

Wayves

Veldhoven Nominated: Order of Nova Scotia

Amherst resident, longtime gay rights activist and Wayves columnist Gerard Veldhoven has been nominated for the Order of Nova Scotia. Born in the Netherlands, he has been active in many issues relating to the LGBT community. "His work has been recognized to promote understanding and acceptance not only in his community, but throughout our province at large that has left Amherst, Cumberland County and Nova Scotia a far more accepting place to inhabit for every single resident," says MLA Brian Skabar. "Gerard has made Nova Scotia a better place; as a parent, a committed partner, a volunteer, a community leader and pioneer for human rights."

As founder of the Cumberland Pride Society, Veldhoven has continually worked along Amherst town officials in a quest for raising awareness and celebrate diversity. He contacted long-term care facilities throughout the province to raise awareness in those facilities in order to gain equal treatment for senior LGBT community members. His article, "Equal rights in a Just Society," has been recognized and he has presented this at special speaking engagements. Promoting gay- and grand-parenting is also a favourite passtime. His guest speaking engagements have included PFLAG, the Zonta Club and the Senior LGBT Group in Toronto. Gerard has also been involved with other activists in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Amherst Mayor Rob Small also expressed praise: "Gerard has not only strived to make Amherst a better place to work, live and be proud of, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that Nova Scotia is recognized to be open and welcoming to all."

Veldhoven, the father of two sons and two



Veldhoven at St Patrick's Day Irish Stew Supper at Menz Bar in Halifax, hosted by Safe Harbour. Photo by Anita Martinez.

granddaughters, is presently writing his memoirs. He and his late partner, Norman Carter, were together 36 years and their October 16, 2004 marriage is believed to be the first publicly-performed ceremony in Nova Scotia. They allowed TV cameras to be present so as to promote equal marriage. Gerard is known to Wayves readers as a regular columnist. Asked how he would react to being inducted to the Order of Nova Scotia Gerard said it would be a further recognition of the queer community of the province. "Being nominated is both humbling and exciting," says Veldhoven.



Protest In Moncton

By Nathan Adams

A protest was held outside Moncton City Hall on Wednesday, March 30 in the hope of stopping the abolishment of the NB Advisory Council for the Status of Women. The goal was to get as many women and supportive men to attend, with the women wearing bandannas over their mouths. The women carried signs stating "NB Women Silenced by Alward," while the men carried "In Solidarity" signs.

The NB ACSW, an agency that has served as the independent voice for women since 1977, advocates for the women of NB and raises awareness on their issues and concerns. The Council hosts public educational events year-round throughout the province, publishes a bi-annual statistical report on the status of NB women, and maintains a toll-free line women can call if they need to find out about services available to them.

Beth Lyons, NB ACSW's event coordinator and researcher, said she is hoping that this

movement will show the government how much the people of New Brunswick oppose the abolition of the Council, and that it can help convince them to reverse their decision to cut it. "I am hoping that people who are driving or walking by on the way home from work will see the protest and ask questions, find out about the closure of the NB ACSW or, if they already know about it, galvanize them, and inspire them to take action," she said.

"In the short time that I've been with the ACSW, our chairperson has produced columns defending the need to have pride parades, decrying homophobic and hetero-sexist language, and has written about trans issues," she said. "Every time we have dealt with an issue relating to the LGBT community, I've felt that the ACSW has an admirable knowledge base to work from and I never felt that their dealing with the issues were tokenistic. The LGBT community has a strong ally in the NB ACSW."

International Day Against Homophobia

In Prince Edward Island, Abegweit Rainbow Collective, in partnership with PFLAG PEI, AIDS PEI, and UPEI Rainbow Alliance are planning a showing of "Fish out of Water," with a panel discussion after the viewing. At press time the details have not all been worked out, so check ARC's website at www.arcofpei.com or e-mail info@arcofpei.com for up-to-date information.

The Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health and the Pictou County Women's Centre will hold an open house from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on May 17 at 503 South Frederick Street in New Glasgow. There will be brochures, posters, information and light refreshments available to celebrate this day. The Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health is also looking to form a focus group with LGBTTTQQI individuals in the community to identify needs and supports, as well as a working group—please call Rayann at (902) 695-3366 if interested. PCCSH has a Facebook page. Its website is [\[countysexualhealth.com\]\(http://countysexualhealth.com\).](http://www.pictou-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Frontrunners/walkers of Newfoundland will host an informal run/walk, tentatively scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on May 17, starting at the Quidi Vidi Boathouse. To confirm time and location e-mail tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net.

As in the past years, there will be a Rainbow Peace March, organized by PFLAG and AIDS Saint John. The march will begin at 5:45 p.m. at the Fort La Tour site on Harbour Passage in Saint John, NB, and will make its way to Centenary-Queen Square United Church, 215 Wentworth Street, for our annual Service of Prayer and Hope at 7:00 pm, followed by refreshments. For more information, contact Mack MacKenzie or AIDS Saint John.

Planned Parenthood (NL Sexual Health Centre)'s Annual International Day Against Homophobia breakfast, with guest speaker T.A. Loeffler, will be held on May 17, beginning at 7:15 a.m. and will run through to 8:30 a.m. Tickets are \$17.00 each (cash or cheque) and

can only be purchased in advance at Planned Parenthood at 203 Merrymeeting Road, or at the Travel Bug in the Avalon Mall or 155 Water Street, St. John's. The location for the event has yet to be determined, so please contact executive director Costa Kasimos at (709) 579-1009 or toll-free at 1 (877) NO MYTHS (666-9847). E-mail executivedirector@nlsexualhealthcentre.org or visit the website at www.nlsexualhealthcentre.org.

On 17th May at 11:30 Mayor Greeley of Corner Brook and well as Christian Corbet, Founder and Chairperson of Corner Brook Pride Inc. will raise the Pride Flag at City Hall in recognition of Inter-

national Day Against Homophobia. All are invited. This will mark the first time The City of Corner Brook as honoured this important day and we believe the first time this action has been taken in Western Newfoundland.

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project will hold an IDAHT event in Halifax. Please visit the Halifax LGBT Events Board at gay.hfxns.org/events for all the details.

Regular Columns

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Deadline for May issue: Friday, May 6 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca • Online: www.wayves.ca • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine Rocks! • and Twitter: @WayvesMagazine



Atlantic Canada News

Safe Harbour MCC Closes its Doors

On April 3, seventeen of the twenty-seven members, and fourteen friends of Safe Harbour met to discuss and



decide the fate of the 20-year-old church.

After two hours of often tearful question-and-answer, the members voted 9 to 7 (with one abstention) to continue operations despite an untenable financial position, no pastor, and no prospect of being able to hire one.

In a continuation of the AGM two weeks later, the members decided to re-vote on the matter, and after a brief discussion, voted 11-3 to discontinue operations.

The existing board agreed to oversee the transition of existing ministries: Manna for Health, Christmas Dinner, and annual picnic, to volunteer groups formed from former members and friends of the church. Anyone interested in this should contact the church at 902-453-9249, admin@safeharbourmcc.com or via Wayves.

Lesbian Sexual Assault Research

I am a Ph.D candidate and member of the LGBTQ community from Nova Scotia studying at Laval University in Quebec. I am researching sexual assault between women. It is my hope that this research will ultimately raise awareness about this important and little-known issue while contributing to the development of prevention and response strategies. I will be interviewing participants in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and New York.

To learn more about who can participate and what's involved see the online call for participants at www.womensresearch.info. Click on "English" for the English version of the document. You can also contact me by email at participate@live.ca or by phone at (418) 952-9271. Just ask for KelleyAnne.

Youth Project Youth Board

The Youth Project is currently searching for members to be on our Youth Board, the Youth Board is made up of youth, 25 years of age and under, who use the Youth Project's services. The Youth Board has control over a budget for dances, parties, retreats and more and is open to any youth members who are interested. "The Youth Board is almost like being in a family," says Aaron Stevens, co-chair



of the Youth Board. "I have always had a good time being on the Youth Board. I defiantly think more people should join and provide their input to make the Youth Project even better than it already is!" Anyone interested in joining or getting more information on the Youth Board can go to the Youth Projects website at www.youthproject.ns.ca. This is definitely an experience you don't want to miss out on.

Dance In Amherst

Cumberland Pride would like to announce a spring get-together dance... no dinner, just a night of dancing and pool upstairs at the Warehouse on Havelock St. in Amherst.

On May 7, let's shake off those winter blues and get down! Pool tables will be available. Admission is \$10.00 in advance (you can reserve them via e-mail at cumberlandpride@hotmail.com) and at the door.

Visit Cumberland Pride online at cumberland-pride.sytes.net.

NACS Art for Life Auction

The Northern AIDS Connection Society is pleased to present its tenth annual Art for Life Auction. This special evening will be held on Monday, June 13 at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel in Truro, NS. Viewing will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the auction will begin an hour later.

Local distinguished artists Rob Scott, Bruce McCabe, Rob Marshall, Michelle Brake, Janice Stewart and many others have all generously donated works for the event.

Tickets are \$10.00, which includes the price of the paddle, red ribbon, snacks and a ticket for door prizes. All proceeds go to NACS to assist with programming for youth, women and



other marginalized populations in northern Nova Scotia.

For more information contact NACS at (902) 895-0931, e-mail nacs@eastlink.ca or visit the website at www.northernaidsconnectionsocty.ca.

River of Pride Elects New Board

River of Pride held its AGM at Triangles on March 30 and elected a new board for the 2011-12 Pride season. The members remaining from last year are Paul Leblanc (Chair/President) and his brother, Greg Leblanc (Secretary/Treasurer). Joining the executive this year are Ed Oldford (Vice-Chair) and Roger Poirier (Second Vice-Chair), who served as President in 2009. Ben Theriault accepted the position of Volunteer Coordinator. All three new committee members for the new Pride season are previous members of River of Pride.

With Pride season well on its way, River of Pride is well into its gearing up-process. The annual Colour

Parties kicked off in January and run monthly right up until July. Pride Week occurs in August and will include the flag raising event on August 17, Pride dance on August 20, and the parade on the 21st. Other events will be announced as Pride approaches.

If you would like to volunteer with River of Pride, visit the website at www.fiertemonctonpride.ca.

Halifax Pride Public Meetings

Halifax Pride will hold public meetings leading up to Pride Week 2011, July 17 – 24. These meetings will be held at Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick Street, Halifax on Tuesday, May 17 and Tuesday, June 21. Each meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome all interested in Halifax Pride to attend and stay informed as our Festival starts to take shape. We also welcome questions or comments to our office phone at (902) 431-1194 or by email to chair@halifaxpride.com.

Cont'd next page

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Moncton Trans Camping Weekend

By Josie Harding

Last year, with the help of some friends in the local trans community, the Moncton Transgendered Peer Support Group was formed to help join the like minds and experiences of the trans brothers and sisters in our area. We extended this welcome out to any and all transmen, transwomen, androgynous, two-spirited, and gender-questioning people who could make it to the meeting hall. In doing so we have met people of all ages from all over the province looking for the much needed support they craved. And today, I want to extend that hand even further.

Over the weekend of June 11 – 12 the group will hold the inaugural Moncton Transgendered Days of Celebration. We are looking for transpersons and allies from anywhere in Atlantic Canada and beyond to join us in celebrating a weekend that focuses specifically on gender

expression. A major factor that went into the planning of this event is that it will take place in a private area away from the public eye and on privately-owned property—to ensure our safety and allow our rich creativity to shine in peace and harmony with nature. Also for our safety, an RSVP e-mail to our group email address is the only way to gain admittance. In doing it this way, it will allow us to prepare for the number of attendees in advance.

Since being transgendered is natural, so should we celebrate in a natural environment, with a forest campout event for those who choose to stay overnight after the ceremonies on Saturday, June 11 (complete with

bonfire and marshmallows for roasting). Attendance is free, as well. Just find your way here and have a great time. More details about the event will appear in the June issue of Wayves. Once you have e-mailed your RSVP

I describe this coming out process as having your most embarrassing, degrading and shameful moment of your entire life being played in slow motion on the 6 o'clock news for everyone to see

see you there!

A common misunderstanding I hear all the time is that unless you live in large centers like Toronto you will probably never see a transperson. This statement, I assure you, could not be farther from the truth, because as a small-town New Brunswick transwoman, I can vouch that there are many others out here like me.

to us at be_tgmoncton@live.com, we will keep you updated on the event as it approaches. Hope to

The truth is we are in every corner of the world and have been so since the dawn of mankind in some form or another.

This error proves to me that the biggest problem with transgender life here is the lack of education and information for society at large. If outing this condition to your spouse, family, children, friends, neighbours and a slew of medical professionals weren't enough, admitting this to yourself is most often the hardest part. I describe this coming out process as having your most embarrassing, degrading and shameful moment of your entire life being played in slow motion on the 6 o'clock news for everyone to see. It's truly debilitating and exhaustive for new transpeople and the majority of the anguish stems directly from the lack of information and education of those close to them.

In spite of the abundance of scientific and cultural texts, blogs, forums



and web pages available on transgenderism, the readership of these resources seem mainly confined to the trans community itself or to those questioning or researching the issue. Why is this information only being sought after once the problem shows up? If majority finds the trans spectrum so fearsome, why is there such a lack of proactive measures to help everyone cope and deal with transgenderism? After all, many of us buy an umbrella before the rain starts. Being prepared is part of our nature.

News, Continued

George House Award

George House Heritage Bed and Breakfast in Dildo, NL are long time Wayves advertisers. Congratulations to owners Dale and Todd on winning the Gourmand International Award Best First Cookbook Canada (English) 2010! Check out Dan MacKay's review of the book in our December 2010 issue at www.wayves.ca.



youth, ages 25 and under from July 8 – 11.

Camp Seahorse: A camp for LG-BTQ* youth, ages 25 and under from August 19 – 22.

Registration packages will be available May 1. Check out our website for more information, at www.youthproject.ns.ca.

Youth Project Summer Camps

Youth Project Summer Camps are a chance for LGBTQ* youth to get away for a few days in the summer. They're aimed at creating the camp experience in a safe, supportive and welcoming environment. Activities include canoeing, swimming, crafts,

writing and music workshops, team building activities, scavenger hunts, campfires and maybe a few ghost stories. With the generous support of the We're Funny That Way Foundation and First Baptist Church Halifax, the Youth Project will host the following summer camps:

Camp Coyote: A camp for trans-identified and gender-questioning

Our Cover

One of many beautiful and powerful posters from Un sur Dix, the UMoncton anti-homophobia project; story on Page 9. Cover design by Cam MacLeod.



Wayves On Line!

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

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: May 6, Jun 3, Jul 1: that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings

(Halifax): Mondays: May 9, Jun 6, Jul 4: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

May 15, Jun 12, Jul 10: 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!

Wayves

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

Wayves is an independent publication, published every month except February by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to Wayves is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. Wayves reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in Wayves are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the *Important Wayves Dates* section of this page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and may be edited for length. Submissions should be emailed in plain text to the address below. Articles and letters may be published with pseudonyms or anonymously, but Wayves must have contact information for the author. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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

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

I Am What I Amherst Conference, Pride & France

By Gerard Veldhoven
What better way to celebrate spring than to see the beginning of buds appearing on the trees and the green grass springing from the earth. Ah, if only the world of our LGBT community was able to do likewise, but instead we march on to a different drummer and continue our fights in a society that needs reminding over and over again that equal treatment is but a dream. I attended a conference in Halifax recently where many of us gathered and discussed ideas and shared stories that need to be told and

dispersed so that greater understanding may develop. This workshop, Collaborative Strategies in Community Development, was without question the most informative and decidedly emotional event I have ever attended. The exchange of ideas and personal stories told were without question imprinted on the minds of those in attendance. The information I gathered I presented to the Cumberland Pride Society and boldly put out a challenge to members to act on the many ideas I brought along. Hopefully, many of us will go into

action in our respective communities. Many thanks and appreciation to Hugo Dann and the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project for hosting this all-encompassing workshop. Facilitators Dr. Jeannie Cockell and Ross MacDonald were well informed and kept us from going into all sorts of directions, as time was of the essence. Plans for Pride Week are well under way here in Amherst and Cumberland County. The week of July 3 – 10 will see many flock to this part of the province to assist in celebrating queer events of all sorts.

Some details are being ironed out and will be included on their website, cumberland-pride.sytes.net, or e-mail the group at cumberlandpride@hotmail.com
France recently became the eleventh country to change marriage laws to include same-sex couples. How great to see such inroads in more nations, as time goes by. Now, if the United States would finally get on board. However, such is the societal difference between our two countries. Even with our daily queer bashings and all the other atrocities commit-



ted by those that call themselves our neighbours, the US is far behind Canada in equal rights. Well, my queer friends keeping checking the pages of Wayves as more information comes your way.

Lesbian Soap Box Diaries

L's Vagina Monologue: Bringing Sexy Back... Safely

By L. Connors
When I woke up, my vagina was pissed off. My uterus was not the first organ I had removed, but it will be the last if I can help it. Abdominal surgery is painful, but when they remove your uterus, they also take your cervix. This requires hacking up your vagina and stitching it back together. As you may know, the sex organ contains an extreme amount of nerve endings. These sensory bits, in my opinion, are intended for pleasure only. Unfortunately, they are stimulated by pain with every bit as much earnest as orgasm. I was completely unaware of the hip bone to hip bone incision; instead my every waking thought was literally, "Oh my GOD my fucking cunt HURTS SO BAD!" (I was later told I sobbed this to whoever was in the room whenever I was roused by the slightest sound, including my good friend and her 5-year old-daughter, and my 80-something-year-old roommate and her loving husband. What else would you expect from a pseudo sex columnist?)

already been medicated. They say doctors and nurses make the worst patients (or maybe its patience), and they would be correct. I am thankful that I was unable to form full sentences between the morphine and the pain. In my mind I read this woman the riot act, yelling, "Of course they gave me drugs in recovery, you moron. Clearly, I need more. I don't care who you have to call, just get me more drugs!" Instead, it came out more like, "Drugs, MORE drugs."

My vagina's usual mantra was original coined by Alice in "The L Word." In the long-anticipated scene where she and Dana finally give into their feelings for each other while stuffing wedding gift bags for Dana's impending wedding. "Fingers, more fingers," she utters in her usual quirky way. And voila! Just like that Alice verbalized my vagina's mantra. It's no secret that I'm a selfish lover. I've never felt the need to protect anyone else's ego by pretending to have an orgasm. I'm more of a "hello, glad you had a good time, but, um, I'm not done over here" kind of girl. After all, I've always said one orgasm is merely foreplay.

Recently, my vagina suffered yet another blow. I was reading up on the latest news on line, you know, creeping on Facebook. Many of my FB friends are advocates (political, queer or otherwise) and I usually keep myself abreast by following their posted links. I came across an article titled, "Oral sex now main cause of oral cancer: Who faces biggest risk?" Naturally my news-savvy mind was intrigued. As my vagina smirked, "I only have sex with women

who sleep exclusively with women," I read on. Both my vagina and I were cocky in our arrogance, assuming it was it was young hetero teens, or, maybe the longstanding target of gay men, since it was one that had posted it. But my vagina, my lover (who I had read the article out loud to) and I were all shocked to find out we were not as safe as we thought we were. Anyone, regardless of sexual orientation, who has had more than six sexual partners that they have had oral sex with, is at an eightfold increased risk for oral cancers. My lover and I, both also smokers, sat in stunned silence. I broke the silence with a barely audible, "So I'm good, you?"

"Oh yeah, I'm good, too," she replied meekly, swallowing hard. "So..." I reply, "should I booked us doctors appointments or just inquire about grave plots?"
"Both," she says. "You know just in case any one of the less than six women we have each slept with had sex with more than her generous allotment."
It was one of those "aha" moments. It reminded me of when Lea Thompson first read about AIDS in the 1988 film, "Casual Sex." Here I am with a grown-up, educated and

Cont'd next page

From Citadel Hill to Sable Island...I'm here to help.

Leonard Preyra
MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island



"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ".

Mohandas Gandhi

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The Evolution of an Academic Community

By Matthew Campbell

In 1994, Cape Breton University (then known as the University College of Cape Breton) had little in terms of resources for LGBTQI* students. Of course, there was the Max Bell Health Clinic with information on sexual health as well as a public health nurse. There were free condoms and lubricant for those willing to request them. Jean Chrétien was the prime minister of Canada. Equal marriage rights were over a decade away. Cape Breton was one enormous, Celtic closet tastefully decorated in a rainbow tartan that no one wanted to see.

Campus life passed by the LGBTQI* community and little changed in that regard. Queer students spent time with friends outside the Students' Union offices at 'Chievers, but there was always an underlying longing. Most had yet to experience anything gay in their lives. Those who did have a part in a LGBTQI* life did so quietly behind closed doors.

I remember learning that there was a new society at UCCB called the Sexual Diversity Society. It was being kept quiet, but this secret society spoke to the state of Cape Breton's gay community in the 90s. It was the process of joining the society that was most telling...

First, an e-mail was sent to an unknown person expressing an interest in knowing more about the society. The only response requested more information. Why are you interested in the society? Do you know anyone who is in the society? The second email provided those responses and garnered a new slew of questions. How do you self-identify? Are you in a relationship? Do you have other supports in the community? Another response, another interrogation. Can you meet outside of regular class hours? Do you have transportation to and from the campus? Yes and yes. Finally, a meeting was arranged. This meeting was with a person whose first name was finally shared after several exchanged emails. The school was barely populated at 2:30 p.m. on a Friday afternoon. We met in a secluded area behind the campus store—which is now the box office of the Boardmore Theatre. He was nervous. Tentative. And he only offered the time and place to meet with the rest of the society.

The meeting space changed each week to ensure no one would be able to harass members should the society become known around the campus.

About eight people were in attendance. All were male. Few talked about issues that were important to the community and none would consider taking any actions that might result in being "outed." It was simply a shared space with like-minded people. Folks

Folks chatted about pop culture, about secret crushes, about our hopes and dreams, and about others we thought might share our inclinations.

chatted about pop culture, about secret crushes, about our hopes and dreams, and about others we thought might share our inclinations.

In the twelve years that have passed since that first year, the Sexual Diversity Society at Cape Breton University has continued to grow and evolve. The society became more public as younger and newer students began to proudly use their voice. In 2001, the Sexual Diversity Society initiated a greater presence at Cape

Breton University with the opening of the Sexual Diversity Center (SDC). The Center is largely staffed by volunteers with a coordinator who completes workshop training and helps to provide sexual health information and services to all CBU students.

Volunteers have visited local schools to conduct anti-homophobia educational workshops and take part in speaking engagements. The Center also houses a Safe Space room in which troubled students can escape heterosexism or abusive language and behaviour while seeking comfort from friends and allies. Though the society continues to exist as a forum for political discussion and community change, the SDC takes the lead in CBU's annual Pride Week and contributes semi-regularly to the campus newspaper The Caper Times to keep folks up to date on activities and important sexual health news.

Much has changed in the lives of the Cape Breton LGBTQI* community in years leading up to 1994

and beyond. However, with all that has changed there is still much to do in our community. Partners who share a gender can get married, but they must survive public school to do so. Anti-homophobia posters are nice efforts, but actions speak louder than words. Don't let anyone get away with homophobia, biphobia, or transphobia. Even within the LGBTQI* community there continues to be much to learn. Don't allow heterosexism to persist in our society. Support your community. Help to build an inclusive society by insisting upon equality. Asking for acceptance assumes someone else's approval is required for one's existence. Asking for tolerance assumes there is something potentially intolerable about the life you need. Demand to be treated as human beings. It is an indifference that everyone else takes for granted. I would rather you ignore me altogether than acknowledge me solely as a sexual being or gender identity. It is the least interesting thing about me. How about you?

Diaries Cont'd from prev. page

mutilated vagina. It has been more than six months since my hysterectomy. The surgeon had sworn he had left both of my ovaries, but I had begun to suspect that he was in fact a chauvinist liar, hell-bent on leveling the playing field on the whole multiple orgasms issue. My vagina was still protesting and fingers more fingers had turned into more of an act of mutually-assisted masturbation. I pretended not to notice or be concerned. Then one day, while slightly intoxicated, my insatiable sexual appetite returned. I lost count of fingers and orgasms. Then, at 2:00 a.m., I proceeded to call all of my nearest and dearest friends to announce, "My vagina is back!" Believe me... I never joke about such things!

My vagina and I have made up. We are best friends again. We now take

care of and look out for each other. I now buy dental dams wholesale, I only have sex with the less than six women that I have previously slept with, and, my "see you next Tuesday" is always ready and willing to come whenever I need her to.

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hi Tom

How are things on the Prairies? Spring is in full strength here on the east coast—lots of green, warmth in the air, flowers. All of us glad to finally pack away parkas and snow boots. I enjoy watching the flocks of university students gadding about in skimpy tee shirts and shorts. Some people are avid bird watchers, I prefer people watching, especially when I can turn my gaze on nubile young men. Just a variation on observing woodpeckers and nut hatches and sap suckers really, Tom. Everyone needs a hobby.

Speaking of students I saw this fantastic video on YouTube created by a group in Ireland. It's an anti-homophobia/bullying piece that is really powerful and hopeful. A lovely thing that shows some high school age kids who witness acts of homophobia and how they respond to it. A friend of mine who grew up in Ireland said that if the country had been like that when he was a lad he might have stayed there. You can check it out on Facebook where I've posted it.

Oh wait, I forgot, you don't believe in social media. I don't Twitter or tweet or whatever they call it but I do use Facebook in a very limited way. Hey, did you read where Facebook cofounder, Chris Hughes, is going to marry his longtime boyfriend? Will their wedding photos get posted on the site, do you think? I've noticed that all kinds of products now have their own Facebook pages including some surprising ones. I mean, I'm all in favour of pages for fundraising for cancer research or encouraging people to vote or other sort of social justice kinds of things, but toilet paper? I'm serious. It's a bit disconcerting to view a TV ad for arse wipe inviting me to visit their Facebook page. Why would I want to visit the toilet paper page? Will there be hordes of people who want to "like" the product, maybe even add it to their "friends" list? How pathetic would it look if my profile showed that now Crawford Hastie "likes" a certain toilet paper brand? There are certain things that should remain secret. I was watching an interview the other day with Justin and Ryan—you know the Scottish pair who host their own decorating show? Both of them are good-looking and gayer than a pink sporrán; I find them delightful. Anyway, Colin was saying that one of the secrets he's learned about keeping a relationship going is to keep an air of mystery and romance. Which means, he said, in that Scottish accent which tickles my fancy, "Your partner should never see you on or near the toilet."

Good advice I thought. Hey, I wonder if they have a Facebook page?

I did use some social media to let people know about the concert that the university chorus gave a while ago. There was a good attendance and several friends had come to hear us and it was very satisfying to sing to such smiling faces. Because we tenors are comparatively few in number, I always feel that we are engaged in a kind of struggle not to be swept away by the sea of sopranos or the ground swell of altos—lovely voices all, but rather overwhelming by their sheer numbers. All in all though, it was a great success with sustained applause from the audience at the end and a pleased grin on our director's face, so it felt like the hard work was worth it.

We used to have rehearsal on Monday evenings so now I have extra time when I can kick back and relax and veg out in front of the boob tube. Among some newly discovered fun things is a show called *Lost Girl*. Have you seen it? It is full of magical, weird creatures like banshees and succubae and, in particular, one very hunky shape shifter. He is my main reason for watching, Tom, as I'm sure you've surmised. I've developed quite a fondness for shape shifters of late. I know everyone thinks vampires are sexy and erotic but there is something appealing about people who literally let their animal nature take over. Another series, *True Blood*, has a whole family of shape shifters. My fantasy mind reels at the possibilities. Maybe it is just watching them rip off their shirts and get down on all fours that titillates my sexual senses. I'm not exactly sure what the attraction is—besides the fact that all the characters are handsome and buff and naked a lot. Sort of like porn minus the erections and with a real story line, bizarre as the stories sometimes are. Perhaps it's because we have to look beyond their outward appearance to discover who they are as people. Or maybe it's something as simple as discovering that in a world of good and evil brimming with magic, with humans and other creatures battling for souls and blood and power, being queer is not even an issue. In these fantasy realms, no one is "normal" and I find that very comforting.

Talk to you soon. Love ya!

Crawford

NSRAP Report Our Next Government

by Kevin Kindred

NSRAP doesn't tell you who to vote for. Our Board Members come from all political stripes, and I don't think we could agree to endorse a candidate even if it were in our mandate! But we do try to have our finger on the pulse of the political issues that the Rainbow community cares about.

With that in mind, and with an election on the horizon, here are some things I think we should be demanding of Canada's next government—whoever it may be.

Furtherance of equality rights

The most obvious and pressing priority here is the addition of "gender identity" and "gender expression" to the Canadian Human Rights Act—a measure approved by the House of Commons, but which died in the Senate with the election call. But there are other important issues, like the too-long-neglected discrimination in setting the age of consent for sexual activity (16 for straights, 18 for gay men) and, more generally, the promotion of equality through the Court Challenges Program, Status of Women, and other organizations who've seen ideologically-driven funding cuts in recent years.

A check on police powers

The work of Gary Kinsman, who recently spoke in Halifax, demonstrates that unchecked police powers are always used to target sexual deviants, queers, and other outsiders. We should be very concerned about recent proposals to make online surveillance easier, and to make information available to police without a warrant. And we should be demanding transparency in the way the police conduct themselves—the secrecy and scandals around the G20/G8 protests are just the latest in a string of stories about police corruption and abuse of power.

Support for arts and culture

We all know the story of cutting funding for Toronto Pride—despite abundant evidence that investing in Pride events is good for our cities and our economy. But this story is bigger. The Rainbow community's ties to the arts run deep—it's a big

part of how we form community, and influence the other Canadian communities we belong to. Attacks on the CBC, reduced funds for arts and publishing, and creeping censorship of films should concern us—as should the divisive nature of the government's attitude that "ordinary people" don't care about the arts. Luckily, we queers have always been extraordinary people.

An end to evangelical influence

In the last few years we've learned a lot about how the religious right has organized into a political force in Canada. And we've seen the effects—mainly quiet and behind-the-scenes. Edits to the guide for immigrants, decisions about Pride funding, changes to the age of consent for sexual activity—these have the fingerprints of the religious right all over them. We need a government that is transparent about who's pulling the strings, and that is dedicated to a real separation of church and state. That isn't to say that religious people should have no influence—but policy should be guided by what's good for the country, not the conservative social views of a small but vocal religious minority.

A real strategy on HIV/AIDS

The Rainbow community, like no other, knows how important it is to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, in Canada and in the world. In recent years, the federal government has fought to shut down successful harm-reduction mechanisms that can usefully curb the spread of disease. The government's obsession with prisons and criminals prevents it from seeing that a rational policy on drugs can slow the HIV/AIDS epidemic. And a Bill designed to make generic anti-HIV drugs more affordable in the developing world, which passed in the House, was killed in the Senate by partisan tricks. Thirty years into the crisis, we should be demanding that Canada be an international leader, not an international embarrassment.

Those are the issues I'll be asking my candidates about in the election, and raising with my MP in the new Parliament. I hope you do the same.

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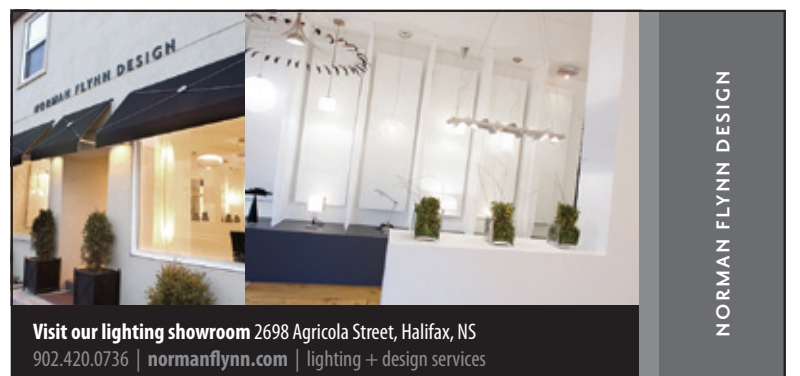
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Cape Breton Takes a Stand Against Homophobia

By Peter Steele

This year is the twentieth anniversary since the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. Some may say this was a major turning point in our struggle to gain our basic human rights, and we've indeed made much headway and celebrated many successes; yet despite it all, homophobia still exists, and people continue to suffer the devastating repercussions of slander and physical attacks. In what we consider a modern world, 77 countries continue to criminalize homosexuality, with five prescribing the death penalty. Sadly enough, our fight is far from over, and we continue to take a stand against homophobia and transphobia.

As we prepare to recognize International Day Against Homophobia (IDAH), consider this year's theme, "Same-Sex Couple: A Story of Love." In so many ways this is such an important point we need to promote. Our relationships of love are very much the same and as important as those of heterosexual couples, and many in the straight community need to understand that. Our relationships are loving relationships, and many are lifetime partnerships. I do however, have a personal belief that accepting and using the term "same-sex" comes with derogatory implications and perpetuates a vulgar view of our loving relationships in the eyes of our opponents. Never are heterosexual couples referred to as opposite-sex couples, yet the general public labels our loving unions as something strictly sexual. If that's not blatant homophobia, I'm not sure then what is.

Throughout the debates that lead to our eventual passage to marriage freedoms and rights, I found myself

phoning Steve Murphy at CTV News Atlantic after a news report, thanking him for his use of "same-gender" relationships. He was the only other person I heard phrasing it the way I always had. He got it, and we all need to get it! The simplest of terms can and does diminish who we are as human beings. It contributes to the abuse we continue to endure and carry with us throughout our lives.

I had the honour and pleasure of attending a Halifax conference April 18 and 19, hosted by Hugo Dann of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, facilitated by Ross MacDonald and Jeannie Cockell with the Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development, and attended by leaders from organized LGBTQ communities from across this great province. On the second day, while gathered in a circle, we all spoke of our impressions of the prior day's activities. The testimonies given were all very personal stories of how we've all been victims of homophobic abuse on some level. The tragic matter of those stories however, was that each one of them revealed the painful bruises that still remain deep inside of us all. Years later, regardless of the struggles we've endured and legal gains we've accomplished, the abuse thrown at us in our early years have left us with unhealed wounds. We cannot let this continue! We cannot allow our younger brothers and sisters live a lifetime of deep, unhealed wounds. When we don't speak out against homophobia, we accept the abuse as our own; we let it happen to us personally, and we make it acceptable. It has to stop; we can no longer remain silent, even though a homophobic

remark or attack has been directed towards someone else.

In March, 2009, Egale Canada conducted a study involving 1,700 Canadian school students, polled by way of an online survey, or through in-school sessions held in four school boards. The results are startling. Three-quarters of LGBTQ students felt unsafe in at least one place at school. Transgender students were especially likely to see these places as unsafe (87%). Six out of ten LGBTQ students reported being verbally harassed about their sexual orientation. Nine out of ten transgender students, six out of ten LGB students, and three out of ten straight students were verbally harassed because of

In February of last year, Cape Breton was rocked when a member of our gay community was attacked while accompanying his partner from a gay community dance.

their expression of gender.

One in four LGB students had been physically harassed about their sexual orientation. Almost two in five transgender students and one in five LGB reported being physically harassed due to their expression of gender. Three-quarters of LGBTQ students and 95% of transgender students felt unsafe at school, compared to one-fifth of straight students.

Over half of LGBTQ students did not feel accepted at school, and almost half felt they could not be themselves, compared to one-fifth of straight students. Transgender students (over a third) were twice as likely as LGB students to strongly agree that they sometimes feel very depressed about their school, and they did not belong there; four times as likely as straight students.

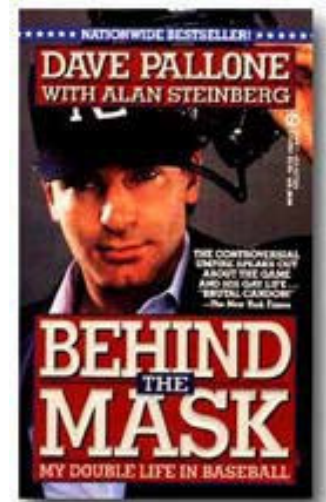
These numbers are staggering, and only prove things haven't changed, and when we consider how the internet has changed typical trends of social networking, it's probably safe to say things have gotten worse. It has never been so important for us

to stand up and speak out against homophobia.

In February of last year, Cape Breton was rocked when a member of our gay community was attacked while accompanying his partner from a gay community dance. Eventually, due to the testimony of two courageous women who witnessed the assault, a seventeen year old was arrested. His case was sent to Youth Restorative Justice, where I represented the victim at a session meant to assign measures for the assailant to make amends and repay the victim for a portion of his huge medical expenses. To date, the accused did not fulfill his obligations to the court, and he's been referred back to the court system.

The accused has retained a lawyer, and in an up-coming court date will enter a plea or guilty or not guilty. Bottom line, the accused does not take his actions seriously, and has illustrated ill regard for the victim and the justice system itself. I will be sure to keep members of our provincial gay community informed of the results.

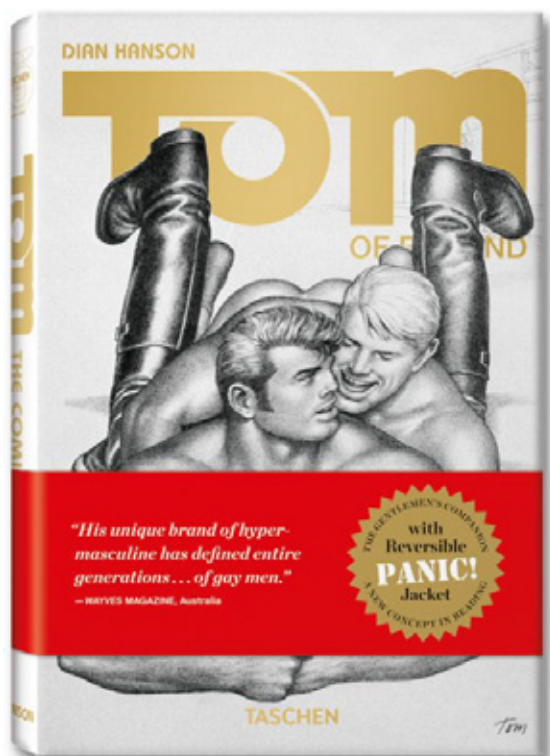
International Day Against Homophobia is May 17, however in Sydney we will be marking the occasion on Sunday, May 15. Pride Cape Breton, together with the local chapter of PFLAG, the Cape Breton Health Authority Addiction Services, the AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton and local Gay Straight Alliances will hold a rally at Sydney's Wentworth Park Band Shell at 12 noon. Guest speakers will speak on the subject of



homophobia, before participants set out on a march throughout the Sydney's downtown core. Participants will return to the band shell where they'll enjoy barbecued hotdogs and hamburgers, compliments of M&M Meat Shops. Refreshments and cake will also be served. Everyone is welcome, and we invite you to come out and take a stand against homophobia!

I would like to leave you with an introduction to Dave Pallone, a retired professional umpire with an 18-year career; ten of those years with the National Baseball League. As the third youngest umpire in baseball history, he demonstrated courage, professionalism and the ability to withstand adversity through many of baseball's high profile and controversial events. He is the author of the 1990 New York Times best-selling autobiography, "Behind the Mask: My Double Life in Baseball." On his website (www.davepallone.com) you've find a clip of one of his incredible inspirational workshops where he speaks so openly and honestly about homophobia.

Tom Uses Wayves Review



I was surprised to see a quote from my review of the gorgeous tome "Tom of Finland: XXL" (August, 2009) on the jacket ribbon of this new edition of "Tom of Finland: The Comics Volume 1." The publisher got the country wrong... but it's gratifying to see Wayves quoted on the cover. (Come to think of it, I wouldn't mind being in Australia, if only to escape the still-chilly wind!) – Randall Perry



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Big Plans for Moncton Pride Party

Alex Roberts and partner Mario, both Monctonians, are planning the biggest Pride party ever in Atlantic Canada, coinciding with the River of Pride festival in August. Alex is a

put on before?

A: None! We created the company "Modern Vision Events Limited" just for this event. We've personally invested \$60,000 to start up, which is beginning to be supplemented by sponsors.

Q: Where did you get the idea for a circuit party for Atlantic Canada?

A: Actually, we've never been to a circuit party like Black and Blue, Cherry or the White Party. On a trip to Montreal we went to Unity, Sky, Parking and Le Stud, and when we came back we decided we were bringing Montreal to Moncton. Also, many of our friends wanted to do more than the River of Pride celebrations.

Q: How are things going so far?

A: People are pumped up for this. They're saying that there's nothing like this in Atlantic Canada. There are some people who are scared to see how this is going to turn out, but lots of people want to buy tickets ahead of time. We have two hundred tickets reserved already!

Q: Is the event open just to the LGBT crowd?

A: No, the event is open to anyone who is open-minded, and we don't want anyone there who is going to cause problems. There'll be the proper security; we'll work with the RCMP. There will be extended security on Main Street and in the other venues. There will be an inexpensive shuttle between the venues so that people don't drink and drive. People can leave their cars at home, or leave them in the hotel or Casino parking lots. Ten Moncton hotels will have blocks of rooms with special rates.

Q: Why are there events at several venues simultaneously?

A: For a couple of reasons: first of all, no one venue can hold all the people who will be here for this, and second, people will want a diversity of entertainment and cover fees.

Q: What is your relationship with Triangles?

A: Stella and Evie are 100% behind us. Several of the events will be held there... for example, the Friday evening event will have an

"upgraded" fee.

Q: And with River of Pride?

A: We're working with the River of Pride organizers. We have ten floats to add to the Pride Parade plus several sponsors who will be adding to the parade.

Our goal is to bring eight to ten thousand people to the parade this year.

The event has several philanthropic purposes: first, raising

money for the CARA Help Line, for River of Pride and for sponsoring anti-bullying campaigns.

"Discrimination and bullying in this day and age should not be happening; the discrimination action in Riverview last month shouldn't have happened. It's not 1990, it's 2011, and it has to stop, and that's our mission," said Alex. "If you start by teaching it to adults, it'll spread to the kids."

To get the message across during the events, Alex and Mario have hired a motivational speaker, and are working with a movie producer to make three short videos on bullying. The movies and messages will be delivered

by the host between sets, and during DJ setup times.

Q: What geographic areas will you draw on for an audience?

A: We'll have posters up in the Maritimes, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Bangor, New York, Miami, Las Vegas and more—the entertainers we're working with will put posters will be up in these cities for us and will be promoting the event during their performances in other cities. Toronto Pride will be promoting the event via radio shows.

Q: Are you looking past this year?

A: Yes! We're trying to work with the Pride Committees all over Atlantic Canada—next year it might be in Moncton, or, it might be in Halifax to coincide with the Pride there.

Tickets for the weekend go on sale on May 2, from Casino New Brunswick (www.casinonb.ca). There will be three levels of "bracelet" weekend passes plus a couple of events for which tickets can be bought separately. Bracelet holders can be registered in a draw for a total of \$10,000 worth of prizes to be given away to bracelet holders.

The Facebook group, "City Pride Celebration 2011," has been created so that people can get more information and event updates.



Sponsorship levels range from Friend of the Festival for \$2,500, to Title Sponsor at \$40,000.

landscaper who has his own company. On April 14, Dan MacKay met up with them.

Q: This is quite an ambitious project. What large events have you

The Candy Show, Season Two

By Ramona Westgate

Candy Palmater has been dreaming about bringing her comedy to the small screen for years, and her dream has finally come true. The second season of "The Candy Show" taped in Halifax in March in front of a live audience. Ramona Westgate was there.

You enter the fog-filled room through a black curtain. Goodbye Charlotte's "I Want Candy" is playing in background. There is a high-energy buzz of anticipation that assures you that everyone is looking forward to just that. The doors open at 6:00 p.m., and by 6:45 the crew is not only on the hunt for more chairs, but also

a place in the audience to fit them in. Promptly at 7:00 p.m., the taping begins. Sort of. If you have ever been to a taping, you know that the audience is put to work. The taping begins with rounds of the audience pretending to laugh, clap and cheer. The cheering was natural and genuine. The laughter starts out awkward,

but quickly becomes contagious as you can't help but laugh at the silliness you feel at laughing at nothing at all. It reminds you of a time in your childhood, when you started laughing for no reason and could not stop.

Two shows were taped that evening in a little over four hours. It was a long night. There were a lot of stops, starts, retakes, and down time. The eclectic lineup included, a fire eater, a rock and roll band, tattoo artist Amber Thorpe (who finished a tat for Candy during the taping), Don Ross (the best guitar player I have ever heard perform live), and a powerful and moving dedication that I have no doubt all audience members were honoured to be a part of.

And then there was Candy. Not Candice, but Candy herself. I have seen Candy perform before, and been captivated, but this was beyond my expectations. There is obvious pride and joy in fulfilling her dream and

doing what she loves most. She never missed an opportunity to engage the audience or to show her appreciation for our patience, or, even to thank her crew, which is remarkable, considering I would later learn that she had been on set since 11:00 a.m. She frequently added tidbits just for the audience, saying, "I'll have to retake this intro, but I want to share this story with you guys." I left feeling as though those of you who only get to see the show on air were actually missing out.

Season two will air on the APTN in the fall. In the meantime you can watch episodes from season one online at www.thecandyshow.com. As well, keep an eye out this fall for our Wayves feature article including a one-on-one interview with Candy. But most importantly, keep your ears to the ground for the taping of season three. Trust me: you won't want to miss it.

Anita's Photo



Once again, we have a happy accident. It was a cool early summer day and I had my camera in my hand walking up the steps at Lawrencetown beach. At the top of the stairs I looked up to see that the sky was perfect, the beach and water glorious looking, but straight ahead was the most magnificent view of these two men just standing, calmly taking it all in. There was my picture!

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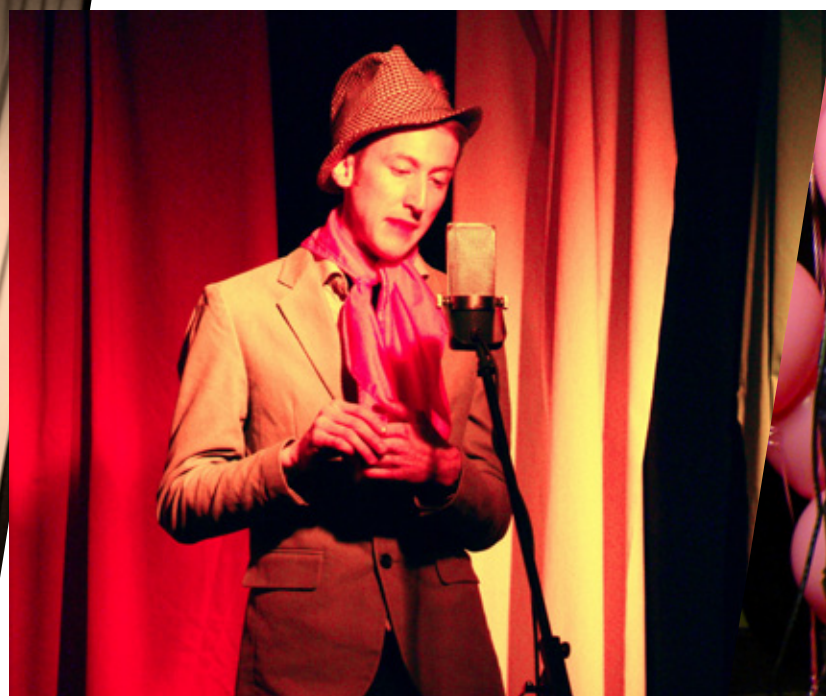
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OUTeast Launches One Year Countdown



Stewart Legere:
angelic wings and voice



Ian Mullan channels the Naked Civil Servant himself, the great Quentin Crisp



And the revelers were captured in the photo booth, to be forever backed up on Facebook.

By Randall Perry

On Friday, April 8, Halifax's Company House played host to film fans and pink popcorn party people at the One Year Countdown party to launch the OUTeast Film Festival.

The festival is the brainchild of Andria Wilson, Krista Davis and Jenna Dufton. All three are contract staff with the Atlantic Film Festival. "When we were wrapping up last year's festival we were all out together with Lia Rinaldo (AFF director) and we got to talking about queer film. What we had seen, what we wanted

to see, and what we had been able to see in Halifax," said Andria of the initial impetus to create OUTeast. "We concluded that we wanted to bring more, to see more. Through the 'That's So Gay' series at AFF we see what the crowds are like and what the desire is like to see more content. So we thought, why not give it a go?"

The launch party, hosted by comedian Megan McDowell and joined by local musical and acting luminaries Stewart Legere, Ian Mullan, Margot Durling, Ryan MacGrath and more, is just the first event in what promises to be an interesting year-long endeavour. "Basically, we want to roll out our

introduction over the course of a year. Instead of launching the film festival right off the bat and expecting to have an audience, we want to cultivate and build that audience," explained Andria.

Added Jenna, "When you really want to do something, you just have to go out and make it happen yourself. I've been interested in programming for a long time... I started doing it a little bit with AFF and I thought, well, if I want to do more of this, then maybe we should just go ahead and do it. Now we are."

Throughout the evening the enthusiastic crowd milled about, enjoying their drinks, munching

on bags of pink popcorn, enjoying the entertainment on stage and on screen (two short films made their premiere at the event) and stopping by the photo booth for a fun snap session with local photographer Jess Tasker. The OUTeast organizers (and their sponsors and volunteers) need not worry about their audience, if the numbers at the launch were any indication. "It's an exciting, vital time," said Andria. "There are lots of artists here and a lot of creative work going on, and we're happy to

showcase both the local queer work that's being done and also the best in international cinema."

With a successful launch party in the can, the OUTeast story is just beginning. A year may seem like a long time, but like being swept away by a compelling film, you won't notice the time fly by.

OUTeast can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OUTeastFilmFestival and can be followed on Twitter at @outeastfilmfest. Its e-mail address is outeastfilmfestival@gmail.com.

Un sur Dix: Sexual Diversity Awareness Week



Chantal Laplante, president of Un Sur Dix, leads about 30 people at the Diversity march in Moncton on Tuesday, March 22.

by Chantal Thanh Laplante

The week of March 21 – 25 was the Un sur Dix Association's Sexual Diversity Awareness Week. This annual event was created last year on the campus of Université de Moncton. We had many daily activities, such as three awareness booths, where we delivered homophobia awareness t-shirts, ribbons and bracelets and talked about our association and the challenges our members face.

We organized a Sexual Diversity March on Tuesday, March 22, to celebrate diversity and to encourage an accepting and respecting university environment. Approximately 50 smiling students, teachers and members of the community participated in this march, waving pride flags, awareness signs and posters.

On Wednesday we organized the viewing of the documentary, "Mes deux Mamans" (My Two Moms), which follows five lesbian couples—three from Quebec and two from New Brunswick—who have children. After the movie, a special guest was invited to do a presentation on her and her partner's process to conceive

their daughter. This activity attracted a few dozen students and community members and was much appreciated since gay parenting isn't something we often talk about or see.

Our final event was a Jam night at the Café Osmose, where many talented singers and musicians played a few songs each to entertain the crowd. This cozy and intimate event exceeded our expectations with a high participation rate. During these two last events, we also officially launched our awareness posters.

Our Sexual Diversity Awareness Week was a success and the executive committee is satisfied with the results and the participation of the community. We would like to send special thanks to U de M's Social Work Student Council and the Social Justice Project for collaborating with us and to Moncton's River of Pride for providing us with awareness items. We would also like to thank photographer Jimmy Robichaud for all his time and effort in the making of our awareness posters and to James Fogarty for designing our new logos.

Chef's Corner



This is a traditional French recipe from le Pays d'Auge in Normandy, France. Like our Annapolis Valley region of Nova Scotia, Auge is also known for its wonderful apple orchards and cider. These two ingredients inspired us to serve this dish at Chives. This recipe is made with rosemary, but it is also exceptional with fresh summer savory.

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 gastronomical society. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, or online at www.chives.ca.

Indian Point Mussels “Normandy” Serves 4

Ingredients

4 lbs cultivated Indian Point Nova Scotia mussels	2 Shallot, minced	1/2 cup heavy cream 35%
1/4 cup butter	3 garlic clove minced	1 large Honey Crisp apple or other (cut in batonnettes)
	2 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary	1 tsp fresh cracked black pepper
	1 cup Tide View hard apple cider	

Method

1. On medium heat, in a stockpot, gently cook shallots and rosemary in butter until translucent.
2. Turn heat to high and add the cleaned mussels. Stir the mussels around to coat in shallots and butter, add the cider and cream then cover and steam until the mussels open (approx. 8-10 minutes).
3. When the mussels are open, drain the cooking liquor into a 12” sauté pan, set the mussel aside covered to stay hot. On high heat, reduce the liquor by 1/2 to 2/3 so that it creates a sauce of a consistency that will cling to a wood spoon. Add the apples just long enough to warm through.
4. Transfer the mussels to a serving platter and pour the sauce over the top.
5. Garnish with sprigs of fresh rosemary and garlic croutons (optional).

Monogamy, Adultery and Polyamory

By Shaun Bartone (reprinted from Fredericton Queery, March 28, 2011)

Marriage, divorce, adultery; open marriage, monogamy, polyamory. These were some of the topics that were explored from a queer perspective at two workshops held at the QTC Qulture Club on March 15 and 22.

The first workshop, on March 15, was a presentation on various alternatives within adult intimate relationships, including monogamy, open marriage and polyamory. All of these alternatives are possible whether one or more persons in the relationships are involved in a formal marriage or not. Generally, the majority of married couples in North American society are also monogamous, but other relationship styles are being practiced. The presenter reviewed the various social, personal and legal factors that affect polyamorous relationships. She also reviewed some of the law concerning polyamorous relationships, and discussed the government's case against polygyny in Bountiful, BC. She contrasted the questionable ethics of forced and under-age polygynous marriages, such as are allegedly

practiced by the FLDS community in Bountiful, and the kind of ethical polyamory that is practiced between consenting adults. There are however, serious legal issues that impact people who choose a polyamorous style of relationship. In Canada, it is illegal for three or more persons to share their lives together in a “conjugal” style relationship, that is, a relationship that appears to have all the functions of a spousal or marriage relationship. Such a relationship is illegal under federal law and can be prosecuted as such without requiring evidence that the persons involved are sexually intimate with each other. The presenter made it clear that she was not presenting polyamory from the perspective of a religious community or cult, nor was it necessarily part of the “kink” community. She also cautioned that adults who choose to engage in polyamorous relationships should be careful about disclosing the nature of their relationships to employers and the community at large. Meanwhile, various advocacy groups work to secure the right of consenting adults to engage in non-monogamous relationships without sanction of law.

The second workshop, on March 22, presented by Karen Pearlston,

Professor of Law at UNB, focused on same-sex marriage and divorce. Entitled “Adultery and other Impositions: the Seamy Side of Same-Sex Marriage,” Karen gave a brief history of marriage and divorce law as it evolved from church law, how it was encoded in both common law and Canadian marriage statutes, and how it came to include same-sex marriage. She discussed how the courts in the US and Canada have grappled with the various kinds of sexual acts between two men or two women that might constitute adultery. She discussed heterosexual divorce cases that involved allegations of adultery by one spouse with a same-sex lover. The two most recent cases happened in British Columbia and New Brunswick. The case in New Brunswick involved a wife who had an extra-marital relationship with another woman. More broadly, Karen discussed the ways in which divorce law punished women's sexual freedom (aka, adultery) more severely, while its approach to male infidelity was more lenient. She placed this in the context of the history of



Participants discuss the topic at hand during a break in the “Adultery and other Impositions: the Seamy Side of Same-Sex Marriage” workshop.

marriage, which has generally contributed to the social oppression of women while it rewards men legally and financially. She also discussed the ways in which marriage imposes a heterosexual standard on gay relationships that can suppress the cultural

and sexual freedom that gay people have fought to achieve. It can impose a standard of monogamy and rigidity in marriage that some gay people, as well as some straight people, find oppressive.

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LGBT Community Development Conference



LGBT leaders gather for the conference at the Harbourside Marriott. Photo by hotel staff.

By Daniel MacKay

On March 18 and 19, forty-five organizers of the LGBT community in Nova Scotia were assembled by NSRAP in a workshop series sponsored by the provincial Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, entitled the Community Development Policy Initiative. "The workshop is called 'Collaborative Strategies in Community Development' and the purpose is to bring community leaders together to explore community initiatives and identify common areas for collaboration through the principles of the community development policy," says organizer Ross MacDonald.

The event was tagged, "A strong and effective LGBTQ community in NS," and MacDonald pointed out that we are the largest minority in the province, larger than the black community, Gaelic or Acadian and yet, there is no office of LGBTQ Affairs in the provincial government.

Participants ranged in age from teenagers to people in their late 60s, with a range of occupations and interests and an emphasis on K-12 educators.

"It was exciting and frustrating," said organizer Hugo Dann, "not enough time to tackle everything. It was also incredibly moving, hearing

people's stories. The group itself set the agenda, but all the projects that we tackled on the last day - and I think there's some overlap, especially in Education, History and the Intergenerational stuff- they all link back to homophobia to me. That we still need to get our stories out there. Finally, it was historic. We had queers from all over the province talking and working on ideas of how to make this community stronger. And we ended the weekend with a provincial network of folks who are interested in keeping the conversation - and the work - going"

The process of identifying and illustrating the participants' interests and concerns is known as "Appreciative Inquiry," focusing on what is already working well in the community. Using this method participants create a big list of issues they are interested in then select a very short list (in this case four, broken out below) for further discussion. Each topic is then assigned to an area of the room, and participants can move around and spend as much time contributing to a topic as he or she wants.

"It was truly an honour and a pleasure to meet and network with other community leaders from across the province," says Peter Steele, Wayves correspondent and commu-

nity organizer from Cape Breton. "I guess it shouldn't have been a surprise to see we share a lot of the same challenges, but to know that some communities still face road blocks to acceptance because of homophobic municipal leaders is just unacceptable. The conference instilled a sense of unity amongst the provincial communities, and I'm sure this solidarity will lead to stronger communities and more wide spread acceptance of the LGBT community."

At the end of the first day, out-of-town participants got free admission to the Go Green concert at Menz Bar.

The second day of the conference had an emphasis on action; participants were asked to identify one thing that could be acted on immediately. The following notes on each topic resulted:

Intergenerational Stories

The existence of three separate groups for History, Intergenerational Stories, and Intergenerational Sharing showed that there was a strong interest in telling, recording, and communicating the complex history of our community. The groups identified issues ranging from children's books, to social media, to meals shared

between young and old people, to connecting the ElderBerries with Gay Straight Alliances, to organizing an Elders Speakers Bureau. There were suggestions that high school and university students could be encouraged to document history via research and oral history methods, getting elders to recount their memories of coming out and other aspects of their lives as LGBT people in the 1970s.

Educational Outreach

With the large number of teachers present, it's no surprise that there was a contingent discussing integration. Participants discussed coordination through a task force, teachers supporting each other and creating a consistent resource, training for all educators, Gay-Straight Alliance groups, and working with the Department of Education.

Community Centre

As in previous meetings of the LGBT community over the last few

years, there was substantial interest in a community centre. The group discussing the Community Centre envisioned NSRAP taking a role in governance, programming which would include events of interest to a mixture of ages, establishing the facility in association with businesses and the municipality, and providing the finance model. As next steps, the group suggested making a banner for the Halifax Pride Parade, and to develop a Skype and Facebook presence.

LGBTQ* History

The group identified four phases of a possible history project: collecting stories, making use of those stories in the form of books, 'zines and blogs; creating an LGBT History Month; creative outputs such as art, writings, plays, additions to the online LGBT encyclopedia, a "History Gayme"; and a lecture series.

All of these initiatives will be coordinated by NSRAP. If you are interested in joining any of them, email nsrap@nsrap.ca or call (902) 444-3206.

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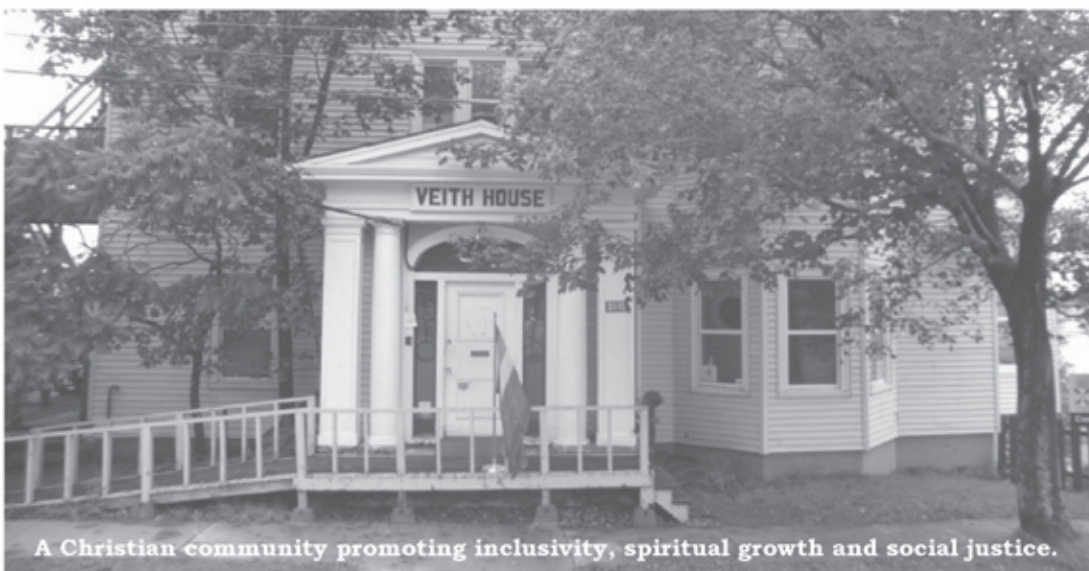
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WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

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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.aidsnb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays: Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca

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: Spectrum is a social/support group celebrating the diversity of the GLBTQ community and gay-friendly peoples at UNB and STU. Weekly meetings are open for both students and non-students to attend, and may feature various 'theme' nights from fun

and games to more serious current event discussions impacting the GLTBQ community. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: http://www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum/ (Group Meets Fridays at 5:30 pm (subject to change, see webpage for updates)) at University of New Brunswick - Fredericton Campus, Marshall D'Avry Hall, Room 235

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

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

River of Pride-riviere de fierte INC. of Greater Moncton: The organization meets regularly, to discuss upcoming events and activities, everyone is welcome to attend. check out time / location posted on the website. Media and general inquiries, including registration of volunteers and parade participation, can be made from the website or by email. email: riverofpride@hotmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

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 - University of Moncton Association for the LGBT community and their allies (not only for students): The mission is to ensure the well-being of the community and to end homophobia (mainly a french association, but also organizes some bilingual activities). For more information, please visit the website. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix

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.)

Sackville

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: aidssj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.portcityrainbowpride.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 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@munsu.ca (Open Monday-Friday 9-4. Biweekly meetings for members and volunteers.) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved!

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: lbgt@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 Inc: St. John's Official Pride Organization. email: stjohnspride@yahoo.ca web: www.stjohnspride.org

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.

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.cfsh.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive (Side entrance). 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)

Annapolis Valley

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: meets on a regular basis for coffee and talk, hosts a monthly dance when attendance permits. 825-3197,363-2055 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: faceitwithpride.tripod.com (email or call for locations or special events or themes)

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 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. Provides direct service and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and also offers various prevention programs across NS. You can reach us locally to HRM at 425-4882 or across the province at 1-800-566-2437. (902)425-4882 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous: Live & Let Live AA Group for LGBT 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. web: www.girl-ish.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

MomSquared: CALLING ALL LESBIAN MOMS. I know you're out there! A group for lesbian moms to connect and provide support and friendship to each other as well as friendship and interaction for our children. email: ilovemy2moms@gmail.com web: momsquared.weebly.com

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. These meetings are open to all. For more information please feel free to contact Michelle Mal-ette by phone or email. Hope you'll join us! 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month from 6:30 -8:30 pm 902-431-8500) at Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St, Halifax

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. pride-Health- improving safe access to health care. 220.0643

Quakers: Quakerism emphasizes that we all

manifest the Divine. 429-2904 web: halifax.quaker.ca, meets every Sunday at Library at Atlantic School of Theology, Franklyn St. All very welcome.

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

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

Spirituality For Lesbians: We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. 459-2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

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

The 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 Health nurse on site. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (Please see our website for an up-to-date calendar of events.)

Trans Family Nova Scotia: Trans Family is an open & supportive space welcoming families, friends and allies as well as trans and genderqueer folk themselves. If you are unable to join us at a meeting for any reason, we can you help source resources and refer you to other appropriate organizations to help meet your needs. For more information, please feel free to call or email Michelle. 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

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

New Minas / Annapolis Valley

Valley Youth Project: Sexual Orientation. Gender Identity. Allies. Youth. email: valleyyouthproject@gmail.com (6-8:30 most Wednesdays through May) at New Minas Civic Center, 9209 Commercial St. Ages 25 & under. Free bus tickets available. Free food. Fun activities. Join us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995

Sydney

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms! Queer Advocacy and Education, Needle Distribution, Food Bank, Coffee, Safe Space for those infected or affected. (902) 567-1766 Toll Free 1-877-597-9255 email: christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Monday and Tuesday each week from 8:30 to 4:30 and Thursdays from 8:30 to Noon. Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 1G6

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbusu.com (Monday to Thursday 8:30-5 or by appointment) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

PFLAG: Peer support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last

Sunday (of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. No meetings for June, July or 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 (Centre Hours Mon-Thurs 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive, Truro Nova Scotia

Northern AIDS Connection Society: HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland & East Hants. 895-0931 email: nacs@eastlink.ca web: northernaidconnectionsociety.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: womens.centre@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: pei@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca (Meetings take place on an as needs basis.) at 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@arcopei.com web: www.arcopei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)



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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
sstphen57@gmail.com armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca

weddings ♦ memorials ♦ child dedications ♦ other rites of passage

The Last Word

Grandparental Units

By Randall Perry

A few months ago my parents became grandparents for the first time. I think it looks good on them. My father, not yet 70, has had a couple of health issues over the last few years and the photo of him, looking delighted but a touch befuddled, holding my newborn niece a picture I didn't think for sure I'd see. It's now on my desk. My mother's picture is easy to read. The happy smile on her face says it all.

Ocean is the first grandchild for both sides of the family so I expect any more that come after her will have lots to live up to. I attended her baptism a number of weeks ago (I called ahead to make sure the church roof was reinforced) and I now know full well what the term "doting grandparents" means.

I didn't enjoy the status of "first grandchild" on either side of the family, but I did have a unique re-

lationship with my father's mother. When my parents were married in 1967 my father moved his remaining family from P.E.I. to Toronto, where he and his father had been living and working for awhile. Meme (Acadian, of course, we pronounced it "May-mee") took over my daytime care a few weeks after I was born when my mother had to return to work.

Meme was as brand-new to the big city as I was to the world. All these years later I still have memories of my early childhood spent in her care. Feelings, mostly, and flashes of images: our walks up Jameson Avenue, through the concrete grounds of Parkdale Collegiate, ending up at the Skyline Restaurant on Queen

Street West, where my youngest aunts worked, to sit in a booth and listen to music from the wall-mounted, nickel-munching mini-jukes. We'd visit the pet shop and occasionally a five-and-dime down the street where I would gravitate toward the stationery section and marvel at the paper and pens.

When my parents moved back to P.E.I. in 1975, Meme remained in Toronto and we kept in touch through letters. She moved back in the mid-90s, and after her passing in 2000 I gathered up the scores of letters I'd saved from the early 80s onward. They're stored in a safe place.

I think that gay men have unique relationships with their grandmoth-

ers, something more multi-layered than those they have with their mothers. Grandmothers revel in their eccentricities and their odd permissiveness sends a subtle but clear message to their little gay-in-training grandsons: it's okay to be different. A little... or a lot.

For some of us—me, especially—it takes a little longer to clue in. When I started my coming-out process to my family in the late 80s I tried to hide myself away from Meme, whom I ended up hurting (a long story, best not told), but being a wise soul she understood my fear and where it came from. Fear of loss, fear of rejection, not only by family but by the world. In the end, she and I moved past the hurt feelings and, feeling truly free for the first time, I found the strength to start marching and writing and speaking out, discovering my own unique way of moving and shaking.



My mother's own grandmotherly quirks haven't yet fully shown themselves. It's like watching trees bud in spring: things start out small, but blink and the tree is in full leaf. I suggested a pair of granny glasses and the response of one raised eyebrow spoke volumes.

I think my niece is in for an interesting ride. I really hope one day she discovers the joys of letter writing.
randall@wayves.ca

Letters

Vote!

Dear Wayves Readers

The election is coming on May 2 and it's your job to get out and vote for whomever you choose. We have a democracy, or at least we did have. In considering who to vote for, please consider the following. First of all, the Conservative government cut funding for activist organizations including Egale and women's groups to wage legal actions in court for your

human rights. Secondly, the Harper plan for income splitting discriminates against the LGBT community. And finally, if you elect a Liberal government there is a fair chance the next finance minister will be an openly gay man. You may choose to vote NDP as I did for years or for the Greens—it's your choice and both are fine parties with great candidates. Please remember however that the only party with a hope in hell of defeating Stephen

Harper is the Liberal Party led by Michael Ignatieff.

Bill McKinnon Eastern Passage, NS

Needed: New Moncton Pride

I have been living in Moncton for the past 11 years and I am very disappointed with how the Gay Pride Committee runs things around here. If you are not 50+ it is pretty much a waste of time. Who wants to play Bingo for a Pride activity? Or Disco Bowling? The only thing that was worth spending time to go to was the Celebration at the Victoria Park, it was a lot of fun and laughs.

In my opinion, the biggest problem with River of Pride is that they need to create events that will appeal to ALL ages, and by doing that they will manage to get some new members and volunteers that are not senior citizens and who actually have the energy to make pride something worth going to!

How about a teen night, Gay games day? Everything seems to be centered around Triangles. And the events that happen at other locations are normally not worth the cover that is charged. All year long, Pride Moncton has their hand in your pocket looking for donations, and you can't even go to a Colour party without being harassed twenty times to buy a glow stick, or to pay \$1 to sign your name on a cardboard heart. It's bad enough that you have to pay \$6 to go to a Colour party without getting chased all night by an old man with a glow stick waving in your face. I go to university and I am on a tight budget! My point is, with the money that they collect during the year with their little rainbow donation jugs and the crap they are selling, you shouldn't even have to pay to attend events during Pride week.

It's time people of Moncton either started a committee that appeals

to all ages, or River of Pride takes a closer look at Pride elsewhere in the Atlantic provinces and take a few pointers from them!

James M.

Farewell, South Shore Dances

I thought I should pass this message along from myself and the South Shore Pride Group before you hear it from someone else. I am sad to inform you that we will no longer be holding Pride Dances at the Wileville Fire Hall. The funding for the dances is just not there. We have tried and tried to do different things to get extra money and to draw new people in but it's only so much a person can do. I have had people make donations which really helped for the dance that was coming up but it does not help for the dances that were to follow.

People may think that the dances does not seem to take that much money to put on but once the expenses come due for that night it could be around \$600 to \$700 depending on the number of people who attended the dance before.

Without the numbers each dance it can drop the funds really fast. We need to have 40 people or more to be able to pay for the expenses. If at any time there should be some sort of fate and we may receive some funding we will be back.

So let's hope and if anyone has any ideas of how we can make another dance happen please let me know at my email address jeffreywhynot@hotmail.com and we can discuss to see if it is a possibility. So again thank you all for your support and hope to see you from time to time.

Jeff Whynot

WEEKLY LINEUP

MON: **2 Drinks for \$7**
Pool Tournament @ 8 PM*

TUE: **So You Think You Got Talent @ 10 PM**
Drinks - BOGO (Buy One for \$5.25 & Get One) for \$3***

WED: **KARAOKE - Win up to \$500 w DJ Bear***

THU: **Thirsty Thursdayz - No Cover w Elle & DJ Legacy***
60oz Pitchers - \$14.25

FRI: **BOGO** (Buy One for \$5.25 & Get One) for \$3 (till midnight)***

FRI & SAT: **Dance w DJs ...**
... Nick Nonsense, BEAR 777 or Sonny D

SUN: **Happy Hour 3-9 PM, Drag Show 9-11 PM***

* Check the events calendar on our web site for details ** Happy Hour included



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Coming Out In the 'Chi Part 1

By Nathan Adams

When I created my website, mon-ton-magic.webs.com, in 2009 I asked people to share stories and insights about themselves, struggles that they've had and obstacles that they had to overcome to get to where they are today, with the intention of giving hope or advice to members of the LGBT community. The goal was to simply let people know that they are not alone, that there are many people just like them, and that we all faced struggles to get to where we are today. So to get the ball rolling, I decided that I would share a few things about my life and how I got to where I am today.

As I entered my teens, I realized

I had an attraction towards men but I wasn't aware that there were other people like me. I kept it to myself, hoping that the feelings would fade as I got older, that it was a stage that I was going through.

I lived my life like any normal teenager, hanging out with friends,

doing sleepovers and crazy things to impress girls, and drove my parents nuts with some of the trouble that I got myself into—but the feelings that I had towards guys never went away. I heard lots of negative comments

from classmates, some family members and friends regarding “faggots and queers.” Everyone made it sound like it was such a bad thing, that it was morally wrong, dirty, disgusting and just simply not the way things were

supposed to be. Of course I didn't want to be classified or considered one of those people so I kept my feelings and thoughts to myself, afraid of the humiliation that I would face if anyone knew that I was gay. Or was I?

So even though I had a very strong

attraction towards guys, I ended up having girlfriends and explored my sexuality but always knew that even though I had feelings for them there was still something missing, still something that I had to discover.

I was sixteen when I had my first encounter with a guy. I was trembling in fear that he would be angry or upset, that he would tell everyone that I was a faggot. He was a good friend and I had always thought he was so beautiful, always just wanted to just reach out hold him, kiss him. One day, somehow, I managed to build up the courage to do it.

To be continued in the June issue of Wayves



Graduation from high school - wow, I had hair!

Discovering the Sunlight

By Rob Thomson

I guess that being alone began for me considerably before I reached the age of ten.

Reflecting now, it is likely that my parents feared that I was becoming another daughter rather than a son. At any rate there seems to have been a concerted effort by kith and kin to “toughen him up.” Even my much younger brother was recruited into the act! This continued until I left home to further my academic education. By this time aloneness for me had evolved from a refuge into a boon.

I am aware that family efforts ostensibly performed on my behalf were by no means a unique feature of the era in which we lived. Many fami-

lies were concurrently pursuing similar tactics to fit offspring—gay, lesbian or straight—into desired moulds. Let us just say that I was born a number of years too soon. “Different strokes for different folks” was not the resounding theme of the '50s and early '60s.

University years provided a lot of congenial company although one of very strong heterosexual overtones. I developed a certain self-worth that had been sorely missing up to this point. Yet I was to preserve a feeling of being the only one of my species on the planet; after all why was I so different?

For so many years afterwards



Rob & Bill. Photo by Anita Martinez.

I would retain my solitude. Certainly there were advantages to being the silent sentinel. For one thing, my perceptive powers sharpened considerably.

I was to spend many years in another province. It was in this place that I saw so easily why extreme discretion was a “must” and not simply a desirable trait. I was in a strange, new land. All too often the communities I resided in where homophobic and distrust of strangers were the rules rather than the exceptions.

In the summer of 1986 I met Bill Romkey in Halifax. In the future he was to give me happiness beyond my wildest dreams. We spent many happy days together at this time. However I knew that all this would inevitably

end. A Celtic pessimism and foreboding engulfed me: why tempt fate with the distant future?

Well in 1987 I did emerge from the existence of grey shadows that I had lived in for so long, and yet my appearance was somewhat as the cloudy release of a survivor.

I awoke from this dazed stupor. Bill was very much alive, he was in Halifax and he actually waited for me! He would become my lover, my partner and my ultimate soul mate. With Bill I have come into a new world of caring and sharing where a wealth of hitherto undiscovered interests and friends abound. What mellow warmth and retention of youth now in these, the golden years.

Reviews

Two E-Books on Love and Sex – One With Lots Of Sex

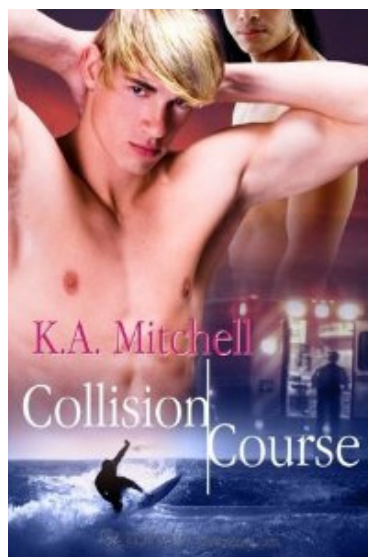
Reviews by Bill McKinnon

No Irish Need Apply by Edward C. Patterson (2008 Kindle or Kobo e-book - \$0.89 +HST)

This novel is dedicated to PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians). It's about two delightful teenage boys of Irish Catholic backgrounds who find themselves, and each other, in a study partnership at school and fall in love. The story is also about their two shocked and initially dumbstruck but caring widowed mothers, and some ugly rumours and sometimes violent homophobia which Kevin and Louis confront and come to terms with their in their last year at high school. The kids are occasionally indiscreet in public but don't expect any sex details. Whatever happens between them takes place behind a parent-proof (and reader-proof) bedroom door. The story is full of humour, charm, warmth and insights into the complexities of mother-son relationships, especially in a single-parent one-child family; what it's like if one guy's mother is fairly well-off but the other one's is poor; and some surprising revelations about how others at school accept or reject queer school mates. The book's title reflects discrimination faced by the Irish in New Jersey, but is also the

boys' code word for homophobia. As for the school graduation prom—well, it's probably not like the one you attended.

Collision Course by K.A. Mitchell (2008 Kindle or Kobo e-book - \$4.40



+ HST)

Yes, Virginia, gay people do have sex. If you want to read a novel about hot and heavy gay erotica, and/or if you are interested in learning about complex, polar opposites who jump into bed together, this book is for

you. Joey and Aaron have little in common except they are both gay, live in northern Florida and like fucking. One is a gorgeous, accident-prone social worker who loves surfing and music, exhibits a casual approach to housekeeping, has a cheery, impulsive and gutsy but manipulative personality and ten ex-lovers of whom some are still good friends. Can he help it if he falls in love too easily? The other guy is a tough, thick-skinned, neat-freak paramedic who hates social workers, is sombre and hard to get along with, and wants nothing to do with relationships other than sex; yet he has raised and still supports three young and often challenging heterosexual siblings in college, with his dad languishing in prison. Up until now his life has been a caffeine-charged existence of sirens, flashing lights, casual sex and fulfilling family obligations, and oh, yes, he has been described as an asshole ...but maybe he's not. How could these two so-different guys ever get together for longer than one night in the sack? If nothing else, this is a good how-to-have-not-for-wimps sex manual, but this book is a lot more than that. Maybe this book has too much sex in it for some readers but there's also a lot of humour and it's both a ro-

mance and an adventure with plenty of excitement.

Kindle and Kobo e-books are inexpensive although the portable e-book readers cost about \$130 or more; however Kindle for PC is free, as are hundreds (perhaps thousands) of e-books easily downloaded legally. I read the first of the above books on my desk-top PC and the 2nd on a Kobo e-book reader from a Chapter store. You may also wish to consider Sony e-book readers available from Sony Stores, Best Buy, et al. Sony's are pricier but have some attractive features. For Kindle, see ebookreaderpalace.com/64/how-to-buy-a-kindle-in-canada; for Kobo see koboereader.com; and for Sony, see sony.ca..



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