.



Workshop. June 14 -15 - Battery Hotel - LGBT focused workshops for health care workers, community service providers, educators, and anyone interested in enhancing their skills and working with LGBT individuals.

For more information and registration forms, please visit www.undertherainbowl.com or contact Mei Gao, Conference Coordinator, telephone: 709-579-1009, email: pp.nlshc@gmail.com. Registration deadline: May 31, 2010.

Cosmic Bowling

Truro — May 15th 7pm Bible Hill/Truro Bowling Alley, supporting May 17th International Day Against Homophobia Come get your BOWL on!!!! (trophy for top score) and then have drinks with us at Roadside Willys after... (approx. 5.00 per hour plus your shoe rental) P.S. wear white and you will glow!!!

Ryan McGrath @ Menz

Halifax — In anticipation and preparation for the upcoming album from Ryan MacGrath, "Cooper Hatch Paris," Ryan will perform with a full band at Menz Bar on Thursday, May 13. All proceeds from the show will go towards completion of the album, so come on down and be part of it. Show your support and love for Ryan and enjoy the music.

Entry fee is \$10.00 at the door with the show starting at 9:00 p.m. There will be music, dancing and some special surprises. Hope you can make it!

If you can't make it that evening, you can catch a full show with Ryan MacGrath and Gypsophilia at The Halifax Club on Friday, May 28 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$25.00. This event will be a seated concert, featuring the first-ever appearance of Ryan and Gypsophilia together on-stage in front of an audience.

Watch for an article on Ryan MacGrath in the June issue of Wayves to find out more about the CD launch and the man behind the music.

removal of homosexuality from the World Health Organization's list of mental illnesses on May 17, 1990, and promotes greater understanding of minority sexuality issues. For more info visit www.homophobiaday.org.

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 gmhc@acns.ns.ca or (902) 425-4882, ext. 222 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

IDAH Sports

Cont'd from p. 1

It's not surprising that the sports environment is still a pretty homophobic one—and surveys suggest people expect it to be a homophobic one. A Québec survey conducted in 2003 revealed that 61% of men and women believe that a gay hockey player would not be well received on a professional team. Whenever the subject about gay men in sports comes up inevitably a concern about the shared locker room gets mentioned, or at least implied. But of course there ARE gay men and lesbian women in sports locker rooms—even in pro sports. If we explore the history of athletes who have come out they

An Open Letter to ACNS

We are beginning to get the feeling that we are being ignored.

We believe that Wayves Magazine is an important tool to reach out and engage the LGBT community in Atlantic Canada. As part of our mission statement we do our utmost to support and promote non-profit organizations in the region, and we are always open to talking about and promoting these worthwhile community events without involving huge amounts of money. On average Wayves donates over \$1000 in advertising space an issue.

In the months before last year's Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life, we were looking for material from the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and other organizations in our region. The ACNS responded with a business card sized ad, the smallest possible, citing financial difficulties as a reason for the size. We replied that the size of the ad was inappropriate for the importance of the event, offering the ACNS a larger size at no charge. We reminded ACNS again that we were not looking to make money on any fundraising event and we were open to sponsorship agreements where no money would change hands.

The result? ACNS withdrew the

ad altogether, and seemed annoyed that we would criticize their original ad, again, oddly, citing financial considerations as the reason for not taking us up on our offer for a free and larger ad space. Meanwhile we learned The Coast had turned up as a sponsor of the event and was publishing good sized ads for the Walk in its pages.

Thankfully, Scotiabank, national sponsor of the Walk, came to the rescue and gave us a beautiful full page, colour ad for the Walk that ran in last year's August and September issues of Wayves. ACNS had, in their own words, "the best Walk For Life ever." We certainly cannot take full credit for the great turnout, but tend to think that the fantastic advertising Scotiabank provided us—the best the Walk ever had in our pages—was at least a contributing factor!

Afterward, Wayves and ACNS talked. We aggressively impressed on ACNS leadership that money was not a huge issue with us when dealing with non-profits. We pointed out that we are the only independent community medium in Nova Scotia that directly reaches the LGBT community, still the demographic in Nova

Scotia most affected by this horrible disease. And we talked about the ACNS' own research that showed that Wayves readers are the best informed group in Nova Scotia on

We have made it very clear to the ACNS that deals can be reached around sponsorship involving no cost to them.

AIDS-related issues.

We can't go into much detail in reporting on our discussions with ACNS leadership as we certainly didn't think that we needed to have "on the record" talks at that time. We talked, they listened and commented on our points. We thought we were all on the same page and all parted as friends.

Fast forward to April and May of this year. The Coast is given sponsorship in support of the RBC Amazing Challenge for AIDS and publishes ads for both that event and the BMO Bid of Life. Despite what we thought was mutual understanding Wayves was yet again overlooked for sponsorship/advertising for these events.

Our efforts have fallen on deaf

ears. Now it is time to invite open and public discussion within the community on this. Given that:

- We have made it very clear to the ACNS that deals can be reached around sponsorship and acknowledgment of our support involving no cost to them.

- The LGBT community and in particular gay men are still very interested in AIDS, AIDS-related issues, and the activities of AIDS service organizations.

- The only magazine in Nova Scotia guaranteed to reach queer folk is Wayves Magazine.

- The name of the organization is the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. Wayves reaches all of Nova Scotia, while The Coast's focus is mainly HRM.

We wonder what is the message being sent to the LGBT community? Is it that we are no longer relevant when it comes to ACNS events? Do we no longer contract HIV/AIDS? Are we no longer considered a valued and major fund raiser for ACNS? Or worse yet, does ACNS fear donors from the broader community will be put off by greater visibility of LGBT people?

We really doubt that any of these are the messages that ACNS wants to send. But for a group that continually points out the stigma of being queer and HIV-positive and the subsequent damage done to queerfolk by ignoring their health concerns and interests, this is really strange behaviour.

One of our great fears is the perception that our exclusion from ACNS advertising might send the LGBT community. While we certainly don't doubt for a minute the Coalition's commitment to all people living with HIV/AIDS, some assumptions might be drawn in the community's mind.

Wayves Magazine feels that this is an important problem in our community. Private discussion has accomplished very little. It is now time for the entire Nova Scotia LGBT community to weigh in on the topic. Our pages are, of course, always open—simply send your comments to submissions@wayves.ca. The Executive Director of the ACNS, Maria MacIntosh, can be reached at ed@acns.ns.ca, (902) 425-4882 or 1 (800) 566-2437, or 1675 Bedford Row, Halifax, NS, B3J 1T1. We look forward to a vigorous debate.

ISCANS Membership Drive

by Ryan Stevens

Do you what's a good time? Being a member of the Imperial Court of Halifax! We are now accepting NEW memberships for Reign X. Membership gets you a voice and avvote at all general meetings and a new title from Emperor and Empress X Of Halifax And All Of Nova Scotia Nate N! Bent and C. Leah Cruise. It also gets you in on all the fun at our many shows and other events. Over the years, we have done everything from wash cars to sell baseball cards to BBQs to yard sales. Membership also entitles you to a walk at our annual Coronation.

Here's how you can become a member of ISCANS:

1. Contact any of our Members of Parliament (all e-mail addresses listed on our website at www.imperialcourtns.com) and make payment arrangements. Annual membership is only \$10.00 and can be paid in cash or money order.

Our Cover:

About the Cover Pictured are from (l to r) Mary Anne Daye, Donna Marie, Sharon Hodgson, Kellie Manning, Lee Anne Arsenault enjoying themselves at the Halifax Pride fundraiser Fancy Gay Dress Party March 20. See Page 8 for more photos. Photo by Timothy Richard. Cover Design: Cam MacLeod.

2. Mail

your contact information and payment to The Imperial Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society Inc. P.O. Box 36098 Spring Garden Road Halifax NS, B3J 3S9. To ensure timely processing of your membership, please contact me or any executive member to inform them you have made payment in this manner.

We have a blast every year working within our community to make the lives of others through our chosen charities all the more easier. If nothing else, your \$10.00 membership is a great way to make a contribution to our charities, which this year are The AIDS Coalition Of Nova Scotia Emergency Fund, Antigonish Women's Resource Center, Manna For Health and The Youth Project.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me (Ryan) N_N_23@hotmail.com.



Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: May 7, Jun 4, Jul 2, Aug 6: 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 any time!

Production Meetings

(Halifax): Mondays: May 10, Jun 7, Jul 5, Aug 9: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

May 16, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 15: 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.

Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have 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!

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.

Advertising: Jim Bain, Advertising Manager, email at ads@wayves.ca or call 902-889-2229. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

Circulation: use the email address below. Subscriptions, per year, are in Canadian dollars: \$20 13% HST = \$22.60 in Canada, \$30 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Send cheque or money order to the postal address below.

Wayves

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Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to submissions@wayves.ca and tell us where we should be!

NSRAP Report

May 17: Participate! Be Visible! This Day Concerns You!

A young teacher is called faggot and beaten in the face while leaving an LGBT dance in Cape Breton. Another Nova Scotian teacher is told by her principal to remove the picture of her same-sex spouse from her desk. Truro and other municipalities in Nova Scotia pass laws that ban the flying of anything but government flags from municipal buildings, just to avoid flying the Rainbow Flag. An openly gay Nova Scotian MP's holiday card, featuring himself and his husband, receives such hateful comments on the Globe and Mail website that they take the comment section down. The Canadian Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism orders (twice!) that all references to LGBT rights be struck from its guide for new Canadians, "Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship." What thread ties these homophobic incidents together? One word: visibility. Those who hate and fear us want nothing more than for us to become invisible, they want us to be silent, the way we used to be. And once we are silenced and hidden, they can strip away our rights one by one.

"In families, schools and workplaces, it is not unusual for individuals to face rejection, bullying, and even violent behaviour triggered by homophobia. This in turn forces them to keep their sexual orientation a secret in order to avoid social disapproval. An inclusive society such as ours must take the necessary steps to combat homophobic attitudes and behaviour patterns and move towards full acceptance of sexual diversity." It may surprise you to learn that the author of those words was not a frontline, queer activist, but the Honourable Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec. Last December, Premier Charest's government published "Québec Policy against Homophobia: Moving

Together toward Social Equality." This policy grew directly out of the 107-page report, "De l'Égalité Juridique à l'Égalité Sociale (From Equality Under the Law to Social Equality)," produced in 2007 by Québec's Human Rights Commission. Once again, Québec is in the vanguard of social justice for its LGBT citizens.

We know that every child who

We know that every child who enters the school system in Nova Scotia is going to be impacted by homophobia and transphobia.

enters the school system in Nova Scotia is going to be impacted by homophobia and transphobia. They may be subjected to bullying and harassment for "failing" to meet conventional gender norms. They will hear the words "faggot" and "dyke" used as insults thousands of times before they even get to high school, thrown like verbal punches around the schoolyard. We know that the homophobia and transphobia we experience as children continues to impact us as adults: higher rates of alcohol and drug use; higher rates of depression and suicide; higher rates of HIV infection. Together with the incidents cited above this should be enough to inspire Minister of Justice Ross Landry to follow Québec's lead and direct the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission to do an intensive investigation of homophobia in this province.

We trade stories of homophobia amongst ourselves all the time. While preparing this article, a friend shared that he had recently been insulted and punched at Halifax's pizza corner. If done properly, a comprehensive study would bring those stories into the open so the straight community could see how homophobia

affects our whole society. It could explore the challenges facing rural queers. It could begin to document our community's extraordinary heritage, for surely our journey towards social justice is as integral a part of Nova Scotia's history as that of any other cultural group. If done with care and compassion, it could offer the healing of a truth and reconciliation commission. Finally, it would be an indelible public record of where we have come from and who we are today. We could not again be hidden away, no matter how much the current Mayor of Truro might wish it. We will

be visible. While hoping that government may act, what we can do in the meantime? As Harvey Milk urged us so many years ago, we can come out. Ever LGBT person who starts to break open their closet door blazes a trail for a friend or relative to follow. Make May 17 your coming out day! If you are already out, on May 17 be as visible as you can. Many communities across Nova Scotia will be holding events on or near May 17. Here in Halifax, NSRAP will again

be holding a rally in Grand Parade Square, starting at 5:00 p.m.

The International Day Against Homophobia commemorates May 17, 1990 the day the World Health Organization stopped classifying homosexuals as mentally ill. Eighteen years later, on every major continent our people still face harassment, government sanctioned discrimination, and even death. We are so lucky to live in Canada, yet even here the fight against homophobia is far from over. How can we help our queer brothers and sisters in Uganda and Iran if we do not stand against homophobia here at home? Be visible! Participate!



This day concerns you!

For more information about the rally in Halifax and other Homophobia Day events around Nova Scotia, visit www.nsrp.ca.

Visit historic Dildo, Newfoundland!
Stay, explore & experience something new!
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Halifax Dyke March!

Mary Kathryn Arnold and Katie Wright are organising Halifax's 1st ever Dyke March as part of Halifax

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Reproductive And Health Care Justice

Halifax — As many of you are aware, a group has been meeting bi-weekly at the Halifax Sexual Health Centre to host community discussions on reproductive and sexual justice. A successful series was held last fall and now a new series has begun for spring series.

The discussions are open to everyone. Typically a facilitator presents some background information for the first 45 minutes or so, and then opens up the floor for group discussion for the last 45 minutes. The topics are very engaging, and this is a great opportunity to learn about a diverse range of issues, and gain new perspectives. I encourage everyone

to attend.

Additionally, although reproductive justice is focused primarily on girls and women, the issue affects all persons, regardless of biological sex or gender. While the majority of the folks who have attended sessions so far have identified as female, many young men have also attended. So if you're feeling a little intimidated by the yin energy, please know that there will probably be some yang buddies in the room, so you're sure to be welcome and included regardless of your gender.

Please visit our website at www.halifaxsexualhealth.ca for more information.

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Lesbian Soap Box Diaries

Say yes to casual sex!

by L. Connors

A gay man once asked me if lesbians had casual sex. My reply was the brutal truth. "Of course we do, it's just usually followed by a two to four year committed monogamous relationship." You girls all know what I'm talking about: The U-haul Factor. Girl meets girl, girls have great sex, girls move in together. It's okay, you were in love. Right? Wrong. You were in lust.

Don't get me wrong, I've done it once or twice myself. And who can blame us. The scent of a woman's love juices is rather intoxicating. It makes your head spin. It clings to your nares and it stays with you for long after. I swear it's more addicting than heroin. I'm sure that there has been many a day when my co-workers have questioned whether or not I was a junkie. Days when you

take a deep breath in and your eyes roll back in your head. When that scent travels up and synapses go off like fireworks in your brain, sending a shock wave through your body that

Don't assume that because you can find her G-spot on an elevator between the ground and third floor that she shares your love of dogs or anything else.

instantaneously transports you back to where you were the night before. By the end of the day, you're looking at the clock and sucking back snot like a coke-head. Yup, I'm a junkie alright.

I digress. Now, before you put down the paper in search of your latest fix, let's take a look at our counter-

parts, gay men. In my opinion, gay men seem to have a better grasp on differentiating between love and sex. They are known for being promiscuous. They don't appear to have any hang-ups for needing, wanting, or fulfilling their desires for sex. I think us dykes need to suck it up and take a lesson from the boys.

Suck it up and keep sucking it up from different postal codes. In four to six months, you'll come up for air. In my experience, that's how long it takes. Don't believe me? Ask your friends how long it took for you to return their phone calls when you started sleeping with "what's her name." Once you do escape the abyss of the Bermuda Triangle, ask her if she wants children or what her stance is on abortion. You may be surprised

to hear her answers. Don't assume that because you can find her G-spot on an elevator between the ground and third floor that she shares your love of dogs or anything else.

This is just my humble opinion on one of the many issues that our

community faces. Issues that I believe we need to start talking about. Let's face it not talking about them has got us nowhere fast. It's the 21st century and I think it's time we gave up our stocks in U-haul and said yes, yes, oh God YES... to casual sex.

A note from the writer of this series

Lesbian Soap Box Diaries has been a dream of mine for some time. It is meant to be a forum to open discussion on issues that face women, lesbians and our community. It is my hope that my writing evokes your passion and challenges you to reflect your own relationships, opinions and on how your own attitudes affect others.

If you follow my column, you may notice vast differences in my writing style and contradictions in my opinions. The introductory piece to Lesbian Soap Box Diaries was written several years ago. It

was written at a time in my life when L. was my only voice. As I have found my voice and continue to practice using it in my everyday life, my writing has softened greatly. New life experiences have changed my opinions on life and love as well. It is my hope that some of you will also open my mind by sharing your own experiences.

My name is Ramona Westgate and I am L. Connors. This is my journey, my experiences and my soap box. I hope you will share it with me.

Run, Tanya Bloomfield!

By Wayves Staff

In the run of a day Tanya Bloomfield walks in many different pairs of shoes. She's a youth facilitator for the Youth Project and sponsorship director for Halifax Pride. As a business owner—of Computer Angels in Chester—she offers a full range of computer parts and services that includes house calls.

This out and proud trans-woman also finds time to take the shoes off...

to run for a good cause.

On Sunday, May 23, Tanya will piggyback a fundraiser on Halifax's annual Bluenose Marathon to raise funds for Safe Harbour MCC. "It not a specific fundraiser," she explains. "It's a way to give back and help out for all the good work that they do for the GLBT community. Manna for Health is a good example, as well as the work they do to promote trans-inclusiveness.

"MCC is very close to my heart. I'm also helped along by the fact of me turning 40... a bit of a mid-life crisis, perhaps?"

Tanya is currently in training for the event three days per week in Chester. The big difference will be that while the other Bluenose participants will be wearing their running best, Tanya is kicking off the sneaks, literally. She's planning to run barefoot. "Of the 5 kilometer [runs] I've

been doing, 2 of those [kilometers] are barefoot on paved roads. It's much more difficult a challenge than I expected, but rest assured I plan to finish the run even if I'm on my hands and knees!" she chuckles.

Tanya hopes to raise awareness of Safe Harbour MCC and draw more attention its goals and projects within the community. She invites Wayves readers and friends to support her one-woman fundraiser, which is

being sponsored by the Halifax Chronicle Herald, by donating to Safe Harbour MCC. Tax receipts for donations are available.

If you want to support Tanya e-mail here at: tanyabloomfield@yahoo.ca or MCC Safe Harbour MCC at safeharbour@eastlink.ca.

Watch for Tanya on May 23. She'll be the one with the extra spring in her step.

Northern AIDS Connection Society News

Spring is in the air, which is a good indication that some special and important events will soon be underway. On May 27-30, the Nova Scotia HIV/AIDS Skills-Building Ceilidh will be held at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. This event is a great opportunity for organizations to network with one another. Many workshops have been planned, in order to expand our knowledge base on HIV/AIDS-related issues in Nova Scotia.

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) is always looking for new and innovative ways to raise much-needed funding. Greg Langille has been a great support to NACS, donating a portion of sales for his album "This East Coast of Mine." The second track on the CD, "If You Fall," is dedicated to NACS. The CDs sell for \$18, with \$5 from that goes to support the society. Greg Langille also supports the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life every year. Thanks, Greg!

One key fundraiser for NACS, the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life, is coming up in September. Each year we always try and up the ante with the goals we set for fundraising events. This is a fundraiser that really takes a team effort, both in planning and running the event. This means that in order to be successful, we must start the whole process of forming teams to enter in the walk early.

NACS is also starting a condom co-op initiative. The idea has been in the works for some time and now, through interest from community partners, has become a reality. Many community organizations have requested condoms and we are responding to the need, enabling our community partners to purchase condoms for their organizations to distribute. An innovative way to cover the cost of the condoms is for community partners to put a team in the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life and put half of the money they raise towards these costs. The purchase of

condoms will assist in the promotion of safer-sex practices and help reduce the spread of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). For more information, please contact our office at (902) 895-0931.

Our society is extremely pleased to have been awarded \$12,000 of funding through the Lighthouse Program offered by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. The presentation was made this past February 15 by Lenore Zann, New Democratic Party MLA for Truro/Bible Hill. Karen Kittilsen,

our Executive Director, and other staff of NACS were on hand for the presentation. The board of directors, staff and volunteers of NACS are very appreciative that this funding and opportunity were provided by the Government of Nova Scotia. Through this project NACS will be taking a highly creative and innovative holistic approach towards involving youth in peer-to-peer learning—a journey of self-discovery culminating in a photography project, in which youth participants will be provided

with cameras to conduct individual PhotoVoice projects describing their conflict with the law, personal experiences with risk behaviours and what they have learned during the project, to make more informed and healthier voices.

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hi Tom,

I have this new best friend—well, I have a whole collection of best friends so don't feel abandoned or rejected. Anyway, one of my new best friends, who already feels like an old friend, is Kiki and she's this fabulous, crazy, funny woman who makes me hoot with laughter. Well the other day she was telling me how she told one of her friends about me—her new fab gay friend—and describing me in what must have been flattering terms since she reported that her friend said, "Oh, I want one of those!" Kiki felt so pleased at being able to inspire jealousy in someone. That kind of power can be intoxicating. This led to a conversation about the relationship between some straight women and gay men—fags and their hags—which led to a discussion about why aren't there similar friendships between straight men and lesbians? I mean maybe there are such relationships but I'm not aware of any. What would they be called? What is the lesbian equivalent of fag hag? Dykedudes? Gaygalguys? Are there straight men longing to go the local Home Depot with their Sappho sidekick?

Kiki asked me if I had told my gay friends about my new straight woman friend. And I was a bit embarrassed to say, no, I hadn't. I tried to cover up my discomfort with humour—you know how I am. Can we say "defense mechanism"? So I said that in my rainbow world, straight women didn't have the same cachet as gay men do in hers. She found this explanation quite unacceptable, and who can blame her really? Part of the reason for this letter is to assuage my guilt by telling you, my dear queer friend, about her.

Since she has not had a gay best friend before she is full of questions: For instance, why is the word "queer" okay but "fag" not... except in a phrase like "fag hag." I had no answer except to say that that is just the way it is. "Queer" is a word once used as an insult that has been reclaimed, but no one wants to reclaim "fag." Even the word "queer" can vary depending on whether it is used to describe the LGBT community in a nice affirming way, or whether it is shouted from a passing car while you're walking along the street.

"That never happened!" she said, with mingled outrage and disbelief in her voice.

"It has happened, and to me, about 4 or 5 months ago." I answered. "The key thing is not to react, but keep your ears open in case you hear the car stop and doors opening."

She was devastated. "It is the reality a lot of us live with," I told her. "Doesn't happen all the time but it happens." She looked so stricken and sad that I felt obliged to cheer her up so I complimented her on her new boots, got the cookies out of the cupboard and made tea for us both and she was soon smiling again. It may just have been the sugar.

Just before I left her place however, she touched my arm and said, "I'm really haunted by what you told me. I am trying to imagine having such fear or hate or anger that I would shout out a nasty name from a car window!" She smiled then but I could still see sadness in her eyes. So that conversation will continue, and I'm glad. She's a keeper.

The big media news, at least for us fairy folk, was Ricky Martin's coming out. I know it comes under the heading of: Duh! We knew! But still it is a big step for anyone at any age. I remember a friend saying that coming out is not about someone hearing the news but about us being able to say it. Out loud. So I say good for you, Ricky! I feel proud watching you strut about in those tight leather pants. Okay... maybe it is not exactly pride that I feel when I watch him shake his bonbons but it is a pleasant feeling.

Speaking of coming out. Did you see the final episodes of Ugly Betty? Oh, right—you're in Belgium so you probably don't get American television much. Anyway, there is this sweet young kid—16 or so—named Justin who has been slowly coming out, going from denying that he was gay, to having a boyfriend but not letting anyone know, to finally dancing with his cute friend at his mother's wedding. I know it's sappy but it was a lovely, sweet moment with everyone smiling at them. Call me sentimental but I just love a happy ending, especially when there are so many unhappy ones, at least in my experience.

Tommo, I've discovered a new dating website. It's a bit upscale from the sleazy sex ones I've encountered in the past. I'm still finding my way around but I'm thinking it has definite possibilities. Stand by for news updates. Gotta run, my vodka tonic is getting warm.

Love ya!

Crawford

Testing, Testing, 1-2-3...

Until now, the only places one could get an anonymous HIV test in Nova Scotia were in Sydney, through the AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton (carried out by nurses from the VON and also offered in Port Hawkesbury and Antigonish periodically) and through the Halifax Sexual Health Centre (HSHC) clinic (formerly known as Planned Parenthood). Fortunately, there is now another option in Halifax. Nova Scotia's queer community project prideHealth (a program of Capital District Health Authority and the IWK hospital) has recently been approved to do anonymous HIV testing. The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) and Pride Health have been pursuing a GLBTI-focused anonymous HIV-testing service, to be administered by prideHealth, to give gay men (and others) in the area more options when accessing testing.

There can be lots of reasons why guys don't get HIV tests done often enough (or at all) but a major one is concern about who knows the results of tests—or even that we have had a test done! "Non-nominal" testing means that your doctor (or other medical-care provider) and you are the only ones who can connect your test results with your name. The blood sample goes to the lab with a code number on it, not your name. But your doctor does have that information inside your medical file in his or her office. If the test comes back positive, the lab and the doctor will report to the Medical Officer of Health, using the code number. The doctor may record the result in your medical file and in some cases your doctor must, by law, report your name to the Medical Officer of Health. Even that level of confidentiality is not enough for many people, so they choose to not have a test done at all. With anonymous testing you don't need to provide your name, or any identifying information, at any point in the testing process.

The new prideHealth service allows you to make your appointment directly through the prideHealth

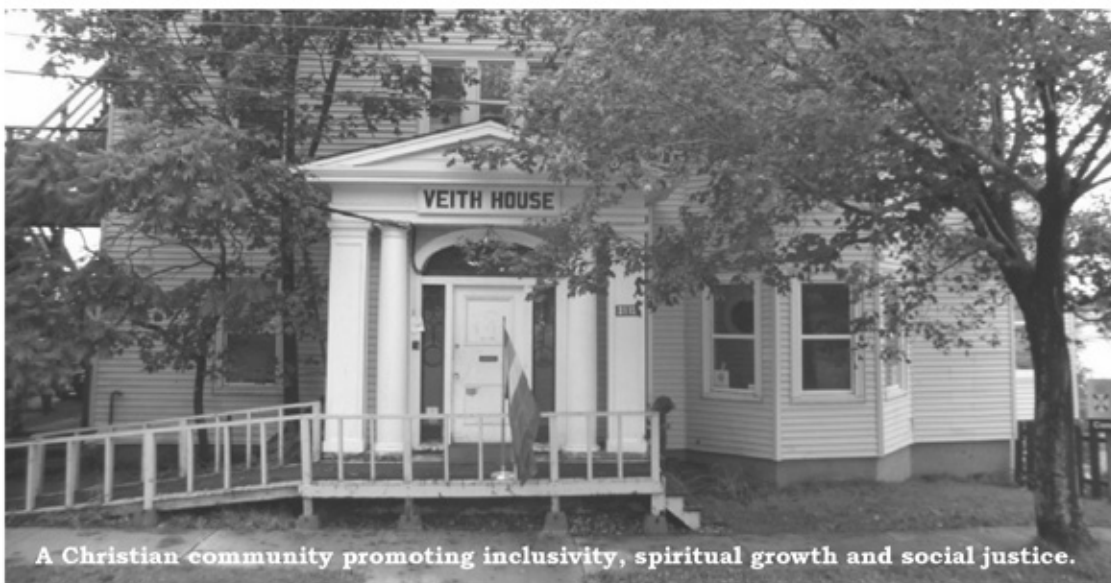
nurse Anita Keeping (and only she hears the messages on her phone service). You visit Anita in a pre-determined location (initially this service will be offered at the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia offices and the Youth Project offices, though if demand warrants it, other locations may be added). There, she will explain the process and answer any questions you have, and your blood sample will be assigned a unique identifier code. Anita draws your blood and sends it off for the test. You meet with her one to two weeks later to get your results. She does not ever need to know your name.

Getting an anonymous test is also a great way to learn more about HIV and other STIs without putting your name on the proverbial "line." For any sexually active gay man, getting an HIV test should be a regular part of health maintenance. Unfortunately lots of guys don't get tested often enough, or at all. Knowing your accurate (and current) HIV status is essential to good health and a long life, and with today's treatments, a long life is realistic even if you are living with HIV. Testing at least once a year is recommended.

To book an appointment with prideHealth for an anonymous HIV test, or to address any health issue of concern, contact Anita Keeping at (902) 220-0643. Anita's phone messages are checked by her (and her alone) so confidentiality is assured. To book an appointment with the Halifax Sexual Health Centre, phone (902) 455-9656. For anonymous testing in Sydney, phone (902) 576-1123. For anonymous testing in Port Hawkesbury or Antigonish, phone 1 (877) 597-9255.

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 gmhc@acns.ns.ca or at (902) 425-4882, ext. 222 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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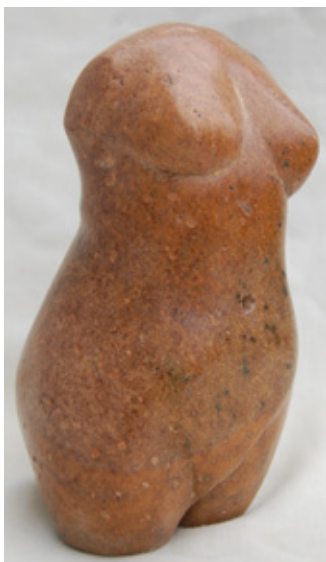


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Above: "Loving What Is" Brazilian Soapstone, Right: "Fertile Union" Brazilian Soapstone. Justine Kerr is a Scottish artist and sculptor living and working in Mabone Bay, NS. To see more of her work: www.justinekerr.com or to Facebook.

Anita's Pic



"Today in my back yard the neighbourhood guys threw a rainbow flag over their balcony... proudly. I didn't know what to do as I did not have a big flag handy. So, not to be outdone, I had coloured t-shirts which I hung out on the clothesline." Sunday, April 4, 2010. (Photo by Anita Martinez)

Unveiling Greater Moncton's 2010 Pride Logo

The unveiling of this year's Pride theme and logo took place during River of Pride's recent Yellow party. "One Heart, One World, One Pride/"

at www.interpride.org. Many new faces attended our Yellow party on April 3, and according to the feedback that we are getting, these parties rock! If you still haven't made it to one of our Colour parties, we hope to see you soon. The Colour parties are being held at Triangles Bar at 234 St-George St. in Moncton on the first Saturday of each month, and will continue until July. Next up is our

Green party on May 1! We want to thank the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the sponsor for the Yellow party gift-bag for the best outfit. PSAC has always been at the forefront of the battles for human rights and GLBT rights. They

are a strong voice and have within their own structure elected positions for GLBT representatives. They also have human rights committees in various areas in Atlantic Canada, so the members within their own union can have a voice and be heard.

Continue to check out our website regularly at www.fiertemonctonpride.ca. Activities and information are always being added.

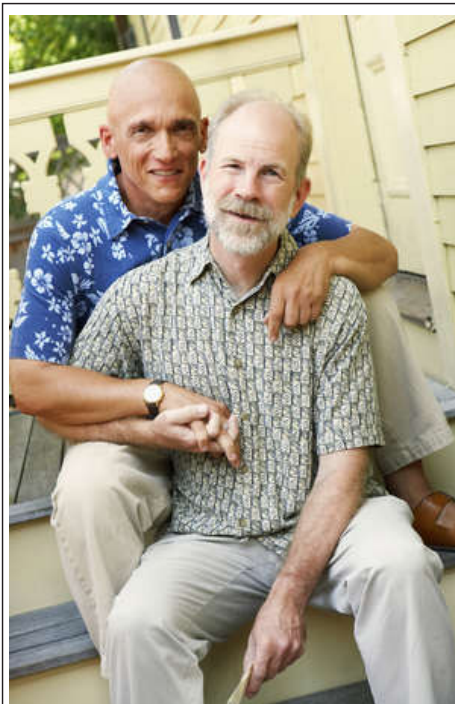


"Un Coeur, Une Monde, Une Fierté" is the international theme proposed by InterPride, of which River of Pride is a member. InterPride is the international association for organizations that produce pride events around the world. Member organizations are dedicated to producing pride events for the global lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI) community. InterPride welcomes any LGBTI organization in any country that produces pride events to join the association, attend conferences, network, share experiences, learn and grow with other like-minded people and organizations from around the world. More information is available

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Fancy Gay Dress Party Raises 14K

Photo Credits: Timothy Richard
www.timothyrichard.com



Left Photo: (l-r) Top: Will Perkins, Jamie Stevens, Dale Campbell, Sean Foreman. Bottom: Stewart Legere, Dafydd Davies



Right Photo: (l-r) Ria Mae, Margot Durling



Above Photo: Sharon Hodgson, Right Photo: (l-r) Rosie Porter, Laurie Srephenson



Left Photo: (l-r) Erin Costelo, Kellie Manning, Mary Ellen MacLean, Sharon Hodgson, Catherine Robertson

Near Right Photo: (l-r) Bob Fougere, Sam Wilson. Far Right Photo: (l-r) Jessica Raven, Leigh James Brown, Maggie Haywood, Rena Kulczycki



On March 20 more than 220 people attended the second annual Fancy Gay Dress Party in support of Halifax Pride at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront. Over \$14,000.00 was raised during the event.

A fancy gay time was had by all with a cocktail reception and dinner, photographic portraits by Timothy Richard and a live painting of the event by Sharon Hodgson. Contributing to the fun were MC Mary Ellen MacLean, comedian Catherine Robertson, singer Erin Costelo and DJ Motlette, who kept the floor hopping until 1:00 a.m.

The trophy for "Best Float" from the 2009 Halifax Pride Parade was awarded jointly to the NSGEU and the NS Public Service Commission.

"We are thrilled with the number of people who came out for the event and especially pleased to see our ties with the business community continuing to grow," said Rosie Porter, Halifax Pride Fundraising Chair. "We are also very appreciative of the continuing support of the Marriott, which gives us such a fabulous space to have this event."

The evening is Halifax Pride's largest fundraiser and table purchasers at the event included several local law firms, real estate brokerages, financial institutions and unions.

The Halifax Pride Week Festival is Atlantic Canada's largest festival celebrating the culture of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities. The 22nd Festival takes place this year from July 18 - 25. Last year over 100,000 people participated in Halifax Pride Week Festival.

- Rosie Porter, Fancy Gay Dance Party Organizer, Halifax Pride Board Member



(l-r) Dan Carroll, Matt Numer



(l-r) Rouge Fatale, Deva Station



(l-r) Top: Adam Reid, Kris Figueroa, Kimberley Fowlon, Elizabeth McQuaid, Tanya Bloomfield, Don Goss Bottom: Ed Savage, Rosie Porter, Mary Ellen MacLean, Serina Chanelle Dupreene, Kathy Walsh, Adam Noble



(l-r) Top: Rena Kulczycki, Margot Durling, Ria Mae, Bottom: Scott Campbell, Megan Leslie



(l-r) Top: Nathan Bassett, Derek Rodgers, Nicola MacNevin, Enrique Ferreol, Shane Yates. Bottom: Benjamin McGregor, Kevin Kindred, Gavin Cranford, Kyle Tingley

Community Meeting Tues May 3 6:30 p.m. Veith House • www.halifaxpride.com launches first week of May • Community Meeting Tues May 3 6:30 p.m. Veith House • www.halifaxpride.com launches first week of May • Community Meeting Tues May 3 6:30 p.m. Veith House •

Towards a Home for the LGBT Community in Nova Scotia

The Rainbow Community Centre Project

(Excerpted from the Executive Summary)

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) surveyed the attitudes, interests and ideas within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT, or Rainbow) community concerning the establishment of a community centre in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). After receiving an HRM Community Grant, NSRAP initiated the first phase of the project and partnered with other LGBT community organizations—BLT Womyn of Halifax, Halifax Pride, prideHealth and Wayves Magazine—to host a town hall meeting.

Approximately 65 people who attended discussed issues of interest to the partner organizations and the community at large, including health care delivery, improving Wayves, and more. The major topic of a community centre inspired considerable discussion and interest, and much of that discussion informed the survey developed by NSRAP.

In July 2009, 230 people were surveyed at Halifax Pride's Rainbow Community Fair. Throughout the fall and winter, NSRAP conducted interviews with established LGBT community centres across Canada. The survey was limited in scope to people who attended the 2009 Halifax Pride Rainbow Community Fair. Of the 230 people who completed the questionnaire, there was an almost even divide between female and male respondents: 99 female, 103 male, with 28 respondents who did not subscribe to any one gender. While the majority of respondents identified their sexual orientation as either gay or lesbian, there was a fair representation of all sexual orientations and gender identities, including heterosexual.

Of the limited demographic information collected 47 respondents lived outside of HRM, and 59 had previously visited an LGBT community centre, ranging from Halifax's own Youth Project to others as far afield as Toronto, Vancouver, Atlanta and San Francisco. Twenty-one percent of respondents expressed a need for culturally sensitive LGBT shelter and food bank services—36% among those identifying as transgender—indicating a high degree of economic vulnerability.

From the results of the survey:

- 95% want to see an LGBT community centre established in HRM and indicated a strong preference for their community centre to be a large, stand-alone building, with extended hours, located in downtown Halifax.

- The majority of participants felt that the most important aspect of a future centre would be to provide a venue for community social events. Other priorities included space for community meetings, a library/archive, and counselling/health services.

- The Youth Project was the LGBT organization most often

named as a community group to be consulted during the process of creating a centre in Halifax. It was also cited as a community centre frequently visited by respondents.

- While most respondents answered that they had no concerns about the idea of a community centre, many were able to identify problems that might arise in starting or maintaining one, issues such as funding, staffing and volunteers, vandalism and homophobia. Concerns were also raised about the possible lack of community and government support.

- When asked to name the most significant issue facing the LGBT community in Nova Scotia today,

most respondents identified homophobia, bigotry or intolerance.

The LGBT community feels strongly that it requires a physical, non-commercial space to provide

The LGBT community feels strongly that it requires a physical, non-commercial space to provide both a social outlet and community services. However, the community is far from naive about the difficulties to be faced in creating such a facility.

both a social outlet and community services. However, the community is far from naive about the difficulties to be faced in creating such a facility. Also, despite the many advances made in recent decades, the spectre of homophobia and the desire for

acceptance still loom large. In addition to tackling homophobia, survey respondents identified that enhancing a "sense of community" is a high priority. The creation of an LGBT com-

munity centre would play a significant role in addressing these issues.

As for recommendations, NSRAP should:

- Immediately establish an independent committee to move the community centre project forward. Working initially under the umbrella of NSRAP, this committee should begin investigating different governance models and drafting a mission statement, policies and bylaws;

- Set about the establishment of a charitable foundation as a fundraising

arm of a future community centre;

- Initiate discussion with all LGBT and allied service organizations, including those outside HRM, to ensure full cooperation throughout the establishment of a community centre, full collaboration thereafter, and to avoid duplication of services;

- Initiate discussion with all three levels of government to seek the establishment of a permanent community centre in downtown Halifax;

- Seek collaboration with community partners, pending the establishment of a community centre, to establish much needed services and social groups; and

- Identify health and social sector practitioners who might provide counselling or other services at a future community centre.

Visit the NSRAP website (www.nsrp.ca) for the full report.

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Chef's Corner



As a local restaurateur, I try to stay attuned to new culinary and dietary trends. In the past couple of seasons, we have noticed more and more of our guests requesting gluten-free options for their meals. For some, this is not a choice, due to celiac disease, which affects one's ability to digest any wheat products or byproducts. For others, it is just a new trend choosing to eat less wheat gluten as part of a diet regiment. In either case, here is Chives' famous buttermilk biscuit recipe in our gluten free variety. See... I am listening! All the ingredients for this recipe are readily available through most grocery store specialty sections and chain bulk stores.

Chef Darren is Chef/Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro 1537 Barrington St., Halifax, NS. Chives is a member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs" world gastronomical association. Awarded 2 of 3 stars in "Where to Eat in Canada" since 2005 and recently chosen for having the "Best Cuisine" in N.S. by "Taste of Nova Scotia Awards 2009." Reservations call (902) 420-9626. www.chives.ca.

Chives' Gluten-free Buttermilk Biscuits

Ingredients

(makes 24 drop-style biscuits)

1 cup potato starch	4 tbsp baking powder	1 1/3 cup cold butter
2 cups cornstarch	1 1/4 tsp baking soda	3 cups buttermilk
2 cups brown rice flour	2 tsp salt	
2 tbsp plus 1 tsp xanthan gum	4 tbsp sugar	

Method

- Mix all dry ingredients together.
 - Grate in ice-cold butter using a cheese grater, and manipulate into dry ingredients so that all the butter is coated in the dry ingredients.
 - Make a well in the centre of your dry mix and add the buttermilk. Form dough without overworking the mix.
 - Using a 2 oz portioning scoop (or two large dessert spoons) portion and arrange dough, drop cookie style, on a parchment lined baking sheet.
 - Bake in centre of oven in a pre-heated 425°F conventional, or 400°F convection oven for approximately 12 minutes, or until risen and a deep golden colour.
- Note: These biscuits freeze well in zip-style freezer bags for up to 6 weeks. Just take out what you need and pop them in the oven for a few minutes to refresh.

Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden

By Bethana Sullivan

Effective agents of change... from fear in time of scarcity to abundance springs from relationship.

I return to complete the article on the guiding principles that inform my life. The third, related area is science—what we know about the world through observation, experimentation and verification. The new sciences of quantum physics, ecology, biology and systems theory lead to a very different understanding of the world than nineteenth century empiricism.

And finally, I'm the adult child of a woman who was bound by her history and her gender yet grew her boundaries as much as she could. She grew up to go to university as a 52 year old single mother with eight children, becoming a social worker. My father was first intrusive and then absent. I survived my childhood through intuition and the memory of light from an early violent near-death experience. Drawn to heal and understand my history and the memory of light I studied the art of personal and transformative psychology. This along with one of the prime feminist principles of the feminist movement—the personal is political—led me to my natural tendency to apply these principles and ideas to our inner selves. I believe we

cannot heal the earth without healing ourselves. I believe as Starhawk writes that, "When we can express our full creativity, when our lives are filled with love and passion, when we can bring our best energies to bear on the things that we truly care about, we are far more effective agents of change."

What are the ideas and concepts we need to guide us right now? Spirit, science, perma-culture and psychology all tell me that we are at the point of a great paradigm shift. If I could characterize the change we need to make in one simple phrase, it's shifting from a focus on things to a focus on relationships, from seeing the world as made up of isolated objects and beings interacting in linear chains of cause and effects, to understanding the world as an integrated network of connections, links and flows.

And that brings me to the current happenings in the Catholic church. The push to contextualize the sexual abuse of children by priests as an aberration related to pedophilia and linking pedophilia to homosexuality is untenable except by those desperate to maintain the status quo. When I read about the sexual abuse of children by priests these days I am struck by the absence of a discussion about its relationship to power and

relationship. There is instead an attempt to link it to pedophilia and/or homosexuality. And while there are such cases the prevalence of sexual abuse is related to the relationship of trust and the position of power. It is often easier to see problems as some type of dysfunction such as a mental health disorder or aberration rather than as part of the relational interconnected values and philosophies that we often hold dear and do not examine with intent to see and understand both the strengths and vulnerabilities of such belief systems.

To see the abusing priest as a pedophile or a homosexual does not require a deep inner challenge to one's beliefs that seeing an abusing priest as someone who is abusing/misusing his power would. It makes us as a society complacent and compliant in the ongoing story of sexual abuse. Thus we do not have to examine how we are playing a role in maintaining institutional and

personal power over.

John Bently Mays wrote a recent article in the Globe & Mail on why he joined the Catholic church as an adult and why he remains. It struck me as important because his is a story of the deeper meaning of Catholicism. In relational interdependence of an integrated network of connections, links and flows, it is crucial to remember that things are not just black and white. It is crucial to remember the core of Catholicism is love and liberty embodied in all, no matter the creed. At this core is our relational power when freed from, as Mays puts it, "chasing the illusions of power." Without a core we do not have the strength or grounded power to continue the work of becoming whole.

We cannot change the one without changing the other. We cannot inspire and grow new institutions without seeing how we maintain the old first. So send your letters—march, donate, write articles, pray, meditate, stir up



your inner and outer world, compost what needs to be changed. As Mays writes, "... the time of face-saving, image management and avoidance in the Catholic Church—I mean everyone, including the Pope, the bishops and the rest of us—is well and truly over."



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Genocide in Uganda

by Gerard Veldhoven

Uganda's anti-homosexual bill may be in effect by the time this article reaches the pages of Wayves. If this bill passes, its effect may be worldwide and stupendous in that it may eventually be imitated by other regimes in eastern nations.

President Museveni, also former Chair of the Commonwealth, clearly is excited about the impending law. The outrage by the West has been strong, but will it be enough to have an influence on Uganda's lawmakers? The fact that the new proposals are so hideous and inhumane seems of no consequence to the narrow-mindedness of that nation's leaders. If passed, this bill will see not only certain death to thousands of our gay brothers and sisters, but will also have the power to imprison those who

support or knows of the existence of gays and lesbians. Further to that, doctors, nurses, or anyone caring for HIV/AIDS patients also face severe criminal charges. Patients themselves face the death penalty.

Western leaders have condemned the impending law and the leaders of Uganda. According to reports, any type of sexual activity between persons of the same sex is against the law as it exists. Now, that may escalate into a full-fledged genocide. This is reminiscent of Hitler's attempt to rid the world of those he thought to be impure. Hideous crimes have been committed against us over time. We certainly have not witnessed the end of social injustice against mankind as we now see by the intentions of Uganda's leadership. If this

bill becomes law, we have much to be concerned about, such as other countries in the east that already have some kind of anti-homosexual laws in place, including the death penalty and imprisonment. However, Uganda

Will the world listen to the cries of Uganda's gay and lesbian population and the millions infected with HIV/AIDS?

goes further and a witch-hunt is underway in that country.

Will the world listen to the cries of Uganda's gay and lesbian population and the millions infected with HIV/AIDS? We all have a responsibility to make our voices heard includ-

ing world leaders, such as Stephen Harper, Barack Obama and anyone with influence, even Pope Benedict. The Pope has his own axe to grind with Britain and Portugal. He strongly opposes England's new equality bill for gays and lesbians. He urges the Catholic leadership in the UK to vigorously fight against the bill. One MP, Stephen Hughes, said, "As a Catholic I am appalled by the Pope's attitude. Religious leaders should be eradicating inequality, not perpetuating it." In May the pontiff travels to Portugal, with a "heavy heart" as that mainly Roman Catholic country is about to legalize same-sex marriage. When will it end? One cannot quite compare Uganda's intent with the Pope Benedict's call for inequality. However, the queer community has many prob-

lems to overcome, whether it is in a country where inhumane treatment exists or a religious leader calling for an end to equal rights.

The fight continues, regardless of equal rights in Canada and other places. So many of us live in constant danger and fear! In one place it is certain death and in another place a call to disallow equal rights to all others. One is termed as genocide and the other as pure intolerance, but together it spells homophobia of the worst kind. Museveni has indicated he may scrap the proposals because of international pressure. We can only hope so as thousands will be saved from certain death. Remember this, "Injustice is the gravest error of our time."

Entering the Steam A Queer and Trans-friendly Place

by Clohë MacDonald

I've been living and working on an organic horse farm in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia with my wonderful brother, David Greenberg, who has done nothing less than bring light into my life. Together we're launching a program called "Entering the Stream" at the farmhouse just outside Wolfville on the south mountain. Here is some information on what we've been doing. Feel free to contact him or me for any more information you might need. If financing the programs is an issue for you, talk to us about it. Also, I'd like it to be clear that our home is very queer and trans friendly.

"Entering the Stream" takes place on a one hundred and ninety acre land trust fifteen minutes from Wolfville, Nova Scotia. It is a working organic farm. We have a cow, horses, chickens and a dog. We grow a lot of our own food. In the winter, guests sleep in the farmhouse and in the summer there is a big yurt for accommodation as well.

We focus on gaining practical skills in cooking, gardening and farming. Learning how to cook whole foods and garden is straightforward. We learn by doing it every day. There is a lot to learn and it's a fun process. There are classes and hands-on workshops on home gardening and in the growing season we help tend the market garden. Topics include composting, seeds and seedlings, hand dug and sheet mulched gardens, pest control, planting schedules, weeding and more. In the barn we learn about caring for and milking the cow.

In the kitchen, we make our own cheese and butter, bake bread, and practice cooking simple, delicious food based on the bounty at our doorstep. Once the food is grown and cooked, the transformation work continues at the dining table. We learn to eat so that our digestion is functional. Good digestion is crucial to good health. This takes a lot of care and focus. Chewing thoroughly, eating on a regular schedule, and taking time to relax at the table are subtle

practices that lay the foundation for good eating habits.

A testimonial: The time I've spent on the farm has had an impact on my

We focus on gaining practical skills in cooking, gardening and farming. Once the food is grown and cooked, the transformation work continues at the dining table.

whole self unlike any experience I've ever had. My body, mind and soul have been incredibly enriched by the wholesome food, beautiful environment and extremely generous people who live and work on the land. Walking between rows of fresh crops, I found a feeling of freedom and fullness that was unknown to me before.

Over the six weeks I spent on the farm, my body drastically changed. I grew into a healthier, stronger and more appreciative being. Experienc-

ing the cooperation that occurs on the farm brought out the compassion I already had and gave me a chance to help others. I acquired confidence and lots of new skills.

Spending time in the kitchen learning about cooking with fresh, nutritious foods, while talking and laughing among new friends was one

of many highlights of my stay. As my body adjusted to my new diet and spending so much time outside, I was filled with more energy and drive than I've ever had. After dinner, I had time to relax before going to sleep early inside a beautiful yurt. Sleeping inside such a sacred space was unbelievably soothing. Every morning I woke up early, eager to start the new day ahead of me. (CMD age 18)

Entering the Stream is a twenty-one day program beginning on Saturday at 12:00 noon and ending on

Friday at 1:00 pm. Participants are welcome to stay for as many days during the three-week period as they would like.

The program cost is \$420.00 per week and \$1,200.00 for the full program. The 2010 dates: May 1-22, June 5-26, July 3-24, August 7-28, September 4-25, October 2-23.

For more information or to register, please contact David Greenberg at (902)-691-6303 or send an e-mail to davidgreenberg71@gmail.com.

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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

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

Healing Our Nations: 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 listserv 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.unb.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

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-riviere de fierte INC. of Greater Moncton: The organization meets regularly, to discuss upcoming events and activities, everyone is welcome to attend. check out time / location posted on the website. Media and general inquiries, including registration of volunteers and parade participation, can be made from the website or by email. 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.)

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

Catalyst: Catalyst, Mount Allison'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.)

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT-T2IQQ 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: aidsj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aidsaintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.portcityrainbowpride.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 regulars 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 & Lab (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.

Nova Scotia (902)

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.

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society: email: tpineo@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.cfsf.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

Rainbow Warriors: Rainbow Warriors is a youth-run support group for LGBTQ youth and allies in Antigonish. We hold social events such as picnics and game nights, have educational discussions around topics such as stereotypes/assumptions and transsexuality, and raise awareness in the surrounding community by participating in functions such as the Highland Games Parade and the Farmers' Market. While our group is youth-focused everyone is regardless of age, and gender identity or sexual orientation! Find our group on Facebook "Rainbow Warriors - AAHA!". email: antigonishrainbowwarriors@gmail.com, meets every Monday (3:00-5:00pm) at The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, located in the Kirk Building at 219 Main Street, Suite 204 (above Tim Hortons).

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

Bluenose Bears (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

Frontrunners Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.frontrunners.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.

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

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@yahoogroups.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@yahoogroups.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)

prideHealth: prideHealth is a program of Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre. If you are a member of the pride community and need support with any kind of health care call Anita our Clinical Nursing Specialist, number below. She is available free of charge, offers complete confidentiality, and can also give you support if you are experiencing homo or transphobia. prideHealth- improving safe access to health care. 220.0643

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

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT 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: thereddoor.ca (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 150 Park Street

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 GLBT-T2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-list-e.asp?RegionNo=6&ProvAbbr=NB, meets 2nd Monday (Phone or e-mail for meeting location and details.) at Sackville:112 Main Street or Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

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@accb.ns.ca, christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

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

Rainbow Proud: Rainbow Proud supports the LGBT** community of Truro and surrounding areas. Our small group of volunteers work hard to put events together for everyone's enjoyment. Any feedback will be considered and can be sent to our email address. We hope you continue to come celebrate our community together. email: rainbowproud@hotmail.com web: rainbowproudnovascotia.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

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.)

Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGB-T2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadia@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)

Yarmouth

Southwest Nova Pride: Gays, lesbians and

those interested of any age are invited. We meet as a social gathering and support group and we are not church affiliated. 645-2914 email: jackanddan@eastlink.ca, meets 2nd Friday at Beacon United Church on Beacon Street

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

Gay PEI Mailing List: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pei-owner@yahoo-groups.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.

Charlottetown

ARC -- Abegweit Rainbow Collective: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm) at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)

Lay Chaplaincy Services

Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax
 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1J8
 uuchurch@eastlink.ca
 902-429-5500

Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw Lay Chaplains
 sstephen57@gmail.com ♦ armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca

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To learn more, or to set up an appointment with Anita, please call 220.0643 or e-mail: anita.keeping@cdha.nshealth.ca



Capital Health



IWK Health Centre

The Last Word

Raise a Glass to the Gay Bar

By Randall Perry

You always remember your first time. I think there's some kind of unwritten rule that your first gay bar has to be the worst gay bar in the universe. Mine wasn't quite the worst, but it certainly had its wicked charms. Picture it: the dead of winter, 1988, on the busiest street in Canada's largest city. I was in Toronto for university spring break, looking for summer work. There was no way I was spending another summer in the closet in my home village. I was born in Toronto, and like a salmon's singular obsession to return to its birthplace to spawn, I felt drawn back to the crowded metropolis by some unseen force.

I saw the rainbow flag outside the building on Yonge Street and my stomach twisted. I had never been inside an actual gay bar. In Charlotteville there were places where gays hung out—or so it was rumoured—but I had yet to step inside a real, honest-to-god drinking establishment

where it would be nothing but wall-to-wall men, all muscular, all hot, all ready to help me find my bliss. (There may not have been gay bars where I lived, but there was certainly gay porn to be rented, and I envisioned gay life as a series of video clips set to a looped disco soundtrack and dubbed groaning.)

I was anticipating this day, making myself ready to take on the holy grail of my new queer existence. I walked toward door with the rainbow flag... and walked right on by. Someone might see! I thought. Around the block I went, and back toward the flag. Once again I walked on by. After a few tries I decided that in a city of a million-plus people someone was going to see me, and wasn't that what I wanted?

Courage mustered, I pulled open the heavy door and walked in. Immediately the smell hit me: beer, worn carpet, window cleaner. And the less tangibles. Sweat. Desire.

Hunger. I saw the half dozen men at the bar turn to appraise my arrival. Something in my brain switched on and I was conscious of only one overwhelming feeling: home. It was noontime. I had never had a beer at noon. It was time to join the tribe. I may have been fresh and young and

We've won legal equalities, but our social equalities are still sadly far behind, and sometimes queers young and old need sanctuaries

naïve as they come, but for the very first time I felt relaxed and among my own. I got myself a drink and decided to wander toward the back, where it another bar beckoned.

And then I saw her. Sitting at a back table, martini in one hand, cigarette hanging out one corner of her mouth, was the oldest drag queen

I had ever seen. (Truthfully, the first drag queen I had ever seen!) Wig sitting askew on her head, big makeup and wearing a brilliant yellow dress, she saw me and beckoned, indicating the Yamaha PortaSound and stack of music cards on the table in front of her. She looked up and smiled, fluttering her giant fake eyelashes, one of which promptly fell off into her drink. Sweeping her hand at the cards—the type with the magnetic stripe you could swipe across the top of the instrument and play along with the unit—she asked me, in a gravelly voice out one side of her mouth, “Whaddya wanna heeah?”

You could have bought me for a dime. My first gay bar experience.

I soon discovered the gay village on Church a few streets over. When I returned in late April I set about the task of discovering myself in those wonderful gay-heavy places where the tribe congregated: bars, rainbow-everything shops, bathhouses,

bookstores, coffee shops and more. I experienced my first Pride Day. I met some beautiful, crazy, wise and fucked-up people. I returned home, reluctantly, four months later with my imagination fired up, ready to march to the beat of my own drum.

Years later the bar is no longer the centre of the gay universe, yet they still exist despite declining attendance. We've won legal equalities, but our social equalities are still sadly far behind, and sometimes queers young and old need sanctuaries where certain cruelties are left outside the door. I think there's still a place for the gay bar in this new century, even if it's jammed in between a yoga loft and a Starbucks.

Most of my old Toronto haunts are long gone, but they'll never be forgotten. This queer journey of mine started with a visit to a dusty old gay bar where a fabulously frumpy drag queen sang me my own personal concert. I've never looked back, except in fondness.

Why I'll Mark May 17

By Raymond Taavel

The evening began routinely enough as I got together with the Wayves team for our monthly planning meeting. After a quick discussion we settled on an obvious and important theme for the May issue, marking International Day Against Homophobia. It turned into a particularly engaging discussion and on this particular Tuesday night some of us decided to regroup at Menz Bar to carry on our conversation over a few beers.

I decided to walk home, which is a normal thing for me to do. I was feeling a beer-inspired peckishness and so I dropped into The Big Slice at Halifax's capricious Pizza Corner. The detour is not routine, but not unusual. I was in my 'hood, barely a block from my door.

All seemed pretty normal to this point—I bought a slice and struck up a conversation with the guy in line behind me, the kind of thing that tends to carry on to one of the many stand up tables. As I chowed down on my pizza slice another guy who seemed to be accompanying the one I was chatting with suddenly, caustically, asked me if I'm gay. I gave a matter-of-fact “yes,” shrugging my shoulders as if to say “... and your point is?” He retorted with, “Well you're too gay for me”—or something to that effect—and before I knew it I was on the receiving end of a backhand to the head.

Shock, fear, bewilderment, anger. These were some of the feelings that flashed through me as I glared at my assailant and his friend, who quickly made their way toward the exit.

Anger is what lingered, though as I pulled out my cell phone and dialed 911. I followed the two out the door and told the 911 operator what had transpired and attempted to give a description of my assailant. With the operator on the line I followed them down the street... down Argyle, then up Sackville and onto Brunswick, where the two split up and ran in opposing directions. I did my best to

describe my assailant as I pursued him down Brunswick, to Duke where he turned north toward the harbour.

It was at this point on Duke that, out of nowhere, four of Halifax's finest appeared on foot. My assailant had evaded us by this time, but to their credit, the four members of

Shock, fear, bewilderment, anger. These were some of the feelings that flashed through me as I glared at my assailant

HRM police continued the pursuit.

I wouldn't be sharing this with you if this whole experience weren't so terribly laden with irony, given the subject of the Wayves meeting earlier in the evening; unwelcomed reminders at best. But it reminded me first-hand about how vulnerable we are, even when we don't think so. It reminded me that as a member of Halifax's LGBT community, I take my own safety for granted and I do so because I live my life freely and openly.

I took some important things away from this experience; I cannot take my safety for granted.

I thought HRM police did an awesome job. (Aside from their awesomely burly good looks!) They offered to walk me home. I declined - reluctantly. At press time I haven't heard any new developments regarding the incident.

The guys at The Big Slice upon my return—yes, I returned—wanted to make sure I was okay and were kind enough to replace my pizza slice

as I finally made my way home.

Being shocked by this, in a way, is a good thing because it indicates we may have come to understand this kind of thing as an increasingly infrequent occurrence in our more tolerant and accepting community.

I feel the experience empowered me because instead of doing nothing I chose to act. Perhaps my assailant caught the drift that I wasn't going to give up my pursuit when he began a full gallop down Brunswick Street. But, I note, not everyone would have responded the same way as I.

It's tempting in this day and age of legislated liberties to think that a personal or collective vigilance is no longer required. It's easy to lull ourselves into complacency, thinking there's nothing more left to fight for, or nothing more to achieve. Fighting back comes in many forms: reaching out, building bridges, educating and, if need be, defending ourselves from physical harm.

I've been reminded first-hand via a backhand why I'll be marking May 17.

PFLAG 
CANADA
...is returning
to Halifax!!

Join us on the
first Thursday
of every month,
6-9pm at the
Halifax Youth Project
2281 Brunswick Street

Contact Michelle Malette

992.431.8500


**NEXT ISSUE
DEADLINE:
First Friday
of the Month**



Last month

Last month's question was, “What do you plan to do to mark International Day Against Homophobia (May 17)?”

We received a few responses. Here's what some of you said:

“I intend to walk down Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street holding my partner's hand. Furthermore, a huge thanks to the pioneers before us for allowing us to express ourselves without shame or remorse!”

“As of yet nothing just found out about it when I came to wayves.ca.”

This month's question:

“How have you responded when faced with homophobia (or internalized homophobia) in your life?”

You tell us @ www.wayves.ca.



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May 2010



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International Day Against Homophobia

May 17