

Wayves

Sackville, N.B.: We Aren't Here

By Janet Hammock

As you know, Roger Goodwin, owner of Mel's Tea Room in Sackville, NB was vague with me when, a few months ago, he asked me to discontinue having Wayves delivered to his store. For several years it has been displayed in the front window alongside "freebies" such as *HERE Magazine*, Mount Allison's student newspaper *The Argosy*, and several others. Roger had had no problem with accepting and displaying the magazine when I initially asked him if he would carry it. When I asked why he wanted it stopped, he seemed ill at ease and said "some changes are going to happen around here"; when I asked what they were, he told me the store was up for sale and that many things were going to be cleared out.

That was several months ago. I have kept my eye on the front window and have noted that nothing else has been discontinued—only Wayves has disappeared. Something seemed fishy to me. My partner Marilyn and I recently went to visit Roger Goodwin at the store to ask him to please level with us if there had been pressure on him from some source, or from some of his customers, to discontinue carrying Wayves. We were anxious to know, not only from our personal point of view as friendly

across-the-back-yard neighbours of him and his family, but also as outspoken human rights advocates, as lesbians, as Wayves supporters, and as PFLAG Canada, Sackville NB/Amherst NS Chapter, facilitators for the past eight years.

Roger admitted, while looking a wee bit nervous, that yes, he had received such pressure from "a few people" who come into the store. Because it is a free newspaper, and he does not carry it as part of his regular merchandise, he explained that he felt he had to give in to the few customers who wanted it stopped.

We asked if it was the content of Wayves that had offended these people and he indicated that no, they complained about the back cover ad—the photo on the folded-in back cover which usually depicts two handsome, shirtless men whose shorts completely cover their sexual organs (it's an ad for a gay cruise phone line).

Marilyn pointed to Mel's enormous magazine rack displaying numerous girlie and porn magazines, the front covers of which are loaded with lurid photographs of naked, provocative women, and told him that she finds those front covers extremely degrading and offensive to women. He explained that he depends on those porn 'zines to bring many

people in to his store. Yet our GLBT newspaper, Wayves—a newspaper that the entire Atlantic GLBT community depends upon for coverage of everyday GLBT news, educational opportunities, articles of interest by distinguished individuals such as the Order of Canada recipient Dr. Eldon Hay of Sackville, job ads, legal victories and battles, medical advice, and entertainment of particular interest to GLBT persons—bothers a few homophobic persons and is immediately discontinued. We thanked Roger for his honesty and left.

Mel's is the second place in downtown Sackville to turn away Wayves for exactly the same reason—the photo in the ad on the back cover. I suspect that the same homophobic few are at work to ensure that "Sweet Little Sackville" (the phrase used to describe Sackville in town brochures and online) shows no trace, no indication, that GLBT persons live here. Mount Allison University continues to get Wayves, and that's great! But many townspeople never venture onto the Mount Allison campus. These are often the people who most rely on this publication for their information.

I'm not sure what the answer is, but I am unhappy with this state of affairs. It seems stealthily homopho-



Mel's Tea Room in Sackville, NB. Photo by Chris Trenholm.

bic—the kind of homophobia I often feel lurks, hidden, underneath the "we are not homophobic" facade of our silent, sweet little town. Marilyn and

I would value feedback from anyone who has something to offer concerning this troublesome issue.

Fredericton Pride 2011: Bruce Dionne



Bruce Dionne. Photo by Bruce Dionne.

by Eugene Campbell

Although more than seven months away, plans are already underway to make Fredericton's Pride 2011, scheduled to take place in the New Brunswick capital from August 7 to 14, even more of a success than the 2010 celebrations. Chaired by popular BOOM Nightclub bartender Bruce Dionne, the committee of 17

meets the first Monday of each month at the Victoria Health Centre. Dionne succeeds last year's chairperson, Debi Skidmore and will be assisted by Vice-Chair Jon Blanchard.

Dionne fell into the position by acclamation. "I was interested in the position because I felt that I was good with my organizational skills," he said. "I plan on bringing new ideas to the forefront. I like to talk to people. I find that when I talk to people, the more they like to talk, and the more they like to talk, the more ideas come out."

Plans for Pride 2011 are aimed at more community involvement. "We are not calling it Gay Pride, rather Fredericton Pride, because Pride doesn't only envelope gays, but also transgendered, kink and fetish," said Dionne. "The straight people and cross dressers are not all gay. We

have been trying to figure out how to incorporate the name Gay Pride into it, and not offend anybody."

He said the new Pride Committee "is not about going back, it's about moving forward. Years ago, when Pride was first started, it was being accepted for what we were. Now, it is for getting the rights—the right to marry and the right to benefits. It's all about being accepted as normal, because we were born this way. It's not something we plan on becoming. I consider myself normal—my family considers me normal."

The committee, amongst other things, is looking at the possibility of bringing in a "name" for this year's festivities. "We are looking at possibly Kate Reid headlining," Dionne said. "She's a very good musician—does original stuff, not covers. We also want the festival to be longer. We want more activity, day and night. We have had requests for activity during the day." Last year, practically all events throughout the week took place at night at BOOM Nightclub, Fredericton's only gay-friendly night spot.

Dionne said that, for the 2011 celebrations, the committee is considering incorporation because it opens up more funding options." Plans this year also include the release of another CD, featuring, once again, local artists. During the 2010 celebrations, 'JUST LOVE' was released, with a giant night of contribution performers putting on a show before a packed house at BOOM."

This year's Parade Marshall will be James Whitehead. Dionne added, "We hope to have a lot more participation in the parade this year.

We hope that the city will pave the trail because that will make it more wheelchair accessible."

When not tending bar Friday and Saturday nights at BOOM, Dionne can be found at his full-time job at Canadian Tire, where he openly gay. "I came out when I was 41. I told my ex-wife. She was very accepting. I also told my oldest son. I held off telling my youngest son for awhile, but I recently told him. I thought telling my brother was going to be hard, but it wasn't. All three of them said, 'Yeah! We knew!'"

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April Deadline: Friday, Mar. 4 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca • Wayves Online: www.wayves.ca • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine

Atlantic News

DalOUT Discussion Group

Have you been looking to meet some new people? A safe space to come and talk? Is there just something you really want to get off your chest? DalOUT is starting a weekly discussion group.

There will be food and tea and coffee and snacks... and a brand new couch for you to get comfortable on.

Come up to the DalOUT office (Room 321, Dalhousie Student Union Building, 6136 University Avenue) every Wednesday starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be different topics every week.

Gambling Research

Out! Alive is looking for a Research Project Coordinator to look at gambling habits and attitudes in the Rainbow Communities across Nova Scotia. The study, funded by a grant from the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation, will look at gambling within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. The position would be suitable for a graduate student in health promotion and will require about 10 hours per week between April 1 and October 1, 2011. To obtain more information contact Patrick.Daigle@cdha.nshealth.ca.

Halifax Pride Events Scheduled

The first of the events for Halifax Pride 2011 are online at halifaxpride.org; all Halifax LGBT related events can be found on gay.hfxns.org/events.

HIV Focus Group

We are people who are trying to find ways to include people living with or at-risk for HIV/AIDS in decisions that AIDS Organizations make. If you take part in this study, it will help us to better the way that people living with or at-risk for HIV/AIDS are part of making such choices.

If you take part in the study, it will mean talking with someone for about 90 minutes. You can decide to talk to this person at a place that you choose or over the telephone. You will be given \$20 to cover any costs you encounter, such as child care, in taking part in the study.

If you would like to know more about this study, please contact us by telephone at (506) 458-7951, toll-free at 1 (888) 215-9139 or by email at jbrewer1@unb.ca.

HIV/AIDS Skills Building Ceilidh

The Nova Scotia HIV/AIDS Skills Building Ceilidh is a forum that brings together people living with HIV and AIDS (PHAs), staff and volunteers in AIDS service organizations, health care practitioners, social service staff and anyone else who has a stake in the future of HIV/AIDS in Nova Scotia. Together, we create a safer space to learn from each other and address the challenges that we face in preventing the spread of HIV and responding to the needs of people impacted by it.

The event will be held at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax on Thursday, June 23 to Sunday, June 26, 2011.

The theme of this year's Ceilidh is "HIV/AIDS and Human Rights." The agenda will include a series of workshops related to the care, treatment, and support of PHAs as well as emerging issues concerning prevention. Over the course of the conference there will be a number of opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing.

Request a registration/scholarship form from Elizabeth McCarville, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, by calling (902) 425 4882 ext. 226.

Corner Brook Pride

Christian Corbet, director of Corner Brook Pride 2011, is pleased to announce that this year's Pride celebrations will take place from July 15-17, 2011. The festivities will begin with the Pride Welcome Party on Friday, July 15. The parade and park festival will be held at the fantastic, newly-renovated Margaret Bowater Park on Saturday, July 16, and the Pride party will be held that evening. The weekend will finish up with Pride's

Thank-You Soirée for Sponsors and Volunteers on Sunday, July 17.

For more information or to ask questions visit the website at www.cornerbrookpride.com.

Corbet Sculpture for Navy

Christian Corbet, chair of last year's Corner Brook Pride and Wayves contributor, was commissioned by the Canadian Portrait Academy to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Navy.

Corbet, known for his high-profile subjects, stat-

ed, "This project was very special to me, and of historical significance, too—not only in who the subject is, but also in the fact that several of my ancestors fought in France during WW1."

The sculpture was presented on January 4 to Vice-Admiral P. Dean McFadden, CMM, CD at Canadian

Navy Headquarters at the Department of National Defence Building. The portrait sculpture was accompanied by a medallion sculpture created by Corbet's protégé, Benjamin Trickett Mercer, CPA, which the Admiral also received.

The portrait bust is the first known sculpture of the founder and director of the Canadian Navy.

Tourism and Culture Minister Michael Chan hails Corbet as "... one of the most pre-eminent portrait artists today."

Halifax Sexual Health Centre

The Halifax Sexual Health Centre (HSHC, formerly Planned Parenthood) has a new Community Educator/Volunteer Coordinator. Originally from Nova Scotia, Elizabeth Michael graduated from Dalhousie University in 2001. Since 2002 she has worked at the Belleville, Ontario Family Health Department with a focus on Child Health, Sexual Health,

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Seated l-r Vice-Admiral McFadden, Dustin R. Chandler (Vice President The Canadian Portrait Academy) Benjamin Trickett Mercer, Capt. John Pickford, Christian Corbet (sculptor.) Photo courtesy of Dept of National Defence.

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NOVA SCOTIA RAINBOW ACTION PROJECT

in partnership with Moosehead and Menz Bar Present:

A Celebration Concert

Continued next page

Menz Bar
2182 Gottingen Street

Get your Irish on, wear green!
*\$10 off every ticket goes to the artists
\$5 to Halifax Pride

Friday, Mar 18, 2011
10pm – Midnight
\$15*
After midnight \$5

Featuring
Wade Carroll • Ryan MacGrath • Tanya Davis • Aaron Collier

Join us as we showcase four of our community's finest artists before delegates to the Canadian InterPride and Nova Scotia LGBT Community Development Conferences.

Hate Crime on the Gentle Island

By Heather Jordan

Bill shot awake to the sound of a crashing window. Through the crack of his bedroom door, he could see the whole house aglow. It was time to get out.

He ripped the screen off his window and threw out his husband's crutches. Then, he tried to throw his husband out. But Louis couldn't climb onto the window sill. He only has one leg. Instead, Bill threw their small white dog and then jumped himself, reaching over and pulling his husband by the pyjamas out of the burning house.

"The house literally was destroyed within minutes," Bill recounts. "The only thing we walked out with was our pyjamas, Louis's crutches, and a dog. That's all we got away with."

This wasn't the first instance of what some Prince Edward Islanders have called hate crimes targeted at Bill and Louis for being homosexual. A week before they lost their home, their mailbox was torched. Before that, a religious pamphlet was left in their mailbox, "explaining that men sleeping with men is evil and you'll go to hell."

But these incidents leading up to the fire may have saved their lives the night their home was destroyed.

"When the mailbox had burned, we thought the next logical thing they were going to do is do something to

our car—sugar the tank, flatten the tires. So we parked it in the garage and we kept the keys in the car.

"It was a good thing because it was the only way we could get away. The only way we would have gotten away. Usually we park the car right up against the side of the house. And had we done that, we would have lost the car too."

It's luckier still that Bill heard the sound of something being thrown through his window.

If he hadn't woken to the sound, he says, "We would have been dead."

Bill says that there were more incidents, but neither he nor the police will reveal them in fear of harming the investigation. Police have also declined speaking on potential suspects or motives, but have called the incident arson and have dubbed it "suspicious."

Bill, 47, sits at a wooden table in a quaint cottage in Fortune. He closes his game of online poker. He purchased himself a new computer to bide his time hiding indoors.

"I don't talk much to my friends in the area, but I talk to my friends overseas, the other side of the country."

Everything in the room is a vision of baby blue and wood panelling. A sign reads "WELCOME TO OUR COTTAGE," with a small sailboat beneath it. Louis, 53, lays curled on the floral couch, the left leg of his

flannel pyjamas safety-pinned up.

With the exception of buying groceries and cigarettes, Bill and Louis have been afraid to leave the cottage. They are afraid for their lives. All the couple knows at this time is that someone purposefully burned their home to the ground while they were sleeping inside. And that person, or persons, is still at large. For this

But even with great support, the couple still has to move. At least out of this cottage.

reason, their last names will not be provided in this story.

This is the second place they've stayed since their home burned down, having spent the week immediately after the fire at a hotel in Charlottetown.

Even though most of the community doesn't know where the couple is, they have been extremely supportive. Only four people know Bill and Louis's current whereabouts.

The couple was living in Little Pond, a community 45 minutes outside of Charlottetown, but their support has come from all across the island.

"Rodd Brudenell (River Resort), when they closed down the chalets, they gave us all of their linen, all of

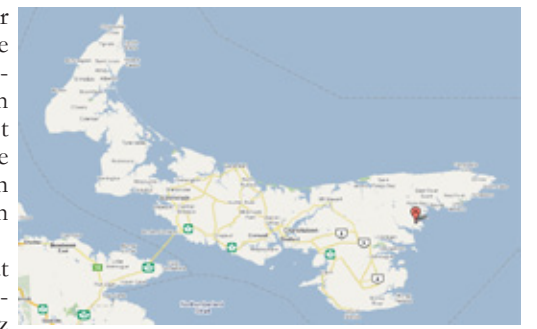
their bedding, all of their towels. We could make up a hotel! The compassion club in the high school sent us a basket yesterday," Bill says. "The community? They've been good. I can't say enough about them."

Many have spoken out against the crime, including Premier Robert Ghiz and the Island's GLBTQ organization, Abegweit Rainbow Collective.

But most surprising for the couple was a statement of support from the Diocese of Charlottetown, Richard John Grecco. Bill is impressed. "A Catholic priest who teaches intolerance to [his] parishioners about homosexuality to come out and talk about it is pretty good. I feel bad for him. He's getting lambasted right now because of it."

But even with great support, the couple still has to move. At least out of this cottage.

"It's not a very good place for Louis," Bill says, casting down his blue eyes. He's alert and articulate, with the illusion of calm. He's the strong one in the situation, and he always has been. Louis's leg was amputated in 1999 because of a benign



Marker shows location of Little Pond. Map courtesy of Google Maps.

tumour. Then he was diagnosed with prostate cancer two years ago. The idea of holding the fort isn't new to him.

"The floors are wooden, and you can see the dog walked in," he motions with an arm to the entrance, where a white cockapoo has just scampered in. "There was water on the floor. When Louis hits that with his crutch, he falls. He's already fallen four times."

For now the move will just be to another part of the island. But there's a high possibility the couple will have to leave the province.

"If the person who did it could be caught, that would calm our fears. But right now there's somebody out

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Atlantic News

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and Reproductive Health. "We're quite excited to have Elizabeth join on our team, especially with some of the imaginative health promotion programs she has created," said Angus Campbell, Director of HSHC. "Please join me in welcoming her back to Nova Scotia."

Gail Neville has returned to work with the Centre. Gail was at the clinic a number of years ago as a clinic nurse and also the HIV Coordinator. "We are fortunate to have her again with the Anonymous HIV Testing

program as she is a wealth of information."

Anonymous HIV testing is available by drop-in on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30–10:00 a.m. and also by scheduled appointment. Please visit the website at www.HSHC.ca or call (902) 455-9656 ext 0 for more information.

Curling News

The next annual East Coast "Pink Broom" will be held on March 12, 2011. It will be the third year for the event, adopted from the Vancouver's PAC-RIM GLBT curling league. The Pink Broom is a social afternoon/evening event, with curling and a dance party at the Mayflower Curling Club. And for those who want to try the sport for the first time, there will be lessons before the games begin. The funspiel helps raise money so that a few groups of curlers can represent Halifax in the sixth annual

Canadian Gay Curling Championships tournament in Ottawa from March 24–27, 2011.

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Our Cover

Inspired by Rorschach and fueled by a boundless imagination, Benjamin Allain's drawings will make you think twice about the ordinary. His work appears with that of Yvon Goulet in FRED. Gallery in Halifax through March 26. Photo by Anita Martinez

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!

Anita Martinez
Cam MacLeod
Daniel MacKay
Jim Bain
Kim Fowlow
Ralph Higgins

Randall Perry
Raymond Taavel
Will Murray
... and ...

Blowers Street Paper
Chase for meeting
space
Your Name Here!

Want to tell your friends where to get their own copy of Wayves? Your first stop should be to www.wayves.ca; you can download the current issue, a back issue, and also get the complete list of our distributors in

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!

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 + 15% HST = \$23 in Canada, \$30 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Send cheque or money order to the postal address below.

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www.wayves.ca

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 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: Mar 7, Apr 4, May 9, Jun 6: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Mar 13, Apr 10, May 15, Jun 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're on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month!

Brought to You by // Where to Find Wayves

Lesbian Soap Box Diaries

The Culture of Being Queer: Straight Chicks

By L. Connors

I distinctly remember how hard it was to meet women when I was coming out. As a recently-separated single mom, I felt like I was on a permanent day pass at private country club where none of its member would speak to you once they realized you didn't have a membership card. I would try to hide my lack of experience in conversation, but I could not and would not deny my children. Once they came up in conversation, it would inevitably lead to questions regarding their conception and my marital status. Most women would politely slip away when the first person they recognized passed by, but some actually abruptly walked away in the middle of the conversation. It was like trying to get a job when no one will hire you because you have no experience, but you can't get any experience because no one will hire you. I remember thinking I would never get laid again.

Many years have passed since that time, and now the shoe is on the other

foot. I must admit that I have since been converted to the "straight chicks need not apply" private club. In this day and age, being gay for a day is all too popular and socially acceptable. I can assure you I am not even remotely interested in helping you turn your man on by performing for him with you on the dance floor or in the bedroom. Even for those women that make it beyond the experimental stage, the coming out process is long and full of growing pains. Those that do make it through to the other side, all too often realize soon after that there are so many beautiful women out there and so little time.

Although I don't date or sleep with women who identify as heterosexual, bisexual or bi curious, I do have a soft spot of supporting them in their journey of discovering their sexuality. However, as the old adage goes, no good deed goes unpunished. Recently, after my usual "No, I'm not interested, but I'd be happy take you along to events and introduce you to some

people" conversation, I received the following text: "Hi woke up again thinking of u so im in bed thinking of u and fingering myself." I wish I could say that I had embellished the text even slightly. However, it is word

If I had a quarter for every time a straight friend tried to set me up with the only other gay person they knew, I'd be a rich woman.

for word every bit as disgusting and disturbing to me as I am sure it is for those of you reading this article. It merely confirmed my suspicions that being friends with straight chicks is every bit as complicated as dating or sleeping with them.

Why is it that some heterosexuals assume being open and proud about identifying your sexuality means you are just as free and open to expressing it with anyone who has vagina?

Seriously! If I had a quarter for every time a straight friend tried to set me up with the only other gay person they knew, I'd be a rich woman. It's as if they think that sex is the only thing that defines our relationships, so clearly since we both have vaginas and both like them, we must be soul mates. I can't help but wonder if they set up their straight girlfriends under the same "he's a guy and he likes girls, you're a girl so you two will definitely hit it off" pretence.

It would not be so upsetting if it ended with your well-meaning friends. Worse yet are the women that suddenly distance themselves and occasionally actually begin to cover themselves up when they realize you are gay. As if now you are no longer a member of the same team, and clearly you are sizing them up for their potential as a sexual partner. You know, since you like pussy and they have one and all. And then there are the women such as the one who sent me the text. Women who are all too

interested once they find out you are gay. How convenient since they have always wanted to sleep with a woman. Since you like women you will do and clearly since they have a vagina, you'd be happy to oblige. Honestly, I want to scream at them, "If I wanted to have casual sex with a woman, I can assure you that it would be with one who knew what they were doing and were more likely to actually get the job done." But instead I say nothing (mostly to discourage any future contact) and take out my laptop.

My sexuality may be a departure from the heterosexual norm, but it does not make it abnormal or make me a sexual deviant. I like pussy, a lot, and I'm not afraid to admit or celebrate that fact. But what I really love is women. The women that I choose to spend time with intimately have certain qualities that I admire and enjoy. My sexuality has little to do with sex itself, and everything to do with whom I love.

"Sex Workers Are People Too"

Sex workers are people too. That's the message that residents throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality have been hearing for a couple of months from Stepping Stone, a user-directed, non-profit organization supporting sex workers for more than 20 years. This is the first time the organization has launched a public awareness campaign and the ads can be viewed on Stepping Stone's website at www.stepsingstones.ca.

"We wanted a campaign that sparks a reaction in people," says Rene Ross, Executive Director of Stepping Stone. "Something that talks to people on an emotional and personal level. The ultimate goal is simple—to create awareness to help protect the health, safety and well-being of our program users."

The campaign, developed with

Extreme Group, communicates the message that sex workers are people too: they are mothers, daughters and brothers. This message is being

The campaign, developed with Extreme Group, communicates the message that sex workers are people too: they are mothers, daughters and brothers.

displayed in various forms including posters and print ads. The campaign was launched in mid-December and continues into 2011. Its launch came during the week of the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers. Originally observed in Washington as a memorial and vigil for the victims of the "Green River Killer" in 2003, it has since evolved into an annual international event. A vigil was held on December 17 to

provide a moment of reflection for the loss of 17 mothers, daughters, sisters and friends from our own community since 1985.

"We are very proud to work with Stepping Stone to develop a campaign to help raise public awareness and start breaking down the stereotypes placed on sex workers," says Shawn King, VP, Chief Creative Officer at Extreme.

I Am What I Amherst

Pride Week, Moncton, Two Percent

By Gerard Veldhoven

Now that holiday parties have faded into memory we look forward to planning activities for 2011. So far, indications are that the Cumberland Pride Society is quite ready to tackle another Pride Week. At its January meeting a Pride committee was established to plan and decide on what type of events will take place. I am sure they will make an announcement in due time. The Holiday Gay-la, held at the Wandlyn Motor Inn in Amherst, was a total success. There was a great mixture of queers and straights to make the evening rock: tasty food, dancing the night away and generally an evening of wonderful camaraderie. By all accounts it was the best annual Holiday Gay-la ever held in Amherst.

Personally, I have been quite busy with speaking engagements in January. The first invitation was to the Amherst and Area Zonta Club and my topic was “Equal Treatment in a Just Society.” I spoke about queer parenting and grandparenting at the Sackville-Amherst Chapter of PFLAG. As the year is barely underway, news is at a minimum from this part of Nova Scotia. However, we continue to see and hear about incidents that indicate all is not well in our queer world.

The city of Moncton has decided to give financial assistance to Crandall University, a private religious-based university that discriminates by not allowing openly queer students or staff as part of this institution. By support-

ing Crandall U it is viewed by many that the city condones the policies that are deemed discriminatory and homophobic. Many have expressed concern that Moncton, by giving public money to this university, will set a trend that seemingly approves of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

In another interesting development, the Cumberland Health Authority sent out a profile of the county and its 32,045 citizens. One profile has a study done by King et al in 1988, which states that 2 percent of the Canadian population is gay, lesbian or bisexual. This would equate to over 600 people within Cumberland County. Aside from the fact this study is twenty-three years old, the question

arises how accurate this information is, taking into consideration that a vast number of the queer community are not truthful in fear of discrimination, or indeed violent consequences.

Many in our community remain deeply closeted for many reasons. The question of sexual orientation is therefore nothing like a question concerning one’s original language. In addition, many live in a traditional marriage or “straight” relationship in order to remain anonymous. I suggest the percentage is somewhere between 10 and 16 percent. Statistics are difficult to ascertain and only as reliable as the individual’s answer. It remains a subject of great interest and exactly how many of us are out there amongst the Canadian popula-

tion really does not matter. Facts and figures mean little if the information is not correct. If statistics must be recorded, then they must be more accurate. And in this case the numbers will never be exact, at least not in the foreseeable future.

That’s it for this month. By the time this reaches you it will be close to spring and therefore more activities in Amherst and Cumberland County.



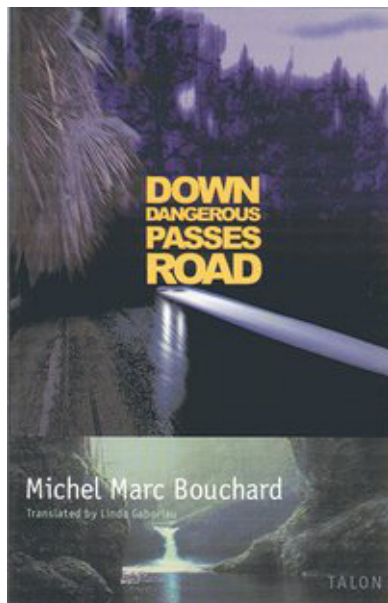
New Theatre Company for Halifax

fluffer theatre, in association with Plutonium Playhouse, is thrilled to announce the Nova Scotia premiere of “Down Dangerous Passes Road,” by Michel Marc Bouchard (translated by Linda Gaboriau), directed by acclaimed Nova Scotian playwright and director, Bryden MacDonald.

Three brothers, divided and haunted by their relationship with their father—a flamboyant, drunken poet—reunite in the Northern Quebec logging town of Alma for younger brother Carl’s wedding. At the request of Victor, the elder of the three, he and middle brother Ambrose attempt a visit to the fishing camp of their youth, their father’s hide-away haven. En route, down Dangerous Passes Road, the truck rolls and crashes—leaving the brothers in a strange limbo that seduces them into examining their lives. Highly poetic, dark and funny, “Down Dangerous Passes Road” weaves an enchanting tale of strength, courage, and love.

One of Canada’s most respected playwrights, Quebec’s mischievous prince of seemingly effortless poetry, Bouchard’s muscular, confident writing is well served in this translation by Linda Gaboriau. Macdonald describes “Down Dangerous Passes Road” as, “a beautiful distillation of lost lives in search of meaning.”

Co-founded by Bryden MacDonald and Hugo Dann, fluffer is the new queer kid in Halifax’s thriving theatre scene. Both Dann and MacDonald define queer theatre as being about more than just sexual orientation or gender expression. “We define queer



theatre as coming from the margins,” says Dann. “We’re fascinated by playwrights such as Bouchard, or



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Alec Butler, or Sonja Mills, who write poetically about queer themes.” MacDonald quickly adds, “But we also love writers like Don Druick or Sean Dixon. These authors might define themselves as straight, but because of

their strikingly original way of looking at the dynamics between male and female we define them as queer, as writing from the edge. Sexy!”

“Down Dangerous Passes Road” stars Michael McPhee (Carl), Stew-

art Legere (Ambrose), and Andrew Kaparzack (Victor). It previews at Plutonium Playhouse on March 3, opening on March 4, and runs until March 6.



Are you a same-sex couple who got married after July 2005?

Same-sex marriage has been legal in Canada since July 20, 2005. If you are in a same-sex relationship and are married, what was your wedding planning experience like? Did you receive support from family, friends, and people in the wedding industry? Were there any situations in which you felt misunderstood or discriminated against?

As a professor in the Family Studies and Gerontology department, I would like to hear about your experiences if you:

- live in Nova Scotia;
- are legally married to your same-sex partner;
- got married after July 20, 2005; and
- had a wedding that took time and cost money to plan.

*I am particularly interested in hearing from male couples.

Participants will not be required to travel to Halifax to take part. Interviews will take place in a location that is most convenient for the participant. Interviews take approximately 1-2 hours.

Interested in participating or need more information? Please contact:
Dr. Áine Humble at 902.457.6109 or aine.humble@msvu.ca


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

Crawford Hastie's
KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hi Tom

The potluck the other night was great. You looked terrific—in spite of your advanced years—and it was fun to get the old gang together again for a bit. Occasions like that always bring up comparisons about the difference between now and the “good old days.” I know that people have a tendency to glorify the past, and the present is pretty good for all of us, but there is no doubt that there have been changes.

When I first met you and all the ladies who formed your entourage back then, the potluck dinners were like Roman food orgies. There would be 10 people who all individually brought enough food for 10 so we ended up with sufficient victuals to feed the multitudes. Now, I’m not saying the world hunger crisis can be solved by potluck, I just remember pushing back from the table feeling like a python that has swallowed a cow. The fact that everyone was such a fabulous cook made it impossible to pass up the mussels or the pasta with pesto, the homemade cobbler or the three kinds of salad or the bread or the chicken with satay sauce and on and on and on. Gourmet banquets!

Now we are all watching our sodium and our carbs and our fat intake but what a joy it was to have a little taste of the past. Important as well that none of us take these get-togethers for granted. We all seemed to savour each other’s company and sharing food is an important ritual in our lives, something we can easily forget in this age of ubiquitous six-pack abs on magazines with every other ad in print or on TV being about weight loss. When I struggle with my own body image issues I remember a lovely comment I heard a while back. I was with a man considerably younger than me who had what is called in personal ads an “athletic” build, and pretty nice proportions in all his physical attributes. At a certain point in our time together we were naked and I was a bit uncomfortable, not with being naked—you know that is not an issue for me—but with the comparison between our bodies. Sensing my discomfiture, he looked me in the eye and said: “Mmmm, a mature man with a mature man’s body.” He then demonstrated that his appreciation was genuine and not just lip service. Well, actually there was lip service... and several other kinds as well, but that’s a different story.

During one of the recent storm days that we’ve had of late I discovered that one of the channels

I get on TV shows classic films. I spent a lovely afternoon sipping a martini (hey, it was 5 o’clock somewhere in the world.) and watching a Cary Grant film festival. Speaking of body image, I couldn’t help but think that the men who were considered the “hunks” of their day, men like Cary Grant and Errol Flynn and Clark Gable and Robert Coleman, would be sent to the gym today by their agents and told to get in shape. No potlucks for them!

I was having a chat the other day with a woman friend of mine and the topic came up of the ideal imaginary boyfriend. Her choice was a singer whose name I’ve forgotten but she said her reason for picking him was that he looked like a real man. By that, she didn’t mean macho, she just said he looked like a real person that you would meet, not a pop star with a washboard stomach and wearing a spray tan. I laughed but I knew exactly what she meant. There is a difference between being fit and healthy, and being a gym fanatic. Or, as one of my cruder colleagues used to remark: “There’s a difference between scratching your ass and tearing it all to hell.” Not entirely sure what that means but it is a vivid image, isn’t it?

There are a lot of colloquial expressions that I don’t really get. My mother, if she is talking about someone that she doesn’t really trust or doesn’t believe, will say, “Oh, his ass is out a foot.” When I ask her what this means, she always replies, “Oh, that’s an old saying,” which may be true but doesn’t explain much. She also has this kind of tag line that she adds to the end of sentences: “I’m just saying.” Other people use this too as if to disclaim any responsibility for the statement they’ve just made, like “I heard that the whole family are drunks. I’m just saying.” In other words, they are not calling them drunks, just repeating what other people are saying. My mother doesn’t start gossip; she just passes it along, true or not.

Anyway, Tommo, old friend. It really was lovely to see you the other night. You seem to be the same lovable, sarcastic smart-ass I met all those years ago. I’m just saying.

Love ya!



NSRAP Report Community Conference

By Hugo Dann

How do you build a strong, sustainable LGBT community? On March 18, seventy LGBT community members from across Nova Scotia will gather at the Marriott Harbourfront in downtown Halifax to explore that question. Youth and trans delegates, artists and activists, business and community leaders will come together to share ideas, to address where our community is now, and explore where it needs to go in the future. The provincial Department of Economic and Rural Development (ERD) has provided funding to NSRAP to organize this meeting, using their Collaborative Strategies in Community Development model. In addition NSRAP has secured sponsorships from TD Canada Trust and the Marriott; their support allows for broader community participation and we are truly grateful. While NSRAP takes the lead in putting the conference together, ERD is facilitating the event. Collaborative Strategies is less a traditional conference than it is a brainstorming, creative workshop. ERD has already conducted successful workshops with the Acadian and Mi’kmaq communities.

Not since 1995 has an attempt been made to bring LGBT organizations and individual community leaders together to examine the state of LGBT Nova Scotia. Since then, organizations serving our community have blossomed around the province. There are Pride festivals in Amherst, Antigonish and Sydney. Halifax Pride has grown to be one of the provincial capital’s hallmark events. Fifteen years ago, our community was still fighting the homophobic rhetoric of MP Roseanne Skoke in the House of Commons. In 2011, a majority of Nova Scotia’s federal representatives will have cast their votes in support of transgender rights. Our artists command attention on stages and concert halls, and in galleries. Openly LGBT business owners are making important contributions to our provincial economy from Yarmouth and Digby to Cumberland and Cape Breton. We are clearly a creative, resourceful and resilient community.

Despite our advances, no one would claim that everything is perfect. Like all communities in Nova Scotia, the LGBT population is aging. The very people who fought and won the battles of fifteen, twenty, and even thirty years ago are now at retirement age. How safe will they feel if they need to enter a long-term care facility? What about our LGBT youth, trans issues, HIV stigma? These are some of the issues that delegates may

raise. The great thing about the Collaborative Strategies model is that it is the delegates themselves who will set the conference agenda and priorities.

While the LGBT Community Development Conference is taking place, Halifax Pride is hosting the Fiérté Canada Pride Conference, a national gathering of Pride organizers. NSRAP is excited at the opportunity to have our two conferences connect and interact, so we are hosting a concert to showcase some of the best queer musical talent in Nova Scotia. The concert is sponsored by Menz Bar and Moosehead, and will take place on Friday, March 18 at Menz Bar. Tickets are \$15.00, with 10 of those dollars off every ticket goes directly to the artists! The rest goes to Pride. For more information on the conference and the concert, visit www.nsrp.ca.

ECMA Awards

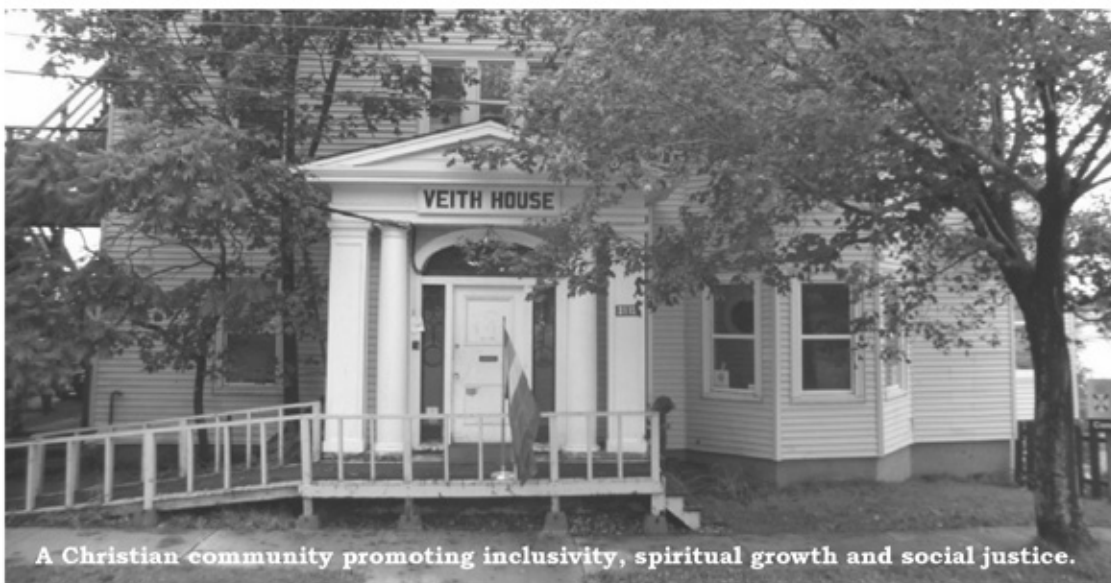
NSRAP sends its congratulations out to Ryan MacGrath for his Rising Star Recording of the Year award nomination for this year’s East Coast Music Awards. Ryan’s debut full-length CD “Cooper Hatch Paris” was also nominated as Best Alternative Recording and for best Male Solo Recording. Bravo, Ryan! These nominations are richly deserved.

Aaron Collier is nominated in the Instrumental Recording of the Year category for his CD “Neo.” Check out Aaron’s website at www.aaroncollier.ca for a link to purchase the album online as a digital download.

Also nominated were Heather Gibson for Manager of the Year, and the Company House for Venue of the Year. These are repeat nominations for Heather and Mary Ann of the CoHo and Dead of Winter. They are both past winners. Congratulations to both of you, and congratulations to all the nominees.

This year’s East Coast Music Awards will be held in Charlottetown, P.E.I. from April 13 – 17. For more information visit the ECMA website at www.ecma.ca.

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100th International Women's Day

Jane Morrigan writes:
My first recollection of IWD was in 1975, the very first UN International Women's Year. That whole year was enormously pivotal in my life because it was the year of my awakening to both feminism and lesbianism. Both were major insights that happened simultaneously, rocking my world to the core! I saw women as strong and capable and brave for the first time, and as my eyes were beginning to open to seeing misogyny and societal oppression of women as a class... I found myself strangely and wonderfully falling in love with my best friend, Dorothy. One of the first thoughts I had, as I gazed into her beautiful blue eyes and my knees weakened and I knew without a doubt that my feelings were all about sexual attraction, was a question, "Why didn't anybody tell me about this?"

I had never even heard the words "gay" or "lesbian" in my sheltered existence, up to the age of 23! In that instant, though, I came to realize that

I lived in a society that deliberately represses our true nature, including our sexual nature, as human beings. I knew then that loving a woman was a totally legitimate choice for me... and I felt liberated! In fact, "sexual liberation," "sexual revolution," "gay liberation" and "women's liberation" were all expressions used at that time in the 70s that embraced issues of human rights, a truly radical new way of freeing ourselves from the bondages of the past in order to realize our collective freedom.

The civil rights movement, as it became known, promised enormous changes in terms of racial and gender prejudice and gave women and minority groups hope for a better world. So my own liberation, as a woman and as a lesbian, was tied inexorably with International Women's Day 1975.

In solidarity for our continuing struggle for personal freedom, Jane

There are a lot of events in Halifax queued up for IWD this year. They're all listed on gay.hfxns.org/events or just google for "gay halifax events".



This is the Pandora Magazine group in the International Women's Day March in 1987. Women and children from all over Nova Scotia and beyond marched up Agricola Street, approaching North Street. Some women are marching for the first time ever: there were straight, lesbian and bi women; working moms; grandmothers; daughters; granddaughters and grandsons from all walks of life, all sizes, ages, shapes and colours. A number of men supporters were back at the nursery, taking care of the children. There's a short article about Pandora in the Halifax LGBT Encyclopedia (Google "gay halifax pandora"). Photo by Anita Martinez.

Thank You, Raymond Taavel



Raymond hangs out with the dining car at Pier 21 in 2009. Photo by Randall Perry.

Raymond Taavel is a familiar name to all of our readers and contributors. He's been with Wayves as Managing Editor, an intrinsic part of the production process, since 2004. For many writers, he's been their only contact with the magazine. Raymond joined the Wayves team in 2004 and

has played a considerable role in the growth and the development of the magazine these past several years.

Over the past few months, Raymond has wound down his involvement with the magazine and handed off his usual slate of tasks to Randall Perry, with whom many of our

contributors are now dealing on a regular basis.

Wayves would like to extend deepest thanks to Raymond for his prolific writing, editing, photography, graphic design, and event production over the last six years. We wish him the best in future endeavours.

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Spirit Place Update



By Daniel MacKay

On Sunday, February 6, two dozen members of the LGBT Seniors society in Halifax, the Elderberries, and a few others, gathered to learn, and ask questions about SPIRIT Place, the LGBT-friendly seniors' housing project proposed by St John's United Church. Lousia Horne was invited to do a presentation on the design and development process.

Ms Horne said that the existing church building is a "sick building"—it contains asbestos and mould; it was taking more and more of the congregation's resources, and was less and less addressing suitability; it's

not a "green" building, which was a desired element. The original 1920s construction was flawed: the bricks were not made or installed to prevent moisture penetration and freezing. The heating system was aging and difficult to maintain. There were even trees growing from the bricks!

Spending over a million dollars on an old building that didn't support current and future programs was not good stewardship—there would still be a building that was too large, not energy efficient, not configured to our needs, expensive to maintain. The services have been conducted elsewhere for the last two years while

the church has been vacant.

The congregation was consulted, as was the neighbourhood and over four hundred surveys were distributed. Within the congregation there was an unprecedented unanimous decision to proceed with the development of an Enriched Independent Living complex for seniors in conjunction with a new church facility, not involving a developer. An adjacent property was purchased, surveys of various kinds were done and requests for proposals were issued for an architect, legal advisor and service provider.

Five themes were addressed for redevelopment of the site: the project

had to be welcoming, friendly, and support diversity in the style of worship, it had to support social justice for which the congregation is known for, music, teaching and learning.

After her presentation, Ms Horne took questions from the group.

Q: How did you end up with sixty-five as the number of apartments? A: We wanted to build something that seen to be an asset to the neighbourhood, to bring more life and vibrancy; to have a reasonable streetscape and yet have enough apartments for the entire building to work financially, including the congregation renting the church space from the non-profit society.

Q: How much will it cost? A: The estimate for the cost is somewhere in the \$13-\$14 million range. It's a complicated financial model; the costs and the income change whenever you change any part of the plan. The not-for-profit society would have a mortgage on the property.

Q: Will there be a medical facility or nurse's station in the building? A: This facility is "enriched independent living" which has fewer requirements than "assisted living." There will be no clinic in the building, but St. Vincent's Nursing home is just down the street and has excess capacity for cleaning, delivering meals, a dental clinic, transportation, and medical facilities. If someone needs, for example, diabetes monitoring once a week, or a meal once a day, or foot care once a month, and they can maintain independence with that, then this facility is for them.

Q: What would it cost to live there? A: There's no analysis of that yet; it won't be done until the city approves the project. We may have to modify the design as a result of

that process, and at that point we can work on the cost model. We've had a number of ideas for the community that would want to live there. It could be a mix of condos and apartments and subsidized, and co-ops.

Q: Is there really a need for a building that's friendly to LGBT? I've been renting in Halifax for thirty years, and God knows I'm visibly gay. Who needs a place that's LGBT positive? Back in the fifties, we had a concept that this was going to be a problem, but if you ask if anyone has actually had a problem, you won't find any. A: We look to you, the community, to give us that feedback.

Q: Looking at the artist's rendering, I see a cross. Is a church part of the development? A: Yes, there is a church. The bell tower is visible.

Q: Is the building completely new? A: Yes. What material can be salvaged from the old building, will be. The organ will not be—it has been dismantled and moved three times and is at the end of its life. From a practical perspective, it can't be moved again.

Q: Will there be a community hall? A: Yes, there is a lot of shared, multipurpose space. In fact, with the exception of a couple of offices, all of the space is multipurpose on the main level. For example, the sanctuary will have a movable wall which can open up.

Q: Would the church run the housing? A: No, the church would rent space from the non-profit. There would be no requirements to be a member of the church.

For more background on SPIRIT Place, see Valerie Windsor's piece in the December 2010 Wayves, available from the "Wayves Online" section of wayves.ca.

Fredericton Queery

by Eugene Campbell

Since last fall Fredericton's queer community has had a new online publication to go to, to find out about what is happening in their community. FQ (Fredericton Queery) is the brainchild of Shaun Bartone, local poet and Travesty Cafe founder, and Debi Skidmore, chair of the 2010 Pride celebrations in the New Brunswick capital. FQ provides users of the site an on-going, daily updated calendar of all events that would interest them.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of FQ is that it does not delete articles as they get older, but saves them for the interest of the queer community, merely adding new material to the site as it is received.

Bartone, editor of FQ, says the ultimate goal of the site is "to build a local gay network, knitting together the community. We are connecting people, groups and information." She added that FQ publishes things as they happen: "We publish every day—it's news. We let people know in advance what events are coming."

Besides the on-going features, FQ runs a community calendar which outlines all the gay-related events taking place in the Fredericton area, and is continually updated. "If anything changes," said Bartone, "it gets changed on the site as soon as we get it."

"Our aim," she continued, "is what I call 'deep local.' We have very



deep ties in the local gay community, so that we have a continuous flow of local information, and in turn, we can support people and organizations."

Response to the site "has been tremendous," said Bartone. "We receive between 25 and 125 readers a day. [Still,] FQ is obviously at the very beginning of its lifespan. We started in November 2010 with no money, a laptop computer, and a wealth of social contacts in Fredericton. FQ's advantage is that we have a wealth of live contacts in the Fredericton queer community that provide us with detailed, local and up-to-the-minute information. FQ provides a link to each community group, but also provides a comprehensive running calendar that combines all the events of all the organizations together. We provide continuous coverage of all stories and events concerning the queer scene in Fredericton as they happen."

FQ can be found at fredericton-queery.wordpress.com. If you have an upcoming event you would like publicized, or would like coverage and photos done of an happening, or if you know of someone, or someplace, active in the local gay community you think should be recognized, contact Gene Campbell at photo1946@gmail.com.

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GAY, LESBIAN, AND WORLD CINEMA

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Commie, Pinko, Fag!



Gary Kinsman and Darl Wood. Photo by Robin Metcalfe.

By Daniel MacKay

That's what was scrawled on Gary Kinsman's locker in high school: Commie Pinko Fag. On February 7, Gary delivered a talk about the historical creation of queers as a threat in Canada, and on the evening of February 8, the lecture at Venus Envy included a reading and discussion by Darl Wood, one of the subjects in the recently-published book, "The Canadian War on Queers: National Security as Sexual Regulation."

Last November, CBC Radio's *The Current* told of Darl's forced exit from the military with the following introduction. In the 1970s, Darl Wood [now living in Truro] was a soldier in the Canadian Forces. She's also a lesbian, and at that time being gay was enough to get you kicked out of the Forces. Darl's life was turned upside down by a military that had no room for her. And she says she still feels the trauma of that experience today. (To listen to the report go to www.cbc.ca/thecurrent, go to the "Past Episodes" section, and click on November 15.)

In his lecture, Kinsman first defined "queer" as not only a reclaim-

ing of the word from bashers, but also a word to describe the broad panorama and diversity of gender and erotic practices, and to use it as a verb: to "queer" means to raise troubling questions. He then connected the ideas of "commie" through the early twentieth century communist/socialist movement, to the RCMP's attempted control of LGBT militancy in the fifties and sixties, to notions of racism and "the other" present in the current War on Terror (no one seems to have ever known exactly what a "pinko" was). The RCMP were already observing "left groups" in which there were lots of overlaps. It was helped to protest the limitations of the 1969 criminal code reform—the sex police became even more prevalent.

Kinsman is a long time queer liberation and anti-capitalist activist, the author of several books on the relationship of Canadian queer law and culture. Now a professor of sociology at Laurentian University in Sudbury, he and his partner Patrick lived outside of Wolfville in the 1980s and were frequent contributors to *Wayves* magazine.

World AIDS Day 2010

By Lori Root, Research Officer
Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS

On November 24, HIV and AIDS Awareness Week 2010 was kicked off, with Afrikan drumming and Minister Percy Paris reading the proclamation and raising the red ribbon flag at Province House. A full week of free, open to the public events took place across Halifax Regional Municipality, followed by World AIDS Day on December 1 at the Italian Cultural Center in Halifax.

The focus of the 2010 campaign was to build and increase African Canadian knowledge about the impact of HIV on their health. The events were ambitiously planned by a coalition of organizations consisting of community based organizations, government members and scholars, chaired by the Nova Scotia Advisory

Commission on AIDS. The events included an HIV/AIDS information session for black families; an international perspective, the film "Three Needles"; and a youth workshop and slogan contest. The Just (in) Time event was a provocative panel discussion facilitated by Dr. George Ash and Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan to increase knowledge about issues of HIV/AIDS criminalization and the social context in which HIV/AIDS affects African Canadians. The Black OUT event brought together Dr. Clemon George, an HIV/AIDS activist and educator and the LGBT African Nova Scotians, Robert Wright and Elle Noir in a panel discussion with Catherine Meade as the moderator, and discussed how heterosexism and racism affect LGBT people of African heritage in Nova Scotia.

During World AIDS Day celebra-

tions those in attendance enjoyed a cabaret-style event open to the public lead by emcee Charla Williams. The event opened with Afrikan drummers Tony Ince, Gilbert Daye and Dr. Henry Bishop. The youth band *Constantly Misjudged* wrote and performed a song for the event titled, "Oblivious." *Constantly Misjudged* also shared the stage with Julia Lawrence and sang the song, "Little Red Ribbon," and spoken word artists Des, El Jones and IzReal knocked us off our feet with their word craft. After a performance by special guest, social justice activist Faith Nolan, Dr. Clemon George wrapped things up. The winner of the youth slogan contest was then announced: Jonathan Lichty, whose prize consisted of "a day with the Rainmen," and two tickets to a Rainmen game.



Jahmal, Matt, Dameric, Nick and Adrian of *Constantly Misjudged* hold up the December issue of *Wayves* and show the message, "i do have sex." CMJ placed second in the Rogers Battle of The Bands alongside their ecstatic supporting fans. The band has played a large number of shows over the years throughout NS and debuted their live radio performance on CKDU. The guys pride themselves on being young, energetic and have a loving fan base.

Cape Breton AIDS Outreach

By Evan Coole, ACCB

The AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton (ACCB) is taking on a new queer-focused outreach project with the intent of challenging ideas and attitudes about LGBT folks and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Cape Breton has an active queer community. Bi-weekly Cape Breton Pride dances are always packed, the Sexual Diversity Centre keeps an active LGBT presence at Cape Breton University, PFLAG has monthly meetings and informal social networks further provide a sense of community. Much like elsewhere in Canada, the lives of Cape Breton queer and trans people are impacted by heterosexism (the social erasure of our identities and experiences) and direct homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in the form of stated attitudes and discriminatory actions. A less talked about form of oppression within our community is serophobia: the exclusion and devaluing of people

living with HIV/AIDS.

Poz queer and trans people are a part of our community, yet they experience intense exclusion and marginalization. Seemingly benign language we commonly encounter (and may even use) like, "I'm looking for a clean and healthy guy" contribute to serophobia and make the LGBT community an unwelcoming place. Serophobia compounds the homophobia poz people already face, filling their lives with a sense of isolation and exclusion. ACCB is challenging serophobia in Cape Breton through our new queer outreach project. We are building on years of effort Cape Breton LGBT activists have put in to combating the oppression we experience in addition to challenging our own attitudes about poz people.

Whether we are poz queer and trans people trying to live healthfully like others with chronic illnesses, or non-poz queer and trans people trying to make good decisions that

reduce our risk, we are influenced greatly by external ideas of what it means to be who we are. Health and well-being are directly influenced by how we perceive ourselves. The oppressions we experience can make it more difficult to perceive our lives as being valuable, which can mean we take more risks and care little for our health. We take the position that to improve the well-being of Cape Breton LGBT people—including poz people—we need to start at the root of our problems by challenging homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, serophobia and heterosexism.

ACCB is taking a multi-faceted approach to dealing with these issues. We are partnering with other community groups to offer education for change to high school and university students and we are distributing information about serophobia (along with safer sex kits) at Cape Breton Pride dances. It's a modest start but we believe our efforts can easily grow

with time and effort.

Anyone interested in learning more about the specifics of our new project is welcome to contact

evan.coole@gmail.com or through ACCB's toll free number, 1 (877) 597-9255.



Evan Coole, *Queer Outreach Coordinator, AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton.*

Chef's Corner



Now that winter is here to stay for a few months, it's time to enjoy some of that good old comfort food. Remembering back to when I was a child, when Sundays meant dinner at Granny's. In the cold winter months she always served lots of stewed and braised meats, salted and or dried fish, veggies from the root cellar, beans from attic or greens from the salt pots. These were traditional ways of preserving the summer's bounty for the winter months. In this issue I want to share my recipe for braised

beef short ribs. Ask your butcher to cut then into 3.5 inch cubes and trim all excess fat. They do shrink a lot so you will need two per serving. I love to serve these delicious ribs with sour cream and Dijon whipped potatoes and roasted Brussels sprouts. Enjoy!

Chef Darren is Chef de Cuisine and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, Halifax, N.S. Top 100 restaurants – "Where to Eat in Canada" Best Fine Dining – "The Coast" Member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs" world gastronomic society. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, or online at www.chives.ca.

Hate Crime

Cont'd from page 3

there who didn't want us to live last week. And they're still out there this week. And if they aren't caught, they'll be out there next week and the week after."

When the couple moved to Prince Edward Island five years ago from British Columbia, their plan was to spend the rest of their days here. "When we came across this bridge, there was a feeling that's just warming," Bill says. "When I go to Spry Point, I get this feeling like I've been there many, many times before. I almost think that before, in another life, I was here. I feel like I'm home."

Louis had the same vision. "That was my idea, to come and live the rest of my life here," he says from the couch. Though Louis is now recovering, "not dying," from cancer, he's hard hit. He seems small in his green shirt and flannel pyjamas. His hair is white and thinning and his face is tired, very tired.

"Instead, I don't know what's going to happen now."

After everything, the couple still has one more battle to add to their list—with the Guardian, the province's only daily newspaper.

"You mean when I sue their asses so they can't even breathe anymore? Yeah. I have a conflict with them." After speaking softly for such a long time, it's surprising to hear any anger in Bill's voice.

When the house first burned down, the Guardian released an article with an anonymous source calling their home a drug house. The couple, outraged, asked for a front page retraction.

The Guardian did release a retraction on a front page story, but it was late in the article and ended up on the second page. That wasn't enough for the couple, who now plans on suing

the newspaper.

Gary MacDougal, editor of the Guardian, says he's done all he can to reach out to the couple and apologize. He also thinks the retraction he ran was more than enough.

"We don't run retractions on the front page. Everybody always asks for it. The first story ran on page three. Then it was in a headline story of a weekend paper, many more people see our paper on the weekend."

He says that the story received many hits online as well.

"We certainly did not dismiss, in any way, shape, or form, the fact that we made this error. On Friday it was our headline story on the issue, and very clearly in our story we had pointed that we had erroneously reported."

He's also tried to interview the couple to get their side of the story, which they have refused.

"They wanted to correct it, but they wanted our side of the story before they would print a retraction," Bill says, incredulously. "There is no 'our side' of the story. There is a story, and unfortunately they screwed it up. There's no way on God's green earth I'll talk to him until I see a front page retraction: WE. WERE. WRONG."

But MacDougal is holding his ground. "Just because somebody calls up and says 'I want this on the front page tomorrow?' Well, good luck getting it. It's not a right."

Bill was having a party. He had been living in Prince George, British Columbia, since he left Ontario seven years earlier at the age of 16. The same year he came out to his family. The plan was cocktails with friends, then going out to the bars. Louis had come from "up North" in BC to visit a friend, who was going to a party for cocktails before going out.

Braised Nova Scotia Beef Short Ribs

Ingredients

(makes 4 servings)

8 x 3.5 inch cubes of beef short ribs
1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
1 Tbsp Montreal steak spice
1/2 cup seasoned flour (for dusting the ribs)
1/4 cup bacon drippings (or half

olive oil half butter)
6 bay leaves
1 large bunch fresh thyme
1 sprig fresh rosemary
1 shallot (minced)
4 large or 8 small cloves garlic (minced)
2 carrots (peeled and sliced in ba-

tonettes)
3 stalks celery (cut in batonettes)
2 cups peeled pearl onions or 1 Spanish onion (large dice)
2 Tbsp tomato paste
2 Tbsp brandy
2 cups beef broth (low sodium)
1 750 ml bottle full bodied red wine

Method

1. Marinate the ribs in the Worcestershire and steak spice overnight in a zip lock bag (remove as much air as possible).
2. Pat the ribs dry on paper towel and lightly coat them in the seasoned flour. Brown on all sides in a medium high pan. Remove and set aside.
3. Lower heat to medium and add shallots, garlic and dried bay leaves. Sauté until they take some colour, then deglaze with the brandy. (Be careful as this may flame up!)
4. When the brandy is reduced, add the tomato paste and cook out 3 – 5 minutes until it begins to brown.
5. Add the wine and reduce by one third.
6. Stir in the carrots, celery, onions and stock, then cook until the vegetables begin to soften slightly (about 5 min).
7. Re-introduce the beef ribs making sure they are covered in the liquid. Place the fresh herbs on top, cover, bring to the boil and then transfer to a pre-heated 300° F oven for 2 1/2 hours.
8. Remove the cover and continue cooking for another half hour, basting the meat every ten minutes.
9. Transfer the meat and veggies to a warm serving platter, degrease the sauce and reduce the braising liquid by half. Ladle the sauce over the ribs and veggies and serve.

"It was like magic," Bill says slowly and dreamily, 22 years later.

For them, it was love at first handshake.

Louis walked through the door and shook hands with Bill, and they found themselves standing there, shaking hands, unable to stop.

"We just shook hands for 10 minutes," Bill says with a laugh. They never made it to the bars that night. They just stayed, talking. The next day Louis went back home. He called Bill and said that he'd like to see him, either Bill could visit there or he would go back. Bill decided to go see him.

"It was probably from that point on that we knew."

The couple married last September in Montague. They had a "nice little ceremony" where they only invited people from Bill's work. One of the reasons they decided to marry was because of Louis' health.

"Louis has cancer. So we just thought, you know, it's time, why not?"

Now the couple is afraid. Not for normal things like Louis's health, or slippery floors, or their old relationship and new marriage. They are afraid for their lives.

"I went shopping for groceries and someone tapped me on the shoulder the other day just to say hi. I just about crawled out of my skin."

You wouldn't tell by his demeanor that Bill has only been sleeping for one to two hours a night. "The doctor gave me some pills that should put me to sleep, but I sleep for an hour or so and then I'm up. It takes a lot out of you."

Louis has plans to go see a friend and grab cigarettes. The couple had been making an effort to quit, but all efforts have been lost since the fire. Louis has a pack of Studios in the

front pocket of his sagging green shirt, and there's another pack of Colts on the table.

He aligns his crutches and pulls himself up, slowly making his way over to get his jacket.

Bill stands and fusses over him, grabbing his coat and draping it around him, asking him again if he's sure he doesn't want him to go instead. For most this would seem excessive, but there are tears in Louis's eyes. Just leaving the house is scary.

Then he breaks down.

"It hurts so much," he says, and tears start to well in his eyes, "to know that someone would do this." Bill embraces him and begs him to sit down, afraid that he will fall, but he remains resilient.

"It hurts the heart," Louis says feebly, wobbling on his crutches.

"And it's really hard to let it go."

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Ramblings from the Sanctuary Garden

Beauty, Rats And Balance

By Bethana Sullivan

“Evermore in the world is this marvelous balance of beauty and disgust, magnificence and rats.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

There is a balance in the world: in the environment, in the air around us, though sometimes it is hard to feel or hear or sense. This day, today, makes it easier, sun shining bright on the startling white snow, blue sky with goose feather pillows of clouds meandering across the horizon. It is a day that beckons us towards spring, despite the temperature or cliffs of icy snow banking the driveway and roadways-or sidewalks in the city.

A dear friend's dog died last week and so many people reached out to him, of all ages and sexes and genders-from far and near. It has been heartening and wonderful to see how they balance the grief for

him, this circle of love and support.

A fight with friends recently opened a window on a most painful memory yet fresh air blew in-not to say that it was easy or the fight resolved just that it led to a new action, a different result and what had loomed now lowered, a balance restored yet enlarged.

Many years ago now, I stepped into a new name and a new role, becoming Bethana instead of Mary Patricia, a Lesbian instead of a Hetero. I thought I was choosing with an open heart and mind and I was—it was just a limited openness, restricted by clutter and history.

Each choice seems so easy, so

right. And they are! My choices have led me away from my family of families, from the roots of my childhood to the roots of my spirit—did I know this at the time. No way. Some days I wake up and go ‘what the hell was I thinking of?’ Always the

As I struggled with the inner darkness I gradually found the way into it, not around or over or side-stepped it, just a step towards...

call though—that still place where wisdom and silence join together; where doubt is quieted and hope reaches

out. In that place lies a trust so deep and wide and loving that to ignore it is to die.

As you the readers know, death has been a frequent theme this past year as I experienced some deep places of grief, came to accept my

mortality and said, okay, this is the way it is, let me live it to the fullest.

The other side of death is life and what I feared most was that my choices were killing me emotionally. Well I am here to tell you that balance is being restored. As I struggled with the inner darkness I gradually found the way into it, not around or over or side-stepped it, just a step towards, a step more and there I am, in the light of the darkness and my, what a place. I arrived home to myself, yet more than me, a place where life lives in all of us. I like my peculiarities, my eccentricities and those of others too much to desire being in this place all the time; it is the place that sources living, consoles the disheartened, and lets you get on with life without interference, always there if needed.

Though there is a whole body of work about certainty there is also an-



other body of work about change. In the chaos of creativity lie both possibilities. What I knew in the beginning I know now, the difference being the pillows of clouds softening my fall when I doubt.

Breathe in the balance of life around you, don't forget that life is supporting you whatever your choices and have fun along the way.

Book Review

Edward Unconditionally

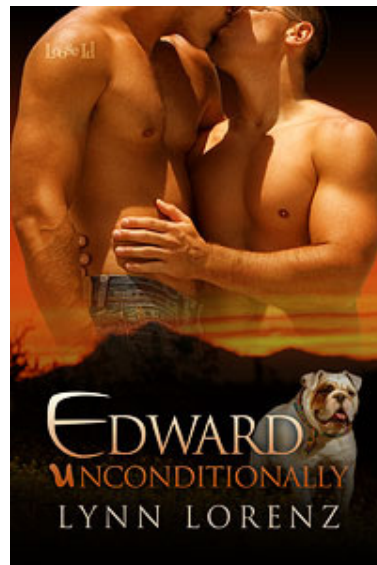
by Lynn Lorenze

an e-book review by Bill McKinnon
Edward Unconditionally - 2009 (234 p.p.) is the 3rd book in Lynn Lorenze's Common Powers Series. Available in e-book from Sony at \$7.19 or Kindle \$6.39 and in paperback.

Say you are Edward and you fall in love too easily with bad boys who sometimes are after your money and then they dump you. You are an attractive guy but you look, dress and act a bit too gay. Your romance pattern repeats over and over and you are crushed and left with a domineering mother who controls your trust fund and the only joy in your life is a little bulldog who loves you. It's so discouraging you leave the ever-gay freedom of big-city Atlanta and go to visit your grandmother in a small, seemingly-homophobic town in south Texas. Before you get to grandma's you run amok of the Law by speeding and your dog Winston bites the Chief of Police whose name is Jack and you meet up with some homophobic mechanics. Jack is a handsome, muscular and seemingly butch guy and naturally you immediately fall in lust and maybe love. After a tumultuously bad start, Jack accidentally shoots one of the tires on your car, arrests your dog and makes it clear he doesn't like you. Although the start of your visit to Texas to visit grandma whom you have not seen in many years begins inauspiciously, it turns out that she really cares about you and has no problem with your being gay. Her problem is that she is dying and although you have the power to help and maybe even cure her, she prefers to leave the present world to rejoin her late husband. As time passes your association with Jack remains tempestuous even though at first all you want to do is get your dog back and return to Georgia. Still there remains the unanswered question of whether Jack is gay (since you have the “hots” for him) even though his actions and reputation indicate that he's straight. Things come to a head when Brian a gay cop and his

partner befriend you and invite you for a barbecue at their ranch. There they are joined by two gay friends one of whom can read minds. They also invite Jack but he doesn't know you are coming and you don't know he is. Soon events get much more exciting and more than the story reaches a climax. Brian has had a premonition of bad news and when it happens, you find your four new-found friends are there for you in both good times and bad. By this point, the reader will figure whether or not Jack is gay, what the bad news is, if you and Jack get together and whether or not you return to Atlanta.

The story is a good read and one of humour, sadness, emotional turmoil, sexual tension and erections and also one of the love of friends, family and a little dog.



Our last reader survey showed that nearly half of Wayves' readers are women. But only ONE woman helps steer the magazine on our Board!
Get involved at: submissions@wayves.ca

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

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces.

AtlanticPoz: A new discussion group is for individuals living with HIV in Atlantic Canada. web: health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/

Egale Canada - Atlantic: (888) 204-7777 email: egale.canada@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: gender_expressions@hotmail.com (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. 1.800.565.4255 email: director@access-wave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (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. email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/wpapernews (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. Needle exchange located in office at 65 Brunswick Street Fred. E3B 1G5. 459-7518 email: jennifer@aidnsb.com web: www.aidnsb.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

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. 506-859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at (506-859-4726 fax) 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

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

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

River of Pride-rivière 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: Education on how to create safe environments for GLBT-TQQ youth. 859-9616

Transgendered Peer Support Group : Open to all M2F, F2M, Andro and trans-supporters from across Atlantic Canada. email: be_tgmoncton@live.com

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 NB/ Amherst NS

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.)

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: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street in Sackville, NB

Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: invites you to worship!. 506-634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS Saint John: To improve the quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the spread of HIV through education and a needle exchange program. Call the office for details. 652-2437 email: aids@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

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

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

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

The UNBSJ Q-Collective: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LGBTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News". Past events include the annual Rainbow Peace March, guest speakers, movie nights, participation in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

Woodstock

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

Frontrunners Newfoundland and Labrador: Running/walking club. 722-5791 or 753-9529 email: tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net.jennifer.mccreath@yahoo.com (meeting times can be flexible to accommodate new runners.)

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@munso.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!

LBGTQ Youth Group: A monthly gathering for queer, allied, questioning, and any interested youth. We offer social events such as bowling, movie nights, and coffee houses. Contact group coordinator Rob Sinnott at the number listed, email, or visit the web page for more info. 699-0509 email: lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org web: nlsexualhealthcentre.org

PFLAG Canada: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gemmahickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca) St. John's Pride: St. John's Official Pride Organization. web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2497860774

Nova Scotia (902)

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.

SUNS GLB Constituency Committee: 494-6654 at c/o the Students' Union of NS

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. 660-5143 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Monday (7-9 PM)

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@NS-SexualHealth.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. June 13 to around September 12 we have one 10 am 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!

DalOUT: DalOUT is the award-winning LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University. We pride ourselves on hosting fun, engaging and educational events for the entire Halifax community. email: dalout@dal.ca web: www.dalout.ca, meets 2nd Thursday, and 4th Thursday (from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.) at the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave., Room 321)

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. Everyone welcome. Confidential and non-judgmental. 455-9656 web: www.HSHC.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

Integrity: Integrity is an organization of GLBT Anglicans and their friends, to encourage Christian gay men and lesbians in their spiritual life; to support the Church in its commitment to seek and serve Christ in all people; and to reach out to the GLBT community in Christian love and service. (902) 425-8383 web: www.integritycanada.org, meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at All Saints Cathedral

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Koinonia is an ecumenical faith community offering open membership, equal marriage, practicing bible, church, religious and soul freedom, as well as open table communion. Koinonia offers Spiritual Care. Crisis support visitation and counselling for an honorarium. ALL are Welcome who celebrate God's Covenant to Love All of God's Creation. We are a registered charitable organization accepting donations from all who believe in the promotion of our all-inclusive community of faith. Contact Rev. Elaine @ 902-876-8771 for more information, or mail your contribution to 2410 St. Margaret's Bay Road Halifax N.S. B3T 1H1 with your name and address so we can issue your tax receipt. 876-8771 email: koinonia@eastlink.ca (we gather bi-weekly at 12:30pm - 1:30 followed by a time of fellowship) at Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre, Maritime Centre - entrance on the corner of Barrington & Salter Streets

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

Mount Pride: LGBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@mountstudents.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 245

) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Rose-ria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LG-BTQ community events to be involved with and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: NSRAP, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: for 15 years the leading advocate for Nova Scotia's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community. Fostering change in our communities through education, outreach, and political action. 444.3206 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrp.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

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 denomi-

nation 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 Masculine Spectrum: is a new support group for all transgender, transsexual, & trans men, FtMs, female assigned at birth genderqueers, two-spirited, intersexed, & questioning people 18 years of age or older, of all sexual orientations. No significant others, friends, family, or allies please. web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/genderspectrum/, meets 2nd Sunday at Just Us Cafe, 5896 Spring Garden Road

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

Lunenburg

Second Story Women's Centre: We offer a meeting space for women, support counselling, programs, and referrals. (902)640-3044 email: secstory@eastlink.ca web: www.

secstory.com at Second Story Women's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

Middleton

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

New Glasgow

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: 695-3366 email: pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com

Pictou County Women's Centre: Offering Individual Support Counselling and Crisis Intervention, Information and Referral, Advocacy and Accompaniment, Programs and Community Education. 755-4647 email: pcwc@womenscentre.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 Centre, 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

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.

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

Yarmouth

South West Nova Pride: GLBT of any age are invited, we meet as a social gathering and peer support group on the 2nd last Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Beacon United Church parlour 25 Beacon St. Yarmouth. We are not church affiliated. 645-2914 email: jackanddan@eastlink.ca web: SWNovaPride.com

Prince Edward Island (902)

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

AIDS PEI: AIDS PEI offers HIV prevention and support services to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 375 University Ave, Unit 2, Charlottetown PE, C1A 4N4

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)

Follow us on Twitter:
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1-877-352-4497

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www.looseends.ca



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The Last Word

Don't Be All Offended, Okay?

By Randall Perry

Because I'm out of the closet at work I'm sometimes the go-to guy for information about all things gay. The questions I'm asked tend to fall on the innocent, "let's ask a real one" side: When did you know? (Early.) How did you know? (I knew.) Do you all know each other? (No, we don't genetically-encode phone trees.) Some come from misinformed assumptions, best answered with irreverent humour: Do gay men want to be women? (No, we just out-shop them.) You don't look or sound gay! How can you be? (You've not seen me with a dick in my mouth.)

(Well, I usually don't answer that last question that way, but it does get asked.)

What's interesting is that such questions are often preceded by, "Don't be offended, but I want to ask..."

Is perhaps the propensity to take offense the most enduring and insidious of queer stereotypes? Why should I be offended by a question? Most people ask out of genuine curiosity but I can spot a mockery coming a mile away and I usually send those people away with significant ego bruises. It's a skill that took years to develop.

I think when it comes to queer things we sometimes misplace our priorities. We waste energy on trivialities and come up short on the big transgressions. We clutched our collective pearls recently at a tempest in a transistor and a national flap was created over a word we decided shouldn't be sung on the radio. By comparison only a fractional amount of printer's ink is spent over the truly hateful things still happening to real people: cowards who harass and burn gay couples out of their homes; who use the internet to lure and mug those looking for love; who accost and beat innocents walking home from an

evening out; who continue to exercise censorship and suppression of our legitimate, legal expressions of art and literature.

We may have equitable legal status as every other Canadian but socially we are still firmly mired in our second-class citizenry, where we're still expected to keep ourselves politely concealed under "family-friendly" wraps. This burns my ass. That so many of us just blindly parrot the fashionable huff of the day instead of focusing on the real hatreds that still exist across the globe sticks in my craw even more. We need to thicken our skins to the marginal slights and



direct more spirited responses to the real outrages that still perpetuate.

We've been kicking ass for decades. Some days we just need to practice that skill more.

Letters

Ryan MacGrath

Hi there. Just wanted to send a big thank-you for mentioning Ryan MacGrath in Wayves and helping him spread the word about his song auction with money going to the Mental Health Foundation. It was a great success and media attention helps a lot.

Ryan ended up raising \$1,000 for the song and he donated the money to the foundation at the beginning of January. He's now preparing to write a song for the Mental Health Foundation's Festival of Trees, which will take place during November. We're hoping to have Chantal Kreviazuk sing with him for that event. That'd be amazing!

Adriana Afford

New Gay Group

Hello fellow readers of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/ Transgendered Community. I have often wondered if there could be room for a new pride group here. Therefore I am proposing the creation of Rainbow Pride Coalition. This would be a bold new venture for me as I would take the lead role of founder/ facilitator & organizer into taking the first steps into bringing this idea/concept into reality. I hope the core elements to

include a social networking aspect, an educational aspect & a health awareness aspect.

The reason I chose the name "Rainbow Pride Coalition" was with the desire of working in conjunction with other pride groups across our region if possible. My vision is to totally differentiate this group slightly from other groups that already exist. My ability to create/found/organize & implement the beginnings of this group will depend largely on the feedback/support I hope to get from the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered Community and beyond. So I leave you with the premise that this proposal will be freshly planted and eventually flourish and grow in the minds, hearts & souls of all collective citizens & be a positive step in moving forward in the 21st Century.

If you're interested in participating, email Darryl.king68@eastlink.ca. Sincerely, Darryl King

McCain Donation to MCC

Kudos to the McCain family for donating \$1,000,000 to the Metropolitan Community Church. This is a strong indication of acceptance and shows

tremendous support from a couple that obviously embraces the LGBT community. This very act of generosity and the fact it has been well publicized will indicate to Maritimers that influential citizens such as Wallace and Margaret McCain support our cause and our efforts to raise awareness and educate those not so accepting. Cynics may view this as a tax game. However, let's not forget that supporting the LGBT church in such a public manner is definitely cause to celebrate, aside from the benefit to those that view the church as a place of worship within their own community. Brent Hawkes is obviously elated with this generous donation.

Gerard Veldhoven

AIDS Saint John

Dear Wayves, We would like to express our sincere thanks for being a media sponsor for our AIDS Walk for Life.

Thanks to community support like yours, we were able to raise over \$10,000 to provide prevention services as well as support to people living with HIV in South-Western New Brunswick.

Sincerely, Leigh Aube AIDS Saint John

Trans Family Nova Scotia
Supporting...
...partners
...parents
...allies
so they can do a better job of supporting the trans-identified person in their life!
3rd Monday of each month
6:30 - 8:30 pm at
The Youth Project
2281 Brunswick, Halifax
902.431.8500
transfamily@eastlink.ca

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

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
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Manna for Health: Community Sustained

By Rev. Jennifer Paty
Manna for Health is a safe, respectful and dignified food and nutrition resource centre for those living with HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses, operated entirely by volunteers. We are an organization created by Safe Harbour MCC and sustained by the community. Manna for Health is truly a community owned institution.

As the director for Manna, I want to take this moment to say thank you for your generous contributions in 2010. In addition to the food we received as a member agency of Feed Nova Scotia, we received \$11,256 in additional cash and in-kind donations.

These donations included a \$3,000 grant from ACE Bakery, \$1,500 from the Imperial Sovereign Court Atlantic Nova Society (ISCANS), \$2,450 from the AIDS Walk, and the remaining \$4,306 came from congregational and other donations, fundraising and donations in-kind. Special thanks go out to ISCANS, Mz Vickie, Doug, Dave and staff at Menz, and all who worked the fund raisers and those who gave to Manna. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

As it was reported this year in the Globe and Mail and the Chronicle Herald, Manna is truly unique in two ways. One, we spent an additional \$9,021 to provide our clients with the nutritional resources needed for those who have compromised immune

systems (a choice of beef, chicken, pork and fish protein, butter, milk and when available cheese, peanut butter, eggs and Boost) and other needed items. The second thing that makes us relatively unique is that we personally deliver to those who are unable to travel to our onsite location.

After a year on the job, I have come to understand that Manna does indeed belong to the community and

I have come to understand that Manna does indeed belong to the community and we, the volunteer staff, are simply stewards of this most important institution.

we, the volunteer staff, are simply stewards of this most important institution. I am grateful that you entrust us with such profound responsibility and assure you that we stand ready for the challenges ahead in 2011.

This year I am proud to report that 85% of expenditures went directly to client services (food purchases, delivery and bus ticket costs) and the remaining 15% to administration and operating costs (rent, telephone, insurance, repair and maintenance).

We expect the repair and maintenance cost will virtually disappear this year due to the efforts of Janice Costigan and the Bank of Montreal (BMO). Janice, a senior facilitator for BMO, heard me worrying (rather

loudly) about the additional cost of repair on the old refrigerator and the health risk this might impose on our clients. We were throwing away a lot of food on those days the refrigerator was broken. Unannounced to me, Janice emailed the office of the District Vice President for Atlantic Region and three weeks before Christmas we received a new refrigerator-freezer. I was humbled at the spirit of giving and thrilled to have received such a gift from BMO. Thank you, Janice and thank you, BMO, for a wonderful life-giving surprise. It is no surprise that all of us have seen an increase in our family food budget and Manna was no exception in 2010.

We had to dip into our savings this year to make up for additional food, bus ticket and delivery costs of \$3,389 over the 2009 expenditure level. Your contributions made up for all but \$1,023 of that additional cost. As we know from managing our family budgets, it's times like these that our savings accounts are very important.

As we plan for 2011, I assure you that we are dedicated to being responsible ambassadors for the health and welfare of our clients as well as good stewards of your donations. I personally look forward to this next year knowing that together we will continue to make a difference. Thank you again everybody, it was indeed a good year for Manna.



Manna for Health food distribution volunteers Dave Bird and Helen Langille with Rev Jen and the new refrigerator donated by Bank of Montreal (BMO.)





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Moncton Wayves Bureau Chief

Wayves is a regional magazine. We attempt to cover events in the LGBT community in all of the Atlantic Provinces although the core editorial team has been mainly located in Halifax.

We are always trying to improve our coverage outside of the Halifax Region, which has led us to create a new position—the Bureau Chief. First to step up to the plate is Nathan Adams, head of our new Moncton Bureau. Nathan's job isn't to write about every queer event in Greater Moncton by himself but to encourage community members to tell their own stories through our pages. He will also be responsible for the area's advertising and circulation needs.

Nathan has been an active member within the Moncton's LGBT community for several years. In his own words, "I am a past Vice-Chair for River of Pride and have helped organize events such as National Coming Out day, Colour parties and Pride week activities. I am also the creator of Moncton Magic, Moncton's only LGBT community forum, a place for members of our community to come together, share stories, events, post topics and hopefully bring our community together as a stronger and



more accepted place to live. I feel as if I have already accomplished so much, but that doesn't mean I can't accomplish so much more... I am looking forward to working within Moncton's LGBT community."

Nathan can be reached at nathan@wayves.ca. As we all keep reach-

ing out and moving forward, we hope that Nathan will only be the first of a number of Bureau Chiefs. Openings exist in Saint John, Fredericton and northern New Brunswick, as well as St. John's, NL and Charlottetown, PE. We'll let you know as our Wayves team grows!

MARCH LINEUP

Saturday, Mar. 5th
Mardi Gras Costume Ball*
\$100 for Best Costume • Free Before 10 PM, \$7 After

Tuesday, Mar. 8th, 6-8 PM - **Free Pancake Supper***
No Charge but Donations Accepted
on behalf of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

Thursday, Mar. 17th, 6-9 PM - **Safe Harbour's St Patty's Day Irish Stew Supper***
Donations graciously accepted!

Friday, Mar. 18th - **Dress Up In Green Night***
monthly Colour Nights are in support of Halifax Pride

Saturday, Mar 19th - **Top 40 Dance Party***
featuring DJ Sonny D • No Cover Before 10PM, \$8 after



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