

WAYVES

Halifax First Ever Dyke March



Several hundred very enthusiastic individuals walk up Brunswick Street during the first-ever Halifax Dyke March on Friday, July 23 during Halifax Pride Week. The event was not without its controversy, however, over its inclusiveness of Dyke allies. While a large presence of men and women allies participated in the march, no Halifax Pride Board member was present. Photo by Anita Martinez.

By Mary Kate Arnold

On the evening of Friday, July 23, the night before the annual Halifax Pride parade, around a hundred people gathered at Victoria Park for Halifax's first-ever Dyke March. At the pre-march rally, emcee Rena Kulzycycki introduced four speakers, each of whom fired up the crowd.

Lawyer, Liberal and local lesbian Catherine Meade was the first to speak, her wife Rita touchingly holding the megaphone while Catherine spoke. "This is what marriage is like," she quipped, before addressing the crowd. The theme of Meade's speech was "Tomorrow we celebrate, but tonight we march." Standing in front of a banner which read "This is a march not a parade," Meade reminded the crowd of the struggles for equality the dyke and trans communities have yet to

win. She named lesbians in South Africa who have been victims of "corrective rape," also mentioning the persecution Eastern European dykes and trans folks face. Yet her speech looked forward with hope, acknowledging the historic occasion of holding a Dyke March during Pride in Halifax. She encouraged marchers to march in the Pride parade as well, telling the crowd that Halifax Pride is

richer for providing the opportunity both to celebrate during the Pride parade and to protest for better rights for dykes and trans people in the Dyke March.

Shelley Taylor, owner of Venus Envy Ottawa and founder of Venus Envy Halifax, was the next to speak. Taylor spoke out against the growing corporatization of Pride festivals, alluding hopefully to the recent Take

Back the Dyke March which enjoyed great success in Toronto. Next up to speak was Stacey Montgomery, a local trans woman. Montgomery called on Nova Scotia to fund sexual re-assignment surgery, to eliminate male/female gendered bathrooms, and to make schools safe spaces for trans youth. Rebecca Rose was the last speaker, taking Halifax Pride to task for having lost sight -of its original political goals. She observed that in all of the Halifax Pride promotional materials, there was "no mention of political demonstration or protest."

The marchers left Victoria Park led by Rena Kulzycycki and Mary Kathryn Arnold, taking the street at the corner of Spring Garden and South Park, with the help of Dyke March Marshals Jean Steinberg, Jess Geddes, Katie Wright, and Jessica Carlile. At the back of the march was a section for non-trans allies who wanted the show their support without stealing the thunder of the Dyke Marchers. A mobility van followed the march, carrying marchers with mobility issues. J. Mary Burnet provided music for the marchers, with a sound system attached to her bicycle. Marchers chanted their way up South Park past the CBC building, turning right onto Sackville Street. Winding along

Citadel Hill, they broke into an oft-repeated call and response chant: "Tell me what community looks like?" "This is what community looks like!" Marchers turned left onto Brunswick Street, chanting a variety of creative chants, such as "We've got it goin' on! 'Cause we say women are really strong!" Passing the Metro Centre, then the Trade-Mart building, the Police began to escort the marchers. Marchers turned left on Cornwallis Street, climbing up the hill to Gottingen Street. The march ended just past the Company House on Gottingen at Cunard Street, where marchers gathered to celebrate with Freezies, dancing and an open megaphone.

The Halifax Dyke March was the brainchild of Mary Kathryn Arnold and her partner Katie Wright, but was organized by a collective of dedicated volunteers who worked together tirelessly to effect this amazing and wonderful political change in Halifax (in no particular order): J. Mary Burnet, Jean Steinberg, Michael Davies-Cole, Rebecca Rose, Rena Kulzycycki, Emily Davidson, Shannon Pringle, Su Donovaro, Jessica Carlile, Jess Geddes, Jae Awmack, Tanya Bloomfield, Kaley Kennedy, Michelle Malette, Hayley Gray.

"Cooper Hatch Paris" CD Debuts at In-store Launch



Ryan MacGrath launched his CD, "Cooper Hatch Paris," at Tax Records, Halifax on July 31. Ryan recently performed with Laura Smith and George Antoniak. The official CD launch will be held at The Carlton, Halifax, on Tuesday, September 21. www.ryanmacgrath.com. Photo by Raymond Taavel

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October Deadline: Friday, Sept 3 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca

The ScotiaBank AIDS Walk for Life in Atlantic Canada

Donate! Register! Donate! Register! Donate! Sponsor or BE a walker in your community Visit www.aidswalkforlife.ca

Events Around Atlantic Canada



Happy Birthday Judy

On July 27, friends and family of Judy Davis gathered for a birthday celebration on Patterson Wharf Park in Tatamagouche. Judy passed away on June 14. Her obituary appeared on page 21 of the July edition of *Wayves*. Be fitting any great birthday party, there was cake, ice cream, a barbecue full of burgers, hot dogs and steak, corn on the cob, and music, including recordings of Judy herself performing her own songs. One guest said, "This is an activity which Judy would have loved, and one which never happened during her life: friends, family and fellow activists all coming together to meet and enjoy each others' company." In this photo Gabe, Catherine, June and other friends reminisce over memorabilia spanning forty years of Judy's life of social activism, environmentalism, and equality.

Integrity: Anglicans

By: Rev. Canon John C. Smith

On a beautiful afternoon, Sunday, 15 August, a small but enthusiastic number of people gathered to celebrate the re-establishment of a monthly Eucharist sponsored by IntegrityNSPEI. The event took place at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax overlooking Victoria Park, which welcomed a mixed group of young and old, male and female, gay and straight with the purpose of intentionally expansive worship within the Anglican tradition, and of course food and fellowship afterwards.

Continued on Page 10

Moncton AIDS Walk

On Saturday, September 11, SIDA / AIDS Moncton invites all residents of the Greater Moncton Area to help give hope to people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in their community by participating in the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life.

During the national week-long event, cities and communities from across the country host Walks to raise funds for local services and programming and to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. As Canada's most important HIV/AIDS awareness and fundraising event, the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life has now raised

over \$30 million for community-based HIV/AIDS service organizations since 1996 and has attracted well over half a million participants.

Every dollar and donation raised during the Walk will be reinvested directly back into the community through the services at AIDS Moncton. These services are available to all community members and include access to workshops, health promotion information and referrals to organizations that can help enhance the quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS. Our numerous prevention programs include awareness campaigns, information resources, workshops on how to create safe environments for GLBTQ youth and prevention education presentations throughout the Greater Moncton Area.

Upon registration walkers are automatically eligible to win a variety of incentive prizes. Fundraise online for your chance to win an iPod Nano or a Dell Studio 15 Laptop, or even the First Place Top Walker Prize Pack. This year, AIDS Moncton welcomes Porter Airlines as our Gold Sponsor. This year's First Prize for Top Walker is a travel prize pack complete with two round-trip tickets to Toronto and other goodies.

There is no registration fee or minimum amount to be fundraised. Come out for an afternoon of walking, running, entertainment, barbecue and prizes, and support

your community in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

For more information, or to arrange for interviews, please contact Kate Doyle, Events Coordinator, SIDA / AIDS Moncton Inc. at (506) 859-9616, e-mail kdoyle@sida-aidsmoncton.com or visit the websites www.aidswalkforlife.ca and www.sida-aidsmoncton.com.

Kate Reid: Review + Appearances

"I'm just warming up" by Kate Reid CD review

by Connie Lavigne-Terry

Sounding like a mix between Ani DiFranco with Sarah McLaughlin meets the Dixie Chicks, Kate Reid's album "I'm just warming up" is one lyrical journey after another. Considered dyke-folk rock, her songs are mellow but politically-driven. Lyrics are definitely her strong point, she can certainly tell a story. She comments on everything from the missing women in Vancouver's east side to homophobia to tales of an ex-boyfriend and everything in between. Even in the liner notes she comments about what she was doing or thinking while writing each song.

The instruments on this album definitely take a back seat to the lyrics but that doesn't mean they should be forgotten. Kate plays a mean harmonica on a few of the songs on the album and the other musicians that play with her are equally as talented. The ukulele and shaker on the song "No more missing daughters" help make Kate's voice pop and the lyrics resonate in your brain. The violin and mandolin on "Reach to You" bring you to a place where it feels like you are listening in on a private conversation between two new lovers.

Kate is definitely a must-hear artist, whether you see her live or listen to the album. If you are a lyric lover or just enjoy a good story in song form then Kate certainly has something for you. Please check out her website at www.katereid.net for more information.

Following are some of the confirmed dates for Kate's upcoming fall tour of the Maritimes: **Sackville, NB:** September 29 at the Bridge Street Café, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Admission by donation. **Moncton:** September 30 at Plan B, from 9:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Admission \$5.00 at the door. **Tatamagouche:** October 1 at Fables, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Admission is free. **Saint John, NB:** October 2 (or October 3) at the PUMP Nightclub, admission-\$12.00 (or \$10.00) for PCR members. This event is sponsored by Port City Rainbow Pride Inc. For more information contact Mack at (506) 648-9227 or e-mail communications@portcityrainbowpride.com. **Berwick, NS:** October 8 at the Union Street Café. **Halifax:** October 9 at the Company House (performing with Bonnie St.Croix) Admission: \$10.00 – \$15.00.

Moncton Magic

The Greater Moncton LGBT Community forum has been up and running since August 2009. I am pleased to announce that we are now at over 180 members, and the website receives over 200 unique hits per month. I started this site hoping that it would help to bring us closer together by giving everyone the chance to voice their opinions, concerns, beliefs and anything else that is important to them as a member of the gay community. So far all the work and effort in putting this site

together and keeping it updated has been definitely worth it.

Moncton Magic has many features including a photo gallery, a Calendar of events that will keep you updated on activities that will be happening in the greater Moncton area, a news page, guestbook, contact information, and of course the LGBT community forum where you can voice your opinion or join in on any of the open discussions. The site also includes a live chat feature where you can join in a conversation with any of the members when they are online.

Thank you all for taking the time to check out the site at www.moncton-magic.webs.com and feel free to register to receive updated news as it becomes available.

South West Nova

South West Nova Pride meets on the second Friday of each month and between these monthly meeting usually conduct two social activities. We now have over fifty members on our e-mail list and our monthly meetings, held at Beacon United Church in Yarmouth at 7:00 p.m., attract anywhere between twelve to twenty attendees.

For the first time ever we entered a small decorated truck as a float in Yarmouth's Seafest Parade, in which a baker's dozen of us marched the Saturday before Halifax's Pride parade (which we also attended the next week). We were very well received by the onlookers at the Seafest parade, who greeted us with waves and cheerful smiles.

As a viable organization, South West Nova Pride has kept up a busy social calendar. We meet at Tim Horton's on Water Street for coffee and conversation once or twice a month on different days at 7:00 p.m. We go

For more Halifax events:
gay.hfxns.org

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!

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for brunch usually once a month at different local restaurants. A scavenger hunt game was recently held at the Yarmouth Historical Museum, and a picnic was held at Comeau's Hill. We go bowling as a group, and potluck suppers and holiday parties are held at members' houses. There's always something interesting to do, and we want you to get involved.

South West Nova Pride can be reached at (902) 645-2914 or by e-mailing Jackanddan@eastlink.ca.

Halifax Pride Closes 2010

By Nathan Boudreau

All of us at Halifax Pride hope you're all well-rested from a great week of Pride events. As with every year, after all is said and done, we gather one more time as a community to finish off the year and elect new board members.

This year our Annual General Meeting will take place at the Atlantica Hotel, on Robie Street in Halifax (the former Holiday Inn City Centre), on September 7 at 7:00 p.m. During this time the final reports will be delivered and attendees will have a chance to voice comments and concerns. Come out and let your voice be heard, and express your interest in becoming a member of the board of directors.

The Halifax Pride committee would like to extend a big thank-you to all those who contributed and participated in this year's festival, and we look forward to another great year leading up to 2011 Pride.

If you have any comments, questions or event ideas for next year's Halifax Pride, please drop us a line via e-mail info@halifaxpride.com.

NSRAP's Annual Fundraising Gala

by Hugo Dann

In a year that finds many proudly celebrating the centenary of Canada's Navy, it is especially fitting that the person behind ending the ban on LGBT persons serving in Canada's forces should be the keynote speaker at NSRAP's Community Heroes Gala. Michelle Douglas joined the military in 1986 and was at the beginning of a stellar career when she came under intense investigation by the military police who suspected her of being a lesbian. After being discharged as, "Not advantageously employable due to homosexuality," Michelle launched an historic legal challenge against the Canadian Armed Forces that resulted in an end to the military's discriminatory policies against gays and lesbians. Michelle Douglas went on to be the founding president of the Foundation for Equal Families, and since

2005, she has served as the Chair of the Canadian Board of Directors of Free the Children.

The fabulous Candy Palmater will



Michelle Douglas

once again host the event and the evening will feature the presentation of the Darlene Young Community Hero Award. For 15 years, NSRAP has been the leading advocate for LGBT Nova Scotians. This annual dinner and silent auction is our most important fundraiser and we are profoundly gratified that so many come forward to support our efforts. This is a period of rapid growth and high activity for NSRAP and we need the community's engagement more than ever.

The Community Heroes Gala will take place at 6 pm on October 23, 2010 at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel. Tickets for the event are \$100/person, \$1000/table of 10. For more information, or to book your tickets please call (902) 444-3206 or e-mail us at nsrap@nsrap.ca.

Moncton: No So.Ho

After just a few short months in business, Moncton's Club SO.HO has closed its doors.

Or, more accurately, the same doors are still open...but those who enter them looking for a gay dance bar will likely leave sorely disappointed. The business recently reopened as a female strip club now known as "Bikini Village."

Nando Speranza, the owner of the now-closed CLUB SO.HO, has converted the club back into an "exotic entertainment" establishment, citing a lack of support within the GLBT community for the dance bar. (Prior to the opening of Club SO.HO, various businesses operating at the same location—including Bikini Beach and Night Magic—had offered similarly exotic entertainment.)

Speranza, the owner of the building, appealed successfully to the New

Brunswick Assessment and Planning Appeal board in June, seeking to once again begin offering exotic entertainment. The Club Formerly known as SO.HO sits across the street from Moncton High School.

"They've ruled that they have non-conforming use rights for exotic entertainment," confirms Bill Budd, the executive director of the Greater Moncton Planning District Commission, referencing a hearing on June 24 that ruled in favour of Speranza's request. That ruling, says Budd, made repurposing the venue as a strip club possible, provided all other licensing requirements are met. "The appeal board has made its decision. If [the building's owners] start up again they basically have to follow the province's rules with regards to how these establishments are licensed," he says. "It's really now up to the Department of Public Safety."

Public reaction to the business's re-re-branding remains to be seen. But given how much contention has brewed in the past regarding the proximity of strip clubs situated in the same location to the high school, it's unclear whether the club will continue to operate footloose and Bikini-free—or whether the future has yet more last-minute twists in store for this Village.

Our Cover:

One of the many people and posters on display during the first ever Halifax Dyke March

Photo by Anita Martinez, design by Cam MacLeod.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: Sept 3, Oct 1 Nov 5, Dec 3: 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: Sep 7, Oct 4, Nov 8, Dec 6: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Sep 12, Oct 10 Nov 14, Dec 12: 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.

ISCANS News

ISCANS Enters the Back Nine

By Nathan Boudreau

It's that time again, the time when you get your dose of upcoming events and happenings in the ISCANS world. We all survived Pride Week, sunburns and all. For those who heard about our Divas baseball cards and didn't get a set, rest assured as there will be a second printing in the coming month or so and this will be available for sale. As with every year, various other Coronations happen throughout North America and members of ISCANS were in attendance in Hamilton, ON and Edmonton, AB.

During the month of July the Emperor and Empress conducted a small challenge, to which the Empress came out victorious. With a raffle draw for a weekend in Antigonish, C. Leah Cruise and her team sold tickets like crazy, raising a whopping \$1,700. While Emperor Nate lost the challenge, he wants to extend a HUGE congrats to his Empress.

Coming into September ISCANS is entering the other half of its year, and what a year it has been so far! September bring us a rather special



show: our monthly show normally held at Menz Bar will be put on by our very own College of Monarchs. Our past Emperors and Empresses will be there to entertain you all, and I am sure some of your favorites will be out as well. Cover will be \$5.00 and start time is 9:00 p.m.

Got comments, concerns, or ideas for ISCANS? Drop by our website at www.imperialcourtns.com and check out the contact page and drop someone the Executive a line and let us know your thoughts and ideas. For now, have a great month and welcome the students back to town.

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.

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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!

LGBT Elders Meeting in Halifax

by Daniel MacKay

On August 15, twenty Halifax elders assembled for a pot luck brunch and discussion at Spencer House on Morris Street. Organizers and NSRAP contacted as many people over 50 as they could prior to the meeting and they will be counting on word-of-mouth to expand the number of people who might be interested in participating in future gatherings and events.

The food was certainly enjoyed as everything was homemade and varied from crescent rolls to "posole," Mexican celebratory soup, to a variety of salads, and date squares for dessert.

In the photo (right) people are finishing their meal while Lynn led a discussion of topics that a regular meeting of elders could address. There were a couple dozen ideas; thoughts mostly centered around social gatherings and outings. A need was expressed for internet education.

Hugo Dann presented current activities of NSRAP that pertain to elders: NSRAP would like to support this group with things like continuing to print posters, offering Hugo's time for organizing things as well as ASL interpretation for events. NSRAP will raise any issue relevant to the LGBT community, including those of elders.

Our community is the largest cultural minority in the province and deserve recognition, including telling our history. Currently, NSRAP is working on LGBT-friendly certification of senior care for Nova Scotia.

There are two more Elders meetings planned: one on Sunday, September 19 and then on Sunday, October 17 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Both meetings will be pot lucks, so bring your cucumber or cress sandwiches, scones, clotted cream, Victoria sponge or whatever you like to make and eat. To RSVP or for more information, contact Hugo at (902) 444-3206 or e-mail hugo@nsrap.ca.



Tanya Fights to Stay in Canada

Tanya Bloomfield doesn't shy away from any challenge, small or large. She runs a small business, Computer Angels, in the small NS community of Chester. In May she raised over \$3,000 for Safe Harbour MCC by running Halifax's annual Bluenose Marathon barefoot. And recently she's taken up the challenge of fighting to stay in Canada after a number of unsuccessful attempts at temporary residence and work permit renewals.

Tanya finds the denials puzzling.

"I arrived in Canada legally [in 2006]," she explains. "I've followed due process with immigration and with the guidance of my lawyers, meeting all of their requirements through out the time I've lived here."

She's now filing an application for refugee status, fearing that because of her gender identity and sexuality her life would be in danger if she were to return to her native Northern Ireland.

There's a potential twist to this story in that Tanya's father is Belfast's Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, a high-

ranking former head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. Tanya points out that even though her father is supportive, the relevance of her family connections may or may not come into play if she were to return to the UK. "Regarding [me] being trans and my father's position, I feel that regardless of being his daughter I still would face hate crimes and would fear for my safety. However, given the high public profile of my family it exacerbates that somewhat."

Tanya's not without public or

private support, however. Her numerous friends are backing her up with much-needed moral support and her lawyer, Lee Cohen, is working tirelessly on her behalf.

"The community here, straight or queer, has been fantastic and supportive," she says. "I've been stopped in the street in Chester and Halifax and people say it's disgusting how I've been treated and hope that [I'm allowed to] stay."

If Tanya Bloomfield's application for refugee status is approved, she

could stay up to another year and a half; otherwise, she may have to leave Canada as early as the end of August. But as far as common courtesy goes, Tanya is dismayed at the lack of a small, personal consideration: "Immigration refuses to use feminine pronouns or refer to me as Ms," she says.

She remains enthusiastic that the outcome will be positive.

Suffering Sappho, It's Murder!

Halifax LGBTQ writer Nadine LaPierre has signed on with major American lesbian-fiction publishing house, Bella Books, for her thriller-romance series set in Halifax. Bella Books (www.bellabooks.com) provides "romance, mystery, thrills and passion, for lesbians, about the women we love."

"It's so rewarding to know that women from all over the world will be reading my work," says the long-time Halifax resident. "I've written many queer-themed mystery plays, but I

had never written a novel before. I still have to pinch myself sometimes, that my very first novel not only got published right off the bat, but has spawned a series, and that iconic lesbian author Katherine V. Forrest is my editor.

"Little did I know so many years ago when I was first coming out and reading 'Curious Wine,' that this author would end up becoming my editor one day. Little did I know that I'd even be writing novels!"

"The Slayer," the first book in the

series, introduces lesbian RCMP Constable Danielle Renaud, and her close friend Lilly Marsh, a lesbian crown prosecutor who is also Mi'kmaq. Both live, love, and work in Halifax.

"It's a mystery, it's a touching romance, it's a thriller, it's a serious drama, and it's got its hilarious moments too," says the author. "One thing I strived to create with this book was a gripping page-turner. I'll only know when it comes out in print if I really succeeded, but if the response to my manuscript is any indication,


I'm hopeful so far that I have."

Nadine LaPierre has a sample of her writing, a short story entitled "How Sweet It Is," available for free download on her website, www.nadelapierre.com.

"I also have extremely exciting news to come that I can't quite announce yet, but if you're a fan of music, especially singer-songwriters

who are lesbian, you may want to keep an ear out," says Nadine. Keep reading Wayves or visit Nadine's website or her Facebook fan page (look for the RCMP uniform) for future announcements.


"The Slayer" will be released in 2011. Wayves will run the announcement of the book launch and signing at that time.



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Lesbian Soap Box Diaries

Alone

By L. Connors

If you really want to know the desires of your heart and soul, try ignoring them. I don't personally advocate this type of tumultuous self-exploration; however, I have always been the type to learn life's lessons the hard way. You see, your subconscious speaks to you in much the same way a mother would speak to a small child on a busy street. Softly, patiently, and lovingly at first—explaining the dangers that lie ahead. Setting clear boundaries to protect you from getting hurt, or from hurting others. But if you are as defiant as I am, you know that if you continue to ignore these gentle prodings, they will grow more forceful. And left undisciplined long enough, your subconscious will grab hold of you and shake you to your core—getting progressively louder until it wakes you from a restful sleep at 3:00 a.m., if it allows you to sleep at all.

My subconscious spoke to me, very quietly and with a simple two word suggestion: "Be alone."

If you are anything like me, then there are no more frightening words

than those two. And so I rationalized, argued with and ignored my way around this advice. I tried to convince myself, that it wasn't that I needed to be alone; I was just with the wrong girl. And so I found another, and then another, until my life became a multi-car pileup of women,

Each new partner stood beside the wreckage of the previous, saying "You are hurt. It's okay—come with me. I'll take care of you."

relationships, and yes, engagements. Each new partner stood beside the wreckage of the previous, saying "You are hurt. It's okay—come with me. I'll take care of you." It is hard to hide from your own neuroses when they are so evidently on display for the world to judge.

Please do not think that I hold any illusions about this self-destructive behaviour. But my subconscious is very conniving. And when I couldn't find the strength to hurt another woman by leaving her, and choosing myself (ironically, in fear that

I would actually end up alone), my subconscious left me stuck in this destructive pattern long enough to push these lovers of mine into leaving. And my well-meaning friends—each convinced I was making a mistake by not trying to work it out with this one, or letting that one get

away—they too eventually echoed the mantra of my subconscious. And the rest of the world, those supportive or otherwise, who could not stop themselves from watching the train wreck that had become my life, also joined in the chorus.

And so, my cunning subconscious returned from its recruitment tour accompanied by its own chorus line, everyone chanting in unison "BE ALONE!"

And so I am Alone. And it is surprisingly peaceful. Most of you may already know this, but I'm learning

that when you are single, you are truly free to explore yourself without worrying about hurting someone else's feelings in the process. I can quickly run in the grocery store to pick up milk, run into three old friends, spend \$100 on toiletries; no one ends up annoyed that they have been waiting for me an hour and that I forgot the milk. I can go to Tim Horton's in the morning in my pyjamas or to a wine-tasting in cowboy boots without embarrassing anyone. I can paint my bedroom five different colours in five days until I decide on my favourite, without worrying at all if anyone else likes it. And I can dance naked,

bellowing out my favourite song that has been on repeat for the last hour, without any complaints.

And so I begin my journey as a single lesbian. I can do, I have done and I will continue to do all of these things for myself. I will take the time to decide what I want in life, and what I am not willing to give up or compromise for a relationship. The process is very freeing and exhilarating and I have learned that it is not being alone with myself that is the difficult part. The difficult part is avoiding the company of other women. But that is another story....

Antigonish Pride

Another Pride planning meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, at 7:00 pm in the Space, Room 215, Bloomfield Center on the St. F.X. Campus. How to fund the events, booking spaces and getting things arranged were discussed.

Here is the proposed schedule for Pride week: Tuesday, October

12: Flag Raising in the morning, St F.X. campus; Lit Night, St. F.X. campus; Wednesday, October 13: Movie Night; Thursday, October 14: Venus Envy (not yet confirmed); Friday, October 15: Variety Show in the evening; Saturday, October 16: Ecumenical Service in the morning; Parade in the early afternoon; Dance

in the evening; Sunday, October 17: Sports Game. More specific times and locations will be available at a later date.

For more information, please contact Michelle at antigonishrainbowwarriors@gmail.com.



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FRI: BOGO for \$3 (till midnight)*
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* Check the events calendar on our web site for details



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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom,

Well, things are gradually returning to normal—and I use the word loosely—in my apartment now that the painters have gone. It's been a good chance for me to sort through stuff and give the old heave ho to some detritus that has been lingering on book shelves and in closets.

As a lovely respite from this thankless toil I went sailing last weekend with Dr. M. and friends. There is something very soul-reviving about that combination of wind and sun and small cans of chardonnay. The pleasant light banter of old friends—some of that banter supplied by me, of course, although Dr. M. can more than hold his own when it comes to the smart ass comments—is such a solace during times of stress occasioned by modern life. I had barely gotten my land legs back under me when they were knocked away again by Dr. M. serving margaritas back at Casa Martini. Luckily I didn't have to do anything except sit at table and savour corn on the cob beautiful steaks, potato salad, and pesto made with basil whose freshly-plucked leaves had fallen under the chopping knife only moments before serving. There may have been music playing but I only recall the murmurs of appreciation that circulated around the table. Later, after wine and more margaritas, I was dozing quite contentedly while watching a concert DVD of Barbra. Homo heaven really!

Dr. Martini's new beau, The Rock Doctor, is an old friend of mine although they didn't meet through me, oddly enough. So much easier when the boyfriend of one's friend is already a friend—know what I mean? It cuts down on the adjustment time. I've had friends in the past whose beaux or belles—depending on gender and orientation—were just not my cup of tea shall we say, and it is exhausting trying to pretend to like people who are so clearly unsuitable. With TRD, no such effort is required, which is lovely since I am worn out with worry about other matters. I didn't want to tell you, Tom, but I am once again among the ranks of the unemployed. If a decent job opportunity or a handsome, hung sugar daddy doesn't come along soon I don't know what I shall do. Thank God for call display so that I can avoid those phone messages from the bank wondering where their payments are. Worse than telemarketers, really.

A bright light in this somewhat gloomy situation was the wedding of a niece of mine. So fortunate when one actually likes a relative—and so rare, as you shall hear! Anyway, this adorable offspring of my brother got married on a bright, warm day on the beach near

her parents' house on the South Shore. The sun on the ocean dazzled the eyes—mine got quite misty from the glare—as she walked barefoot up a sandy aisle to meet her dashing handsome groom—also barefoot in his tux. I felt quite giddy with happiness for them both. Of course, what would a family wedding be without the contrast of those whose lives so clearly demonstrate how sour the nectar of marital bliss can turn? I'm speaking about the sharp-tongued harpy that one of my other brothers chose as his beloved many years ago. The only thing worse than her glowering frown is when she attempts to smile. The effort is clearly so foreign to her face muscles that she can only achieve something resembling a German Shepherd baring its fangs. Amusing to contemplate on the ride home—once I knew I had safely escaped.

The big excitement here in Crawfordville was the making of a movie right here in town. Apparently it has some sort of Christmas theme and there were bright coloured lights and holiday wreaths adorning storefronts on Main Street in the middle of a heat wave. One day, while walking home from the grocery store, I was advised by a young man with a walkie-talkie that I should not stare across the street since they were in the middle of shooting a scene. I hadn't had the slightest notion of staring until he mentioned that I shouldn't. Then I was immediately overcome with a desire to stare, run into the middle of street shouting obscenities and/or picking my nose. I was able with difficulty to repress these untoward urges but my curiosity was piqued I must admit. Please, please, please I prayed to several divinities, let this movie not star Julia Roberts or Tom Cruise! Apparently this business of the power of prayer is legitimate, Tom, since I found out the next day that neither JR nor TC were among the featured players. The only "name" I heard mentioned was Sam Elliott. Remember him, Tom, with the Wally Walrus mustache and the gravelly voice? I'm not normally a fan of facial hair, especially when it is allowed to run rampant like a neglected hedge—70's porn doesn't count—but I have to admit to having more than a few moments of fantasy about bodily parts that would enjoy closer acquaintance with Mr. Elliott's hirsute upper lip. Alas, he left town without ever experiencing that mutual pleasure.

Love ya!

Crawford

Affirm United Conference



From July 30 to August 2, the Annual Conference and AGM of Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble was held at Tatamagouche Centre in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. This year's theme, "A Place For Us All," hosted over 40 participants from across the country.

Affirm United/S'affirmer ensemble is an organization of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities within The United Church of Canada. Their work includes:

Education: to promote greater awareness of sexual orientation and gender identity issues

Action: to work to end discrimination against people in church, society and our own organization

Support: to help people of all sexual orientations and gender identities find support and community within the United Church.

Perhaps best known locally for its Affirming Ministry Program, there are three Affirming Ministries in Halifax Regional Municipality (Bedford United Church; St. John's United and St. Matthew's United, both in Halifax) and four outside HRM (Tatamagouche Centre; St. Andrews United, Truro; Trinity United and Lower Ohio Union Church in the Shelburne area.) There is one Affirming Ministry in New Brunswick, Centenary-Queen Square United Church in Saint John. There are approximately 68 Affirming Ministries within the United

Church across Canada.

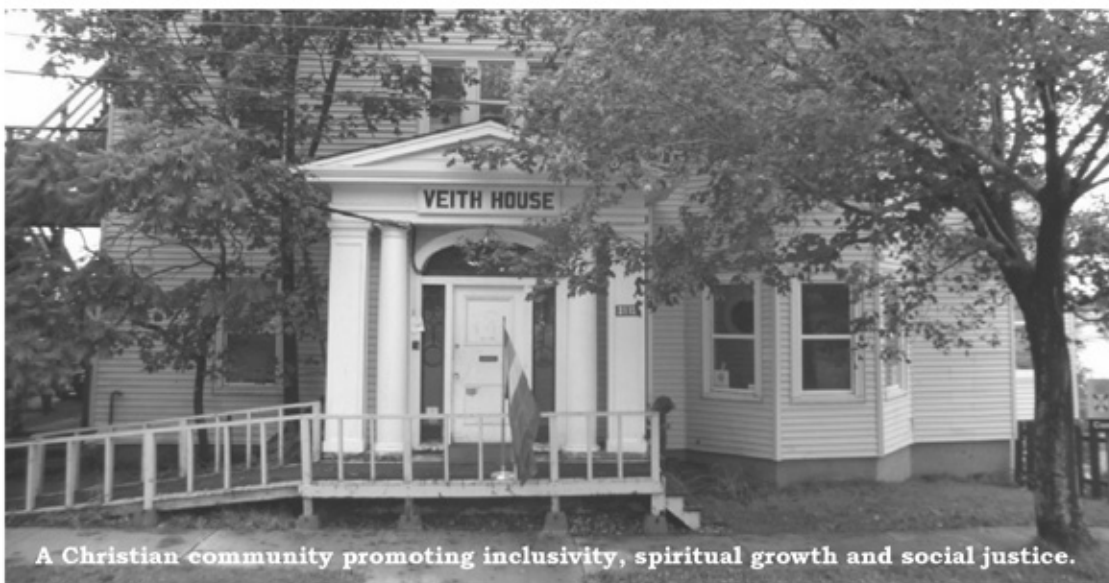
This year's conference featured speaker was Rev. Michael Blair. Michael is the Executive Minister, Intercultural and Diverse Communities in Ministry unit of the General Council of the United Church of Canada. In his ministry Michael focuses on education, profiles ethno-cultural issues, and advocates for racial justice to nurture a better place of belonging for ethnic minority peoples and congregations in the church. As Michael shared his personal stories of discrimination he challenged us to look beyond the single stories that brought us together and share our whole selves as we invite others to join us in our journey for justice for all.

Along with workshops on Rural Ministry, the "Bi" ways of life, Racial Justice, and Relationships, we had Halifax's own Julien Davis as a presenter. He discussed the challenges faced by those in the transgender community. His workshop was received with overwhelming praise for his honesty and humour.

Our conference was filled with worship, song and fellowship made possible by the Maritime planners and the great hospitality of the Tatamagouche Centre.

If you would like to learn more about Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble, please visit the website at www.affirmunited.ca.

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I Am What I Amherst Amherst Celebrates Pride Week

By Gerard Veldhoven

A rainy day was forecast for July 12 and for awhile we feared the annual Pride Flag raising at Amherst Town Hall would be a washout. Fortunately, an hour before noon, the clouds began to fade and members of the Cumberland Pride Society set the stage in front of town hall. There were refreshments along with a huge Pride cake with the caption, "Amherst Celebrates Pride." Despite the forecasted rain, the upbeat spirit could not be dampened as people began to gather on the steps of town hall.

At noon the Society's Chair, Sue Read, welcomed all present. One could sense the pride of the queer community as Read began to speak with conviction and assurance. The large crowd cheered her on as she said, "Once again Amherst is bursting with Pride. Each and every one of us has the right to dignity, respect and equal treatment." She went on to say, "We in this great nation may set a positive example to other parts of the world where diversity is not part of society, and that it is okay to be different and yet be embraced." To loud applause she continued, "We, in Canada and right here in Amherst, Cumberland County and Westmoreland County in New Brunswick, are rightfully proud of the fact that we are in a position to be able to have a celebration of this calibre."

After expressing appreciation to Amherst Town Council and Mayor Robert Small, Read called on the mayor to address the crowd. Mayor Small pointed to the fact that Amherst is proud to host such an important event for the third year in a row. The mayor also read the Amherst Pride Week Proclamation to the delight of us all. Also in attendance were nine members of Amherst Town Council and CAO Greg Herrett which speaks volumes.

Reid then invited Mayor Small to join her at the flagpole to raise the symbol of the queer community. As the flag was hoisted, Corey Hunter sang, "I Am What I Am." Tears were evident as we watched and listened.

Once again Amherst is bursting with Pride!

The Pride flag flew at Amherst Town Hall for the remainder of Pride Week, a truly wondrous time for all of us.

Warden of Cumberland County, Keith Hunter brought his own congrats and presented a signed proclamation from the Warden's office. Judy Giroux, Constituency Assistant to MP Scott Armstrong, brought greetings on Armstrong's behalf. Springhill Mayor Allen Dill also could not attend but a town councilor was on hand. Cumberland North MLA Brian Skabar also was unable to speak due to a serious family health issue. Our thoughts are with Brian.

On a light note, Sue Read asked me to speak and after a few words of expressing great pride I presented the Cumberland Pride Society's Mascots. Representing the animal world two dogs, Fred and Ben, were escorted

to the podium. I was elated to see bright Pride scarves around their necks. Fred whispered in my ear, very softly, that he met Ben online. Then Ben made his way to me and said in a loud bark, "Fred is very sensitive to all my needs." After a thunderous applause, I installed this great couple as Mascots of the Cumberland Pride Society.

Unfortunately, our annual Pride Family Barbecue Picnic was cancelled due to rain. A movie night was held on July 13 and a downtown barbecue on July 14 and 15 saw lots of town folk snacking with the proceeds going to the local food bank. This took place at Fred's mom's place as a two-day event.

The Cosmic Fruit Bowl held on July 15 was well attended and fun was evident at the Campout at Sue and Debbie's cottage on July 16. Also on held July 15, the Gay-la Dinner and Entertainment was once again a big success. Towards the end of dinner Corey Hunter entertained us royally as Miss Roxy Dior. A few members of the Cumberland Pride Society also joined with Truro's Rainbow Proud for the Canada Day Parade in Bible Hill. A wonderful parade followed by a barbecue picnic hosted by Rainbow Proud.

Another Pride Week celebration has ended but I would suggest celebrations and raising awareness must be dealt with all year around. Kudos to Argentina's parliament, the latest country to change its marriage laws to include same-sex couples. Slowly but surely the queer community witnesses great strides. Unfortunately, we cannot stand idly by, as discrimination remains a serious issue everywhere, including our own country. Nevertheless, we celebrate Pride in recognition



Cumberland Pride Society mascots Fred and Ben. Photo by Gerald Veldhoven

of all we have accomplished thus far, keeping in mind equal treatment is not yet ours to enjoy in many cases.

That's it from Amherst and Cumberland County. Check next month's

Wayves for more updates and fun from this border town where my queer brothers and sisters know how to rock to Pride celebrations.

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Halifax Pride Draws Tens of Thousands



FreshMeat

FreshMeat: A Bear Dance was held at Halifax's Bus Stop Theatre on Saturday August 14. The free event featured DJs Simon T and Danny B. Organizer Danny B was pleased with the night's turnout and is already contemplating organizing another one. Here Danny B (second from right) hangs out with FreshMeat guests. Photo by Raymond Taavel.



MASQ



Masq held its Goth-themed dance at Club 1668 on Saturday, August 14. Above, two unidentified Goths contemplate working out a midnight snack. Retro Night will be the next Masq theme on Saturday, September 25. Photo by Raymond Taavel.

Moncton Rainbow Party

Moncton Rainbow Party on Saturday, August 7. Triangles Manager, Erica Swan, glowing with "les boys" at River of Pride pre-Pride Rainbow Party. Photo courtesy of Moncton Pride

Random Halifax Pride

Photos courtesy of Hal Walsb, Randall Perry and Raymond Taavel

Southwest Nova Pride Marches in SeaFest Parade



By Diane O'Dea

Photo courtesy of Diane O'Dea

On July 17, 2010, as the fog disappeared and the sun came out, so did South West Nova Pride, making history in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Ours was the first GLBT group to march in the annual Seafest parade, and what a spectacular sight we were!

The float included lots of rainbow flags, Nova Scotia flags, South West Nova Pride banners, rainbow umbrellas, and, as one might expect at the Seafest parade, lots of nautical favourites, including a ship's bell and large lighthouse, all surrounded with bright green fishnet.

Our float came with its own Sea Captain, accompanied by her special guest, Nikki Taylure, and proudly followed by twelve group members dressed in costume and showing as many of the rainbow colours as possible.

As our music played we marched down Main Street, sending out subtle messages to the onlookers. Between each song, the ship's bell rang out three times. Our members, relatives

and neighbours carried signs bearing all-inclusive messages in French and English championing diversity, Pride, acceptance and support.

To our delight, we were well received by the people of Yarmouth, with waves, signs of acceptance, cheers, clapping, smiles, and people calling out, "We are so proud of you!" And, of course, the cameras were clicking.

It truly was a day to remember. We made a bit of history in South West Nova Scotia, celebrated our first public coming out and showed we're proud of who we are.

Some of us who participated in this great event had felt a bit nervous beforehand—a little unsure about how we would be accepted. But when it was all over, everyone expressed feelings of empowerment, joy, strength and bonding that we had seldom experienced before this day, if at all: we are out and proud.

If there is a message for us in all of this, it is for us to remain strong and be proud of who we are.

Opera Queeria – Halifax Summer Opera Workshop



Opera Queeria Caberet cast performed at Menz Bar Halifax August 10.
Photo by Raymond Taavel

Now in its sixth year, HSOW is a four-week training program, giving participants the chance to hone their stagecraft by learning and performing a complete role in an opera. Scott-Stoddart says “[HSOW] is the only program of its kind east of Montreal. It’s a unique opportunity for theatre and music students to study opera in the Maritimes in a supportive setting.”

This year, the program is not only supportive, but outright celebratory. HSOW hosted its first annual Opera Cabaret at Menz Bar, featuring a wide range of sexy, queer and pleasure-positive cabaret material such as “Sexy Lady,” “I Am What I Am,” “La ci darem la mano,” “I Never Do Anything Twice” and “Glitter and Be Gay,” performed with gusto by several of HSOW’s young artists to a mixed assembly of opera lovers, friends and Menz bar regulars.

One of the two operas presented in this year’s season, Handel’s 1735 opera seria “Alcina,” boasts more than a hint of homo-eroticism and gender queerness. In this staging (stage direction by Garry Williams, musical direction by Nicole Bellamy),

Alcina runs the anarchist-lesbian nightclub L’Eliso, where “monstrous pleasures” and “gender impersonation” are not only permitted, but practiced.

In modern practice, the male warrior hero (Ruggiero), originally sung by a castrato, is now conventionally performed by a mezzo-soprano. Moreover, the romantic heroine (Bradamante) arrives disguised as a man only to be wooed by Alcina’s sister (Morgana). Finally, the young boy (Oberto), in search of his father, has also become a bona fide pants role.

Set in 1936, this production recalls the experiments in free love and gender inversion that flourished in the years between the World Wars. Alcina appears wearing a Marlene Dietrich-style tuxedo, surrounded by a cast of mostly women in costumes (fashioned by Bonnie Archibald-Awalt) hinting at iconic lesbian identities of the 1930’s.

In his encyclopedic reference book, “The Changing Room: Sex, Drag and the Theatre,” Laurence Senlick posits that gender impersonation—a staple of opera seria in

the Baroque period—was, in its own time, deliberate and political. “The multiplication of disguises and cross-purposes” he writes, “were savoured because they were complex and hinted at the vagaries of sexual taste.”

There are few experiences more powerful, important, and sometimes terrifying for artists to be able to tell—or hear—their own stories on stage. In the case of queer artists and audience, this perhaps rings even truer. In his Director’s Notes, Williams writes: “In some ways, we live in Alcina’s world. Canada is often perceived as a socialist state, protecting certain freedoms and socialist values. There is a real and constant possibility the freedoms will disappear.”


Nina Scott-Stoddart, an operatic warrior hero in her own way, unerringly defends these freedoms. HSOW celebrates, protects and nurtures queer artists studying opera, and continues to enrich the Halifax theatre and music community with two fully staged operas every summer. I whole-heartedly look forward to next summer’s program, and the fabulous second annual Opera Cabaret.

By Ray Gillis-Mawr

Nina Scott-Stoddart, HSOW’s co-founder (with Tara Scott) and General Manager since its inaugural pro-

duction of “Così fan tutte” in 2005, set out to create a safe, supportive environment for young artists. In so doing, the self-proclaimed “bisexual leather-mezzo” has also created an artistic safe haven for young queer opera singers.

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Well into the summer harvest, it's time to celebrate all of the tender young vegetables at their finest. This vegetable side dish is a traditional Maritime favorite and one that I am sure many of you grew up with. There are as many variations of this dish as there are families in the region, but the gist of this dish is potatoes, peas, corn and beans all cooked together in double cream and butter with fresh herbs. This wonderful medley of flavours is a great side for any fish, but also nice with barbecue pork ribs and chicken.

At home we always had mustard pickles as a condiment and lots of fresh crusty bread to soak up all the sauce. A version of this dish is now on the Chives Bistro summer menu served as the side to Basil Pesto and Shrimp Crusted Haddock.

Vegetable Hodge Podge

Ingredients (serves 4-6)

2 Tbsp butter	1 cup sweet peas	1 1/2 cups double cream (35%)
1 small onion (small dice)	1 cup mix of green and yellow beans (1 inch pieces blanched)	Sea salt and fresh cracked black pepper to taste
2 cobs corn (kernels shaved off, reserve cobs)	1/2 cup chicken or veggie broth	
2 cups halved baby red potatoes (par cooked and cooled)		

Method

- Sweat the onions in butter over med-high heat until translucent. Add the corn cobs, stock and cream. Bring to the boil then simmer covered for 1/2 hour to release the corn flavour into your cream mixture. Season the cream mixture with salt and pepper to taste at this point.
- Put all of the veggies into a lidded 4L casserole dish and pour the cream mixture over the top. Cover and bake in a 350°F oven for 30 minutes, or until vegetables are fork tender.
- Remove to a hot serving platter making sure to get all of the sauce. Top with chopped fresh chives and flat leaf parsley.

Integrity Meets

Cont'd From P. 2

Integrity is an international organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Anglicans, their friends and supporters formed to encourage Christian GLBT persons in their spiritual lives; and provide a welcoming place for us all in the Anglican Church.

Following the General Synod of the Canadian Church held in Halifax early in June, which affirmed "the full inclusion of gay and lesbian members in our churches; and that despite our differences we are passionately committed to walking together, protecting our common life", a number of concerned Anglicans decided that it was time to have a more formal presence in the diocese that could continue the educational process of ensuring that GLBT persons had full inclusion, acceptance, and participation in all of the rites and activities of the church.

Many GLBT persons are active in all levels of church life, and although some gay people have been badly hurt by negative attitudes and ignorance; Integrity invites our hurting brothers and sisters back to the Church by demonstrating Christian care and

faithfulness. Integrity provides a safe place for all to be open, honest practicing Christians sharing their love, gifts and ministry with the Church.

There is still much work to be done to overcome the grudging tolerance, anti-gay prejudice and rhetoric, and sometimes open hostility among some clergy and parishes. However attitudes are changing; and we are committed to promoting a non-exclusive environment where GLBT persons may explore their spirituality and wholeness, and openly participate in the life of the Church without pretence about their sexuality or experience of grace as gay Christians. In this regard an Action Group is being formed to prepare documentation for the 2011 meeting of Synod regarding same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex couples.

The next Integrity Eucharist will be celebrated at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax on Sunday, September 26th. at 4:00pm. All are invited to attend. Everyone is welcomed; come as you are; come who you are.

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Review: Splinters



A play by Lee-Anne Poole
Review by Mary Kathryn Arnold
Lee-Anne Poole's "Splinters" opens and closes with a clever metaphor, but she's more than clever. While we laugh as 28-year-old dyke Belle's secret boyfriend of two years, Rob, falls all over himself when he drops a bag of coffee beans trying to sneak his way into Belle's mother's house in Sambro, Nova Scotia, the gag turns serious when the audience realizes it's only a little slapstick but a big statement about the things we can't hide from our families, despite our best efforts. He literally spills the beans, the sound echoing both the "splinters" of the title and the split

identity that this play bravely takes on. Belle's father has just died. They weren't close, but he at least accepted her sexuality. It is after his act of unconditional love performed in Belle's childhood that the play gets its title. Belle's homophobic mother, Nancy, on the other hand, wants only what she nostalgically thinks heterosexuality might bring her daughter: the stability of marriage and children. Mother and daughter have long had a stormy relationship, fraught with unfair and unrealistic expectations, but also filled with love and passion. It doesn't help that Belle's straight little brother Greg, a cook who has recently experienced his own roman-

tic heartache, lays on further expectations, attempting to mould the independent big sister to whom he has always looked up into the prodigal daughter who moves home and saves the domestic day. Thank Goddess Belle knows how to fight back when saddled with a guilt trip!

Bisexuality just might be the last taboo of the queer world. Yes, books get written on it, famous folks admit to it. But does our vast rainbow community, especially the dyke

side of it, really welcome bisexuals the way it welcomes gay men, lesbians, and trans people? I've seen biphobia in action and it's not pretty. Poole does a wonderful job of articulating the complexities, realities and nuances of sexual fluidity (to use a fashionable term) and being a bisexual woman. She also puts her finger on female ambition and the challenges of the choices women are asked to make at a young age, as both daughter and mother want for each other the things they deserve and haven't gotten. If there's a heartbreaker in this play—and there was for me—it's this push and pull between the frustrations of the past and the possibilities of the future.

Vanessa Walton-Bone was great as Belle's mother: mourning, wounded, manipulative, coming unhinged, but entitled to all these things because she's just lost her husband. Belle can't understand her mother's newfound piety, but why should she? Nancy has spent a lifetime misunderstanding Belle. Local queer Stewart Legere, as the ardent but baffled boyfriend Rob,

was convincing as a straight man. I don't know if it's the hairdo or his inability to be genuinely mean to Belle when they fight. Lewis Wynne-Jones was delightful as the rakish kid brother Greg. But my girlfriend and I thought Stephanie MacDonald's Belle was the weak link. She was attractive, defiant, and convincingly torn, but not quite believable as a

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jennifer@aidsnb.com

AIDS New Brunswick offices:
65 Brunswick, Fredericton, E3B 1G5
270 Douglas, Bathurst, E2A 1M9

General info:
aidsnb.com

Walk info:
info@aidsnb.com (Fredericton)
north@aidsnb.com (Bathurst)

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: Youth Health & Support Centre. Information and services for sexual health. Ages 13 - 30. 679-1411 web: thereddoor.ca (Monday to Friday 2pm to 6pm) at 150 Park Street

Kingston

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 825-3197,363-2055 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: faceitwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception in November. There is two dances

held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

Lunenburg

Second Story Women's Centre: We offer a meeting space for women, support counseling, 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 GLBT 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-T2IQ 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.

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: tatacent@tatacentre.ca web: www.tatacentre.ca

Truro

Central Nova Women's Resource Centre: Resources, programs and services available for all women identified women. Advocacy and support - with outreach to rural areas.

Also, see our Facebook group. Central Nova Women's Resource Centre http://cnwrc.weebly.com, cnwrc@eastlink.ca 535 Prince Street, Truro, NS B2N 1E8 (902) 895-4295. web: cnwrc.weebly.com

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: northernaidsconnectionssociety.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: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

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

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 (7:00pm) 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

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Gay PEI Mailing List: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pe-owner@yahoo-groups.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pe 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)

Who,
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 That's it. That's all you have to write. Then send it to us, and you might see it in a future issue of Wayves! Just send us an email at submissions@wayves.ca right now!

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The Last Word My Big Gaydar Fail

the RCMP's silly yet infamously malicious "Fruit Machine," identifying the banana amongst the oranges is a game contemporary society likes to play.

Gaydar's a funny thing. Some people swear by it, others dismiss the idea as nothing more than the ministrations of an overactive imagination. I have a friend who swears that any man can be had, as long as the stimulus and circumstances are correct. When I asked him, "Then, given the reverse, you could be had by a female?" he replied with a fierce and definitive, "Fuck, no!" thus shattering the dreams of many a cougar.

I don't know if gaydar exists. I'd like it to exist. I'm not so good at detecting my own kind, when it comes to paying attention to the little signals dropped or the "Um, hello? Queer here!" cuff upside the head. Perhaps this is why I seem to have such rotten luck meeting guys—I either blatantly overlook or don't sense the very clues that lurk right under my nose!

If it only were so simple, like we thought it was back in school. You knew a guy was "that way" if he checked his nails in certain manner (fingers outstretched, palm down instead of curled in, palm up) or looked at the soles of his shoes by kicking his heel back and looking over his shoulder instead of lifting his foot and looking down.

I clutched my school books to my chest—what a girl!—instead of carrying them at my side only because it was more difficult for the bullies to kick them out of my grasp and down the hall.

There was also the earring thing that came into vogue in the 80's... if a guy wore a stud in his left ear, he was straight; in the right, fruity as a nut-cake. I have both my ears pierced, but I've not worn my earrings since 2005. Am I confused?

Time goes by, people mature, but the fascination with man-on-

man endures. I'm just as fascinated as the next guy, especially when he's interested in putting his tab A into my slot B.

But I'm kind of shy (really!) and not very good at figuring out either the obvious or the subtle, so I need more practice. Lots more. Too bad there's not a definitive book on the subject. The best I can do is keep my

eyes open and if I notice someone checking me out, I need to calm my breathing ("calm blue ocean... calm blue ocean...") and do some checking out in return.

Back to the cab driver and his pet theories for a moment. At the end of the ride, after I paid my fare, he asked me, "So, what kind of a pet do you have?"

"A cat," I replied.

The driver eyed me for a moment. "But no gerbil..." he offered.

I really felt for the guy. For all his blissful ignorance, he was still kind of cute.

"No gerbil," I said. "It wouldn't fit up my ass so I fed it to the cat."

randall@wayves.ca

by Randall Perry

Years ago a cab driver told me he could figure out a guy's sexual orientation simply by his choice of pet.

"Cats," he said. "Gay dudes have cats. Straight, it's a dog."

"Seriously? Seems kind of simple to me," I said.

"There was a study. I read about it. It was on the Internet," said the driver.

Ah, a study.

On the Internet. That makes sense.

He continued, "Cats are feminine. Needy, arrogant, bitchy, you know? Gay guys are drawn to them. Dogs are masculine, though. They're loyal and laid-back."

"...and obedient and generally not very bright," I quipped.

"Pardon?"

"Nothing. Thinking out loud." It was dark and this guy was bigger and more tattooed than me, so I figured, play along and see where this conversation goes.

"Know what I think?" The driver dropped his voice to a conspiratorial half-whisper. "I think they have gerbils. Gays, you know. Like that actor they said, the one who sued that paper for printing he put it up his ass."

Yep, that sad urban legend. The Tale of Richard and the Gerbil. Even if every piece of yellow newsprint vanished from existence tomorrow the story would still live forever on some backup tape.

It seems since the word homosexual was coined everyone and his dog has been on the hunt for the origin of gay, and the ways and means by which the gay is detected are as varied and numerous as the armchair scientists who come up with them. From the "Spot the Gay!" schoolyard ritual to

*... since the word
homosexual was coined
everyone and his dog
has been on the hunt
for the origin of gay.*

Letter

Thank You from River Of Pride

River of Pride – Rivière de fierté Inc. would like to take a moment to give a special thanks to all our sponsors and volunteers, without whom PRIDE 2009 would not have been such a big success. We also want to thank the outgoing committee for all their hard work and dedication. A new year has started and with it a new Executive. They are: Paul LeBlanc, Chairperson; Nathan Adams, Vice-Chairperson; Gregory Leblanc, Treasurer; Sandy Harquail, Media Coordinator.

We still have some vacant positions on the Board of Directors and invite YOU to get involved. Please feel free to check out our website at www.fiertemonctonpride.ca for the vacancy that might interest you and

we look forward to meeting you.

If you have any questions, please e-mail with Paul Leblanc at paulleblanc@rogers.com.

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**Information, pledge forms, questions:
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