

Wayves

MacSwain Wins Portia White Prize

by Jane Kansas



Jim MacSwain in his garden.

On a recent sunny afternoon the 2012 winner of the Portia White Prize is walking down Sackville Street in Halifax, trilling some Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

*In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.*

And Jim MacSwain is indeed walking down to a sunless sea, which is Halifax harbour. He is absolutely the opposite of sunless. MacSwain has been a member of the queer community for decades, artist and artiste about town, and now he is the winner of the big Portia White Prize which recognizes the cultural and artistic excellence of a Nova Scotian who is a professional artist.¹ MacSwain is a photographer, programmer, collage artist, video and filmmaker, curator

and teacher. He laughs and giggles all the time, his voice climbing up and down the octaves of a mezzo-soprano. "Oh, yes!" he laughs, "I have a very effeminate voice! On the phone everybody says, hello, ma'am!" MacSwain's favourite verbal punctuation is the exclamation point.

He and a visitor are headed for the Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative studio where he is working these days, inside the NSCAD Film School. Inside it's a big enough room, with no windows and high ceilings. That's perfect for MacSwain's needs; he is working on a stop-motion animation called *The Young Lighthouse Keeper*. Windows would just let in unwanted, uncontrollable light and the high ceilings make room for the 16mm Oxberry, a rostrum camera which moves up and down on a tall column.² On the table below the camera is the scene MacSwain has been working on. The background

is a large colour picture of the smoking room of the Hindenburg³. On top of it there are two photo cut-outs, which MacSwain has been manipulating frame by frame across the background: a large crab, which has been carrying the eponymous young lighthouse keeper, who is modelled by Chris Spencer-Lowe, the Production Co-ordinator of AFSCOOP. MacSwain says the story takes place in a dream world. "This young lighthouse keeper is sucked up into the Hindenburg. There he meets famous people, like Lucrezia Borgia and Robespierre." MacSwain pauses. "And Hitler."⁴

MacSwain received a Canada Council grant to make *The Young Lighthouse Keeper*, which he hopes will screen at film festivals in 2012; the Portia White Prize⁵ comes with \$25,000. Seven thousand dollars of a Portia White Prize goes to a protégé; MacSwain has chosen, through the Visual Arts NS Mentorship Program, Crystal Melville. The rest of the money goes to the winner, without strings. MacSwain has invested most of it and is using \$3,000 to travel to Vancouver in December for the launch of his artist book, an illustrated edition of *Kubla Khan*,⁶ and then maybe to England in the spring.

Later MacSwain is in a coffee shop, sitting over a mug of black joe. He is 65 years old, tall, wearing silver metal glasses. His salt and pepper hair is swept back in a loose pony tail. He's wearing a classic looking olive sweater set and brownish corduroy pants and talking about his early life. "Really," he says, "I am of that generation that went through the 1950s in a haze of innocence." One of his early works, *Amburst*, is about growing up gay. MacSwain studied art at Mount Allison University, and switched to english,⁷ whence came his interest in Colridge's opium influenced

poem. "It's the most psychedelic collage poem you could ever want to play with," he says, laughing like demented bird. Then he was off to Edmonton for a BFA in theatre. He specialized in set design.

*"I am so pleased
and proud to
be queer!"*

He retired from the Centre For Art Tapes last year, and now gets to work by nine in the morning. Stop-motion animation is very labour intensive and the bright lights make the studio very hot, so by two o'clock he is done for the day. "I love not being at a job and just being an artist!"

MacSwain still living in the same huge fabulous Brunswick Street house he bought with other artists in 1973. "Cheap rent," he says with a tinkling laugh, "is like gold to an artist!" MacSwain likes having people around. "Oh yes!" he says when it is suggested that his house



Robin Metcalfe and Jim at an anti-nuclear event, many, many moons ago. Photo by Anita Martinez.

is famous.⁸ "And we're glorious!" MacSwain pauses. "Well, within reason."

He has three boyfriends, all living away, who he visits as often as possible. Andreas Guilbert lives in China and MacSwain has been there three times.

Andy Patterson is in Toronto and William Rowe in New England. "That's the way I like it!" says MacSwain. "That way I get to be independent with The Gay Gang!" He and this clutch of cronies meet for dinner and a movie and have a standing Sunday morning breakfast date at Annie's, a downtown cafe.⁹

"I love being queer," says MacSwain. "It's been part of my identity for forty years; I am very comfortable. I am so pleased and proud to be queer!"

1 The prize is named for the singer who was born in Truro in 1911 and taught school in Africville. Portia White became a world famous contralto, singing across Canada, the US and Europe.

2 The Oxberry also can traverse across a painting. It takes one frame at a time. MacSwain will shoot more than 16,000 frames, each one at a time, to make this 12 minute film

3 The Hindenburg was a zeppelin inflated with seven million cubic feet of highly flammable hydrogen gas; the smoking room was kept at a higher pressure to prevent hydrogen from entering. The Hindenburg was the first airliner to provide regularly scheduled service between Europe and North America. It caught fire and was destroyed at Lakehurst, New Jersey on May 6, 1937, after arriving from Frankfurt, Germany.

4 Borgia was a member of a ruthless 15th C Italian family; Maximilien François Marie Isidore de Robespierre was an influential figure in the French Revolution; Adolf Hitler was Chancellor of Germany from 1933 to 1945.

5 He is not the first gay Portia White winner. There has been at least one other: Walter Borden won the prize in 2005.

6 MacSwain has collaborated with Jo Cook and *Kubla Khan* is being published by Perro Verlag. Despite its limited run of 21 copies, it costs only \$30.

7 With a minor in music!

8 The house is home to the annual Linda Joy Chowder Brunch, part of the Atlantic Film Festival, as well as other goings on.

9 The other members are Jeff Cowling, Robin Metcalfe, Chris Aucoin and Dave Gaskin. Apparently the other members have different names for the group. MacSwain did not share them.

Regular Columns



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Deadline for January-February issue: Friday, December 7 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca • Online: www.wayves.ca • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine Rocks! ... and on Twitter: @WayvesMagazine

Atlantic News

Manna & Community Christmas Dinner

Safe Harbour MCC is pleased to announce that the Manna for Health special needs food bank and the Rev Darlene Young Memorial Christmas Dinner will be continuing under the sponsorship of St John's United Church. The transfer of these ministries will take effect on December 1, 2011.

Manna has been in operation for 15 years and is a unique, referral only, food program serving those living with HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses. Its mandate will not change under the St John's umbrella.

The Christmas Dinner will have its twentieth anniversary this December, providing a free dinner to the Rainbow Community, its families and friends...a true Christmas tradition. The Christmas Dinner will be held December 17 at 6:00pm at St Andrews United Church, the corner of Robie St and Coburg Rd.

St John's has been extending its welcoming inclusive mandate to the Rainbow Community in a very meaningful way. Its sponsorship of these two ministries clearly demonstrates its intention to not just "talk the talk" but to "walk the walk." Rev Linda Yates says, "We were very moved to be asked to participate in these important ministries. It meant that Safe Harbour had confidence in our ability to live out God's rainbow love. We hope to work alongside the volunteers already in place in a true partnership."

We take this opportunity to wish St John's every success with these two important ministries. In addition, we would ask for your support in donations of funds, food items and volunteer time in ensuring their continued success. The future looks great!

Anti Bullying Day

On Saturday, December 17, 2011, the third annual Anti-Bullying Day will take place across Canada. Anti-Bullying Day is a day for raising awareness, increased support, and providing education on the issue of bullying to schools, workplaces, and communities across Canada, as well as celebrate the efforts of those working to end bullying.

Due to December 17th occurring on a Saturday this year, the days' events have been moved to take place on Friday, December 16th, 2011, so as to accommodate schools and businesses that will be participating. Anti-Bullying Day is a day where the color Blue can be worn in honour of the Anti-Bullying Awareness ribbon in support of those anti-bullying efforts that are taking place across country.

BullyingCanada, Canada's First Youth-Created Anti-Bullying Website, and a youth-driven organization is the creator behind December 17th's Anti-Bullying Day, as our website and organization were both co-founded by Rob Frenette of Fredericton, New Brunswick and Katie Neu of Kitchener, Ontario, on this day back in 2006.

Many organizations have decided to take a stand and put an end to bullying by inviting their staff to take part in Anti-Bullying Day and asking students to wear the colour



Another Georgia O'Keeffe calendar! You shouldn't have!

blue in support of the anti-bullying awareness ribbon.

We would like to extend an invitation to your organization to take part in Anti-Bullying Day this year, on Friday, December 16th, 2011, and would ask that you please register on our Website at: www.bullyingcanada.ca/content/247840. This will enter your organization in to our internal database. We will be in contact with you in order to supply your organization with resources and information about Anti-Bullying Day to assist you in taking part.

If you would like more information, please contact us by telephone at: 1-877-352-4497 or by e-mail at: Info@BullyingCanada.ca

Thank you, Rob Frenette & Katie Neu, Executive Directors, Bullying-Canada

Male Call Canada

Male Call Canada is a national study of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men and their attitudes towards sexual health and well-being. It's an academic-community collaboration, the results of which will help to shape the development of community health programs. All information is kept confidential. You can call, toll-free, (855) 846-6253 and participate in the survey 11AM to 2AM AST Monday to Friday or 1PM to 9PM on Saturday and Sunday. To find out more, visit www.malecall.ca.

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International Women's Day

Mark your new Christmas calendar! March 4 to 9, 2012 is the week of the International Women's Day all around the world. Save those dates because there will be a big list of events for women and allies.

This year is the 101st anniversary of IWD. Got a good idea for an event? Want to get involved? If so, contact volunteer@bryonyhouse.ca or call 902-429-9008. To see all articles of particular interest to the LGBT community, including IWD, google for "lesbian halifax events" and click on GayHalifax: Local Events.

Truro Open House

The Northern AIDS Connection Society is based in Truro, NS. Its annual Open House is Friday, December 9, from 1 to 4PM. Drop in to 33 Pleasant Street in Truro, or call (902) 895-0931. Everyone is welcome to tour the office and have some snacks.

NACS began in 1996 as an initiative from the Rural Development Conference hosted by the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. Al McNutt realized that there was a great need for education and awareness on HIV and AIDS issues in the community.

It serves the northern region of Nova Scotia, specifically Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland and East Hants Counties. Many strong partnerships have been formed between the Society and other community groups such as Futureworx, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Mainline Needle Exchange, Direction 180, John Howard Society Restorative Justice, local Transition Houses, Youth Health Centres, plus schools, teachers, physicians, and other health care professionals.

DalOUT Thus Far

DalOUT started off the year with our Welcome Back BBQ, followed by our Annual General Meeting and an awesome Venus Envy workshop on how to talk dirty. October was a big month for us with our annual Come Out at the Grawood drag show for National Coming Out Day, a screening of Deep End, and our annual Rocky Horror Picture Show event. In

November we've had a bake sale and a lecture from S. Bear Bergman for Trans Day of Remembrance. We still have some great events coming up! On Friday, December 2, we'll have a coffee house at Just Us on Spring Garden Road in Halifax, so we can discuss our up-coming events for next year. Information for both of these events will be posted on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/dalout.

Valley Pride Halloween Dance



Valley Pride hosted a Halloween Dance on October 29th. There were 39 in attendance. We would like to thank everyone for their participation and coming out once more to celebrate Halloween with us. Even with low attendance, we had a great time dancing and socializing. The next dance will be on December 3rd which will be our Christmas Dance and also the last dance of 2011. We urge everyone to come out and celebrate the holiday season with us.

Thank you Again Everyone
Valley Pride would like to wish everyone a Very Happy and Safe Holiday Season and the very best in the year of 2012.

Doug, David, Steve, Mathew, Garry, Rob and everyone at Valley Pride.



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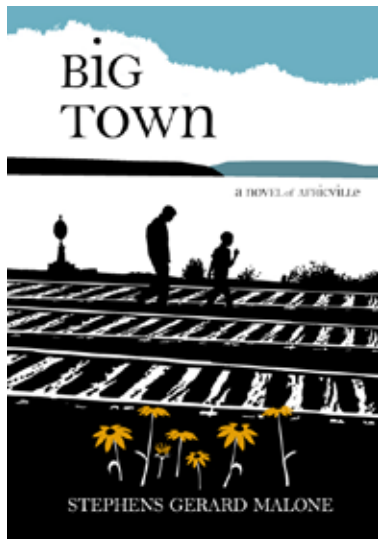
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Stephens Malone New Novel

by Jane Kansas

Big Town, the new novel about Africville by Stephens Gerard Malone, has hit the bookstores and libraries; Wayves is thrilled—Malone is a



former contributor who volunteered for the magazine in the late 1990s. "It was shortly after I came out and I was looking to connect with the community in a way besides the bar scene." Malone did cutting, pasting and writing. "A little bit of everything," he says.

Malone now lives in the Hydros-tone area of Halifax with a big black chow, Chimo. On Remembrance Day, while it rains cats and dogs, Malone is on the phone laughing about a soaking he and Chimo have had. "I have a dog that smells like a wet car," he says.

When Malone first came to Nova Scotia, in 1986, he knew nothing about Africville. "I would hear about it," he says, "something about Eddie Carvery or the annual summer picnic, and I was curious." When Malone asked his white co-workers about Africville, they dismissed it as just a slum. But Malone couldn't let go. "Things weren't adding up for me. There were parallels for me between Africville and the town of the novel To Kill a Mockingbird—here was another lovely place with a deep dark side that nobody wants to talk about."

It scared Malone to tackle the subject of Africville and he struggled a long time before putting pen to paper. In Big Town it's summer, 1963, and Early and Toby enjoy idyllic days rafting on Bedford Basin, dreaming of blueberry pancakes and scavenging for church doors in the nearby dump.

City bulldozers begin levelling Africville house by house and its residents are carted off in the back of garbage trucks. A rebellion leads to

a simple act of kindness with tragic consequences.

Big Town, Nimbus Publishing/Vagrant Press, ISBN – 10:1551098547, \$18.95.

New Trans Podcast

by Gina Renee Bennett

The reason I started this project (and yes, there will be a podcast portion too), is to bring together the transgender community and let you all share information freely. What I am looking for are submissions from you: advice, topics, music. You name it, I am looking for it. This project is by the people, for the people.

My name is Gina Bennett. I am 27 years old and I will be your host/guide on this journey of self.

TransPortal was designed by the people for the people in order to give a bit more of a personal touch to free flowing information. Some of the segments we have are listed below. We are always looking for ideas for new show segments.

News and Updates

Listeners can contribute new information from whichever area they are from. Is something big going down or you want to keep us informed about something we already know about?

Tips, Tricks and Advice

If you've known something has helped you pass or has worked extremely well for you in the long run, let us know so we can pass it along. Someone else might find it useful. You can also give comments on previous letters with advice.

Letters and Feedback

Got something you want to get off your chest? Want to write in and let us know what you think? Just general fan mail? Let us know! We want to hear it!

Local Events

If there is something going on in your area, please let us know so we can advertise. Let us know the general area you're from!

Partner's Corner

Partners of trans individuals are often told to "Shut up and support." Partner's corner is a place on the podcast reserved specifically for the partners of trans individuals, where they can write in and express thoughts and feelings they might not otherwise

Our Cover

Jim MacSwain relaxes in his back yard. Photograph by Anita Martinez, cover design by Cam MacLeod.



Native "It Gets Better" Video

As part of the Two-Spirit Gathering on the Labour Day Weekend (covered in the October and November Wayves) several people sat down with Jeremy Dutcher and taped heartfelt "It Gets Better" segments. Jeremy has edited the tape down to a seven-minute video in English, French, Mi'kmag, and Maliseet, with subtitles in English.

Tuma Young & Nick Honig, Terry Young, "Coco" Dean Pelletier, Lynn Francis, Michael Dennis, Keith Wilmot, and Allan "Chicky" Polchies appear in the video, filmed on the back deck of Liscombe Lodge on the Eastern Shore.

get to share. It's a place to vent and a place for advice as well

Final Thoughts

Basically, it's a segment for the host(s) to sum up final thoughts for the episode and possibly leave a parting message. Just trying to tie up loose ends.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Fridays: Dec 2, Feb 3, Mar 2: 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: Dec 5, Feb 6, Mar 5; help decide what goes in the next issue, 6:30 PM, Blowers St. Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Dec 11, Feb 12, Mar 11: 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!

What will Williams' next endeavour be? Before he left for a vacation in Australia, he said, "I'm not sure at this point. Guess I'll figure it out when I get back—or while I'm away. Nothing's keeping me in Halifax."

Wayves staff thanks John for the five issues and for inspiring us go the extra mile as a result of what could be considered friendly competition. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours.



If you haven't seen the magazine, Issue #5 should be on the stands for the next few months. PDFs for all of the issues are available in the Halifax LGBT Encyclopedia; google for "gay halifax gaze magazine."

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 902.845.2059. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

Circulation: use the email address below. Subscriptions, per year, are in Canadian dollars: \$20 + 15% HST = \$23 in Canada, \$30 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Send cheque or money order to the postal address below.

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Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have lots of back issues on line too. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at submissions@wayves.ca!

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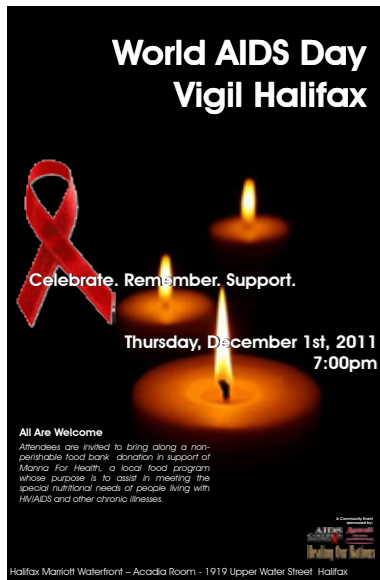
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Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to submissions@wayves.ca and tell us where we should be!



World AIDS Day

The *World AIDS Day Vigil* will be held at Halifax Marriott Waterfront's Acadia Room (1919 Upper Water St) on December 17 at 7 p.m.

Attendees are invited to bring along a non-perishable food bank donation in support of Manna For Health, a local food program whose purpose is to assist in meeting the special nutritional needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses.

This is a community event sponsored by the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Healing Our Nations Aboriginal AIDS Task Force and the Halifax Marriott Waterfront Hotel.

Learn more at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_AIDS_Day

Frontrunners

Halifax Frontrunners begins its sixteenth year of running and walking together for fitness and companionship. We have some folks who go all the way back to the founding of the group in 1994, as well as some recent members from the corners of the globe, including Scotland and Australia. As always, we're eager for new faces, and we can help people who are new to running, or who are getting back into it after a break. We run a variety of distances and paces. In addition to the weekly runs, we're organizing a team for the annual Cabot Trail Relay, taking place next May. Two members ran the Edinburgh marathon this past summer, another just returned from the Chicago marathon, and another is preparing for one in Orlando in January (good ideal!). The rest of us content ourselves with much shorter distances.

Our runs all begin at the main gates of the Public Gardens, corner of South Park Street and Spring Garden Road. Saturdays we start at 9:30am (walkers at 9am), and we meet for coffee and conversation after the run; on Tuesdays and Thursdays runs begin at 6pm. We welcome new members as well as visitors to the city. There is no charge to anyone.

NL Youth Holiday

The LBGQT Youth Group-St. John's, Planned Parenthood, Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre and PFLAG Canada-St. John's NL Chapter will host a holiday gathering, open to everyone! It will be held on Thursday December 15, 2011 from 7 to 9pm in the Rocket Room at the Rocket Bakery, 272 Water Street, St. John's, NL.

We invite everyone to join in holiday spirit as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, together with parents, friends and family members. There will also be a performance by members of the newly formed Spectrum Choir! Bring your best singing voice and join us in a debut performance with a selection of carols and holiday favourites. Started in the fall of 2011, Spectrum is a welcoming ensemble where members of the St John's LBGQT community and their allies can join together in a celebration of identity, friendship, and community through choral music.

Everyone is invited to come join the merriment! Refreshments will be served, and a few prizes will be given away! Happy Holidays to all! More information can be had by calling (709) 699-0509 or sending mail to lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org.

St. John's World AIDS Day 2011

In St. John's, Eastern Health, in partnership with Memorial University and the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, is offering a day of professional education sessions from HIV Specialists and a Café Scientifique event in the evening for the general public.

The First Annual Provincial Medical Conference on HIV, *You and your patient - beyond HIV*, is a multi-disciplinary conference for healthcare providers which will include sessions intended to reduce stigma, increase HIV testing rates, reduce HIV transmission and improve quality of life to those living with HIV/AIDS. Presentations will educate healthcare providers on how to improve care for persons living with HIV and prevent new HIV infections. The conference will be held Thursday December 1, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Health Sciences Centre Auditorium, St John's, NL.

The evening event, *Going Viral: Keeping HIV/AIDS on the Radar* will provide a chance for the public to engage in dialogue about HIV/AIDS issues with a panel of renowned healthcare providers and research experts, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Issues related to HIV prevalence, transmission, treatment and stigma will be discussed. This session will be of interest to the general public, including youth, parents,

educators, and persons affected and infected with HIV. This free event will be held Thursday December 1, 2011 from 7pm to 9:30 pm at the Gonzaga High School, St. John's, NL. Please see: www.acnl.net/beyondHIV/ for more details.

Elderberries

Every month a small group of, you know, *mature* Queers meets in Halifax for a Sunday afternoon program and potluck.



Elderberries is a casual social group for those 50 years old and older, (but nobody checks ID at the door—either a few younger folk attend or some Elderberries look remarkably preserved), parented by the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project. It has an organizing committee of six people; the engine of Elderberries is Lynn Murphy. Murphy is a former Pride Committee chair and also was a chair of GALA, the old Gay and Lesbian Association. She says the group grew out of an event hosted by NSRAP which looked into the need of older members of the LGBT community. "Two things really came out of that meeting," says Murphy. "One was support for LGBT elders who are living in assisted care homes and the other was the need for a social organization."

The Elderberries event in December is a little different than usual, but after all, 'tis the season. Instead of a talk or program followed by a potluck, it's an afternoon cocktail party, at The Company House on Gottingen Street, in Halifax.

Free snacks (both potluck and catered) will be provided by NSRAP;

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so that there's enough for everyone please RSVP to nsrap@nsrap.ca.

In January the group will meet back at its usual haunt—Spencer House, on Morris Street, where there's a full kitchen to heat snacks. It's a very casual atmosphere—come as you are. Past presentations have been on legal and health issues, and included guests like a mystery author and long distance walker. The potluck nibbles include things like Church Lady sandwiches, deviled eggs, pasta, salad, cookies, cake and coffee and tea are always on hand. Want to get notified of Elderberry news? Send an email to nselderberries@gmail.com and Lynn Murphy will send you the monthly newsletter.

The Elderberries Cocktail Party, December 18, 2 to 4PM, The Company House, 2202 Gottingen, Halifax, free; January 22, 2 to 4PM, Spencer House, 5596 Morris Street, Halifax, free.

Tatamagouche

Tatamagouche Centre is strongly committed to offering programming for the GLBTQ community. The centre offers programming in the areas of social transformation; creative mind, body, spirit, and faith and spirituality. We are an Affirming Centre within the United Church of Canada. We offer our hospitality to everyone, work for the justice of all people and joyfully affirm and celebrate human diversity in sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, ability, race, religion and age, regardless of economic situation.

In 2012 we are once again offering the program, Create Affirming Congregations (June 15 — 16). This workshop is designed to help churches become more inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender orientations. The workshop leader, Rev. Bob Johnson, has a depth of practical experience in supporting

the development of Affirming Congregations. Participants are welcome from United Church backgrounds and other denominations, as well as those who may want to learn more about the Affirming Ministries movement (www.affirmunited.ca).

Tatamagouche Centre will offer for the first time Building Bridges: Inclusive Theology, Embodied Spirituality (November 11 - 13), an event for all who are seeking a faith and spirituality free of racism, sexism and homophobia.

You are invited to participate in this workshop with Rev. Irene Monroe, a dynamic and creative African American feminist theologian and gifted teacher. Irene served as pastor of an African American church before coming to Harvard Divinity School. She was Coordinator of the African American Roundtable of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (CLGS) at the Pacific School of Religion. She is a Huffington Post blogger and syndicated religion columnist. She is profiled in O, Oprah Magazine, and the Gay Pride Episode of "In the Life" TV, and the film "For the Bible Tells Me So," which explores the religious right's stigmatizing of the gay community. See www.irenenonroe.com. She will be supported by a member of the Tatamagouche Centre Program Resource Group, Amanda Reddick. Amanda combines a background in Peace and Conflict Studies with a passion for healing and building an Afri-centric approach to counselling and diversity work. She works at New Start as a counsellor with men who have been abusive in intimate relationships. She works with black youth groups through the African United Baptist Association.

For more information on this and all Tatamagouche Centre programs, go to www.tatacentre.ca.

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Un sur Dix committee.

Un sur Dix

Un sur Dix is a University of Moncton association for LGBT and allies. Our mission is to ensure the well-being of students and to end homophobia and heterosexism. We offer individual and group support, organize social activities, offer awareness presentations and we help schools create their own GSAs. Although our association is based on campus, we offer our services to everyone.

Since the beginning of the school year, Un sur Dix has organized many activities and has many more to come. We began the fall session with awareness booths which allowed us to make our association even more visible than it already is—to raise awareness in the LGBT community, on homophobia and to recruit to new members. Every year, more and more people from the community show interest in our association.

Once a month, we plan a lunch where we offer free pizza and discuss informally different LGBT issues and the upcoming activities. We've

also shown the movies *The Kids Are Alright* and *Boys Don't Cry*. On November 18, we helped organize an all-ages jam night on campus which ended with great tunes from our special guest and co-organizer, DJ Miss Sunshine.

The executive members of the Un sur Dix Association also helped other GSAs in high schools by providing awareness posters, resources and orientation. In October, three members participated at the provincial GSA conference in St-Andrews organized by Pride in Education.

During the winter session, we will continue our monthly lunches and presenting movies with LGBT themes. In March 2012 we will have our annual Sexual Diversity Awareness Week, when different activities will be organized every day of that week: a march on campus, group discussion, movie, etc. This year, we will attempt to raise the pride flag on campus.

Love and the Closet Door

by Gerard Veldhoven

The queer world has made progress, without question. However, as we think back to the days when most of us were deeply entrenched somewhere in a closeted situation from where there was no escape, we suddenly awake to the fact that this is 2011 and quite a number of us are now out and our sexual orientation becomes a normal, though at times a bit disconcerting, way of life. A number of us married, had children and did the straight things expected of us. Family dinners, perhaps church attendance and attending marriages, as we wondered if there would ever be a time when queers would get the green light to do likewise. Of course, we certainly gained that a few years ago.

The older generation to which I belong knows the closet very well. However, when I married my wife in 1963 it seemed the “nor-

“...falling in love is the greatest joy in a committed relationship.”

mal” thing to do, as my brothers had all tied the knot and I was expected to follow in their footsteps. I married a terrific lady and we became parents to two sons, both born in the 1960s. There I was in the closet, going through the motions in a heterosexual life environment. At the time it seemed normal to be in such a situation, as one manages to certain degree, even if it was against true feelings, because it was the “right” thing to do. Remember that many of us married in order to not be identified as a “fruit, fairy or queer.” We had reason to be afraid and so we locked the door and stayed.

I do not wish to bother you with unnecessary details, suffice to say, I suddenly decided to get out of the marriage. The year was 1974 and around the same time I jumped out of that proverbial closet and soon thereafter came out to my family and friends. To say it was easy would be amiss. The following few years were hell, as in those years it was uncommon to out oneself. Consequently, we went through a court system that discriminated beyond belief. At that point I was already living with my future husband, Norman Carter. Many in my family, and some friends, suggested I should have remained silent. That was not an option for me. Time heals many wounds and I decided to be out there and somehow make an effort to normalize my queer existence—not easy in a small conservative Nova Scotia town such as Amherst. Here we have a gay couple in this border town daring to set up housekeeping. On top of that, Norman's two young daughters were also part of this newly formed queer family. My visitation rights were severely limited by an old judge who was glaring at me throughout the hearing. However, the boys would sometimes sneak after school and come for a visit. I finally came to terms with the fact that the closet is an isolated place.

The closet was now empty in our house. Both Norman and I relished the fact we were a new type of family. My oldest son came out when he departed for Queen's University. He was troubled about coming out as he “didn't want to hurt his mother like Dad.” So the whole process is decidedly difficult, and each of us must deal with it in our own way, but deal with it we must.

Norman died January 4, 2010 and life took a drastic turn. In time I began dating again, and I met a man from Toronto who has a summer place in Nova Scotia. He invited me to spend time with him and talk of romance and all the goodies attached. Soon after he informs me he is in the closet and he just came out of a relationship. This was a pure lie. He just wanted a fling with someone in this area for the summer. I had a rainbow plate on the front of my car that he wanted me to remove. I refused and I told him I will not give in to any of his demands.

I informed him that my closet door opened many years ago and that is how it will be. I stopped seeing him immediately. I will skip to the present as it directly involves another closeted case that changed my life once more.

Five months ago I met a man during a wedding. I will keep his name out of the limelight as it is not up to me to “out” someone. I fail to understand my reason for getting involved with another man so deeply in the closet, except to say I fell in love. I was soon informed he was not out to family and friends, but he was working to speak to them. Time passed and he kept postponing his intentions. As time progressed, my feelings deepened and we

were anxious for me to move to his area, as he works and it would simplify matters. He lives almost two hours from Amherst and the driving back and forth took its toll. We decided that I would rent an apartment for the time being until he felt comfortable to

come out of his terrible hiding place. His home also needed to be changed around to accommodate my furniture and other possessions. He even discussed where we would place paintings and things that I brought from Holland as a teen.

I packed furiously and called the movers. Everything was ready for my new apartment that I had arranged with a deposit. The move would take place on Monday, and on Friday previous I receive a call in which he informs me that he is stressed about the move and people will talk if his car will be seen at my place all the time, or my vehicle being parked in his driveway. I am totally shocked as he told me he wanted to break off this relationship. Love disappeared suddenly (or was it not there in the first place?), as the closet played a huge role in his decision. I was devastated and had to rearrange my future. Did I not see the writing on the wall?

Here I am still in Amherst, and the past few days have been a time of reflection. Why did I fall in love with a man who was so deeply rooted in the closet? The fact he was hiding his sexual orientation should have warned me that this would not work. I have been out for 36 years and he was fully aware of my activism. I often wonder if it became a challenge for him and finally he could not share his life with anyone of the same sex, unless it was a hidden relationship. I also question his reaction if I were to be interviewed on TV, which has happened a number of times, and his family and friends were watching, what then? They know my name and they realize I am his friend, but what kind of friend? Would he explain that we are lovers in a committed relationship? I think not and that is when we realize the closet door is shut tight and perhaps will never open. It is not usual for queers at middle age to step forward and come out and be proud of who they are. Of course, the other point may be that hiding in a closet will also be a deterrent to commit to someone you love and simply cannot make it public. How sad. Another reality is the fact I still love this man. Go figure!

I have concluded that falling in love is the greatest joy in a committed relationship. If a relationship consists of one person in the closet, then the likelihood of that partnership lasting will be minimal at best. Time spent with each other will develop a strong bond that must be shared entirely. A closeted person does not possess the willingness, or the courage, to fully commit to the relationship, as the persons involved will never really share families, friends and all the other ingredients that make for a lasting and loving existence.

I love Sir Elton John's quote: “I wish more of my queer brothers and sisters would come out. It is really nice out here.”





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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom,

Well, it had to happen. The last of my birds fell off the perch last weekend. Funny, how even though I complained endlessly about the mess around the cage and how I was always ambivalent about birds in cages anyway, I felt kind of a pang when I saw her stiff little corpse lying amidst the shredded paper and birdy gravel. Funny thing about birds eating gravel, isn't it? I mean do you think when birds have pot lucks somebody says, "Hey, I'll bring the small rocks, if you bring the millet?" As much as I dislike going to the dentist I think I prefer teeth to grinding up my food in my craw with sand. However, I'm off topic—not for the first time as I'm sure you will point out. My point is that time marches forward whether we feel ready to accept the changes or not. When I arrived home at the end of the day there used to be a little live thing hopping about, chirping and greeting my arrival. Now she has joined the others singing on some other plane of existence—heavenly or not—and the memory of that doesn't get vacuumed up like the spilled seed on the carpet.

Speaking of singing, our Christmas concert was a lovely success—or at least it will have been by the time you get this letter. One hates to use the word "triumph" yet there are times when it is appropriate. The other day when I was putting up posters and spreading the word online via various social networks, someone remarked, "Wow, you are calling it a Christmas concert, very brave!" and I thought, when did calling a concert of music about the birth of Christ a Christmas concert become an act of defiance? I mean, it is hardly up there with the Occupy Washington folks! Now, you know me, Tom, I wear a button that says Happy Pagan Holidays and I disagree with lots of Christian dogma but when you are talking star in the east, birth in a stable, angels and shepherds etc., calling it a seasonal or holiday musical evening seems just silly. I don't consider myself a Christian, but it is clear to me that this is a Christian festival. Have we become so afraid of offending anyone that we water down every celebration to an innocuous and boring pablum rather than a celebratory feast? I thought the whole point was to make sure everyone felt included. I'm not insulted when someone says Merry Christmas to me. Nor am I if someone says Happy Chanukah or Happy Kwanzaa. I can sing my musical heart out, like my recently departed bird, in a Christmas concert and also joyfully attend a Winter Solstice bonfire and feel glad to participate in both. Does that make me insensi-

tive? I don't know, I struggle with it every year. I just think there is a difference between tradition and religious observance.

The other day when I was at the Laundromat... (Did I tell you about when I recently accidentally stole the briefs of a cute student from Sweden? Funny how no matter how many times I've washed them they have retained a distinctive...uh, shape.) Anyway, there I was half dizzy from detergent and Oxyclean fumes and cursing myself for leaving this chore too long so that I end up doing 5 loads of wash instead of a couple of quickly finished ones, when my eye lit on the small tree with tiny lights on a table in the corner, over by the faded green and red tinsel along the bottom of the windowsill. And I wondered at the impulse that the owner or manager felt to put up this bit of, admittedly shoddy, decoration. Why bother? I asked myself. Here under the glare of neon lights, amid the noise of washer agitators and rumble of dryer drums, what is the incentive, I wondered. There is no commercial gain—no one does extra holiday laundry, there is no specially priced Christmas detergent, no offer to donate 25¢ from the price of every duvet washed in the heavy duty machine. No, it was just there, a tiny fake tree with cheap tinsel and decorations and yet it made me smile. Someone had chosen to add a bit of cheer to a rather dreary workplace, to create a spot of brightness in honour of the season. I think of that little, weirdly happy tree quite often when I'm listening to radio reports of Christmas creep, and discussions of commercial greed and the lack of soul in Christmas. I remember that little tree missing some of its lights, and of the faces of the people who smile listening to Christmas concerts and of the anonymous Christmas card I sent to the Swedish student, and I feel content. And this year I think of the birds who lived with me for so many years peeping along with the chorus, cocking their heads to one side and saying, "you call that a C sharp?"

So, schmaltzy as it may seem, Tom, Merry Christmas!



St. John's Pride Inc.

by Jennifer MacCreath

There have been many stories reported in mainstream media about the monetary value of incorporation. Well, don't believe everything you read (except the following true facts, which I am sharing here candidly and openly).

Pride Inc. was behind the eight-ball as we got closer to summer. After assembling a team of directors, officers and other volunteers, we were strong on enthusiasm but weak on money. We (and specifically I), spent several hours for several weeks, engaging identified stakeholders in hopes to both collaborate on events, and seek small donations.

By the time Pride week had concluded, we managed to do a great job of limiting our expenses to \$2,686.60. Sadly, we had no income at the time, and no corporate line of credit. So it was I who put all of this on my personal credit card. I did so knowing that it may take the company weeks, or maybe even months, to pay me back. I did so knowing that I may never get it all back. This is how badly and how strongly I was committed to making sure we had a Pride Week that met the identified wants and needs of our recognized stakeholders.

As the week progressed, we gained momentum. Union reps jumped on board with cash donations (thank you CUPE, PSCA, NLFL and Council of Canadians, and small local businesses jumped on board with gift certificate donations (see our website for the amazing long list: stjohsnpide.org). The city also approved a Festival Grant. We were also able to avoid costs by forming partnerships with other organisations who were willing to finance events and even take steps to ensure that Pride Inc risked no liability.

In total, we were able to provide free transportation for the general public to attend the two events that took place out of town; we had free food available and the parade BBQ;

we had permits paid for two marquee events on city property—picnic and parade; we also purchased wholesale pride merchandise that we were able to offer at only a slight mark-up. Most importantly, although we had to address a few last-minute crises, we had our logistics sorted out so that people and materials were at the right place at the right time to oversee all Pride events.

The biggest disappointment was a partnership event we had with Yuk Yuks Comedy Club. This event was geared toward being a Pride fundraiser, which would bring in additional revenue through ticket sales, so that additional free all-ages events could be presented as part of pride week. Sadly, three months later, not one cent has been received from

"After assembling a team of directors, officers and other volunteers, we were strong on enthusiasm but weak on money."

Yuk Yuks, and the Pride Board is currently undergoing discussions to determine how to resolve this breach of trust. Legal action may be the end result.

Bottom line, as the company sits now, we are essentially in a break-even position. The organisation has paid me back most of my loan to them, and will pay the rest upon resolution of the city grant paperwork. While I have made it clear that I will not ask myself or any other individual to loan money to Pride, I will make one exception for legal fees, if necessary.

The next step for Pride Inc is to finalise our annual report, and make it available publicly, as we always said we would. We will also then look to putting together a membership program so that we can actually recognise members through a set of established criteria, that will allow us to form the basis of a corporate governance structure. Members in good standing will have a direct opportunity to vote in key decisions and take ownership of the work that continues to need to be done. Stay tuned!

Jennifer MacCreath is head of Corporate Management for St. John's Pride Inc.

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Leonard Preyra

MLA, Halifax Citadel - Sable Island



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Blast From The Past



At the top of Duke Street, near Brunswick, Halifax, 1992.

Jane Kansas identified the person in the middle, holding the "Sec State" sign, as Jane Allen; Ross Boutilier identified the person the 2nd from the right as Tuma Young.

Bethan Lloyd Morrell writes: This was taken in front of Secretary of State offices in Halifax; people were protesting the then Liberal Government's cuts to women's organizations. They spent as much or more on balloons for Canada Day celebrations. Yes, that's Jane Allen looking wistfully into the distance. Beside her with glasses Tuma Young and myself at far right.

Deborah Trask writes: Funding for Women's Centres was cut; I was already living on the South Shore by then, and on the board of my local women's centre. The woman 3rd from left, holding the "Make the gov't pay" sign, is Mary Ann Mancini and the one on the far right with the sun in her glasses is Betty Ann Lloyd. The event may have been written up in the WHEN newsletter, Vitality.

Mary Ann Mancini writes: Tuma [Young] and I were walking along and came across the protest and of course had to join in.

Tuma says: "Yup that is me, second from right. Jane Allen is next to me and then Mary Ann Mancini. Mary Ann is right, we were walking along and joined the protest. Typical Cape Bretoner: see a picket line and join in. This photo was also published in Pandora.

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Marriage is Bliss!

by Gerry Fowlow

My husband and I were married in Moncton, where we live, on April 11, 2008. We had a small wedding and we had our reception at Triangles. I had asked the owners, Stella and Evie how much they would charge me for the use of the bar. "Nothing!" they said. Although we were the first to have a wedding reception at Triangles, it was beautifully set up, thanks to Norma, our wedding planner.

...continued on page 14

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Gays & Gambling: Four Times The Risk

On November 15, a couple dozen people gathered in the big theatre at the QEII Health Sciences Centre to hear the results of a study on problem gambling in the queer community.

Many of you have seen, over the last six months, ads in Wayves and elsewhere, and researchers approaching you at Pride Events, requests to participate in a study about gambling in the rainbow community.

The study was largely funded by Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia, the not-for-profit arms-length organization which supports an independent response to gambling harm.

James Shedden introduced the findings as, “innovative work; this

events, and people filling out a survey online. 104 surveys were done at the Halifax and Sydney Pride events, and 125 were completed online. Shedden said, “The community had a stronger response on line than in person. People are quite comfortable doing online responses. However this is partly because there are so many other things going on at Pride events.”

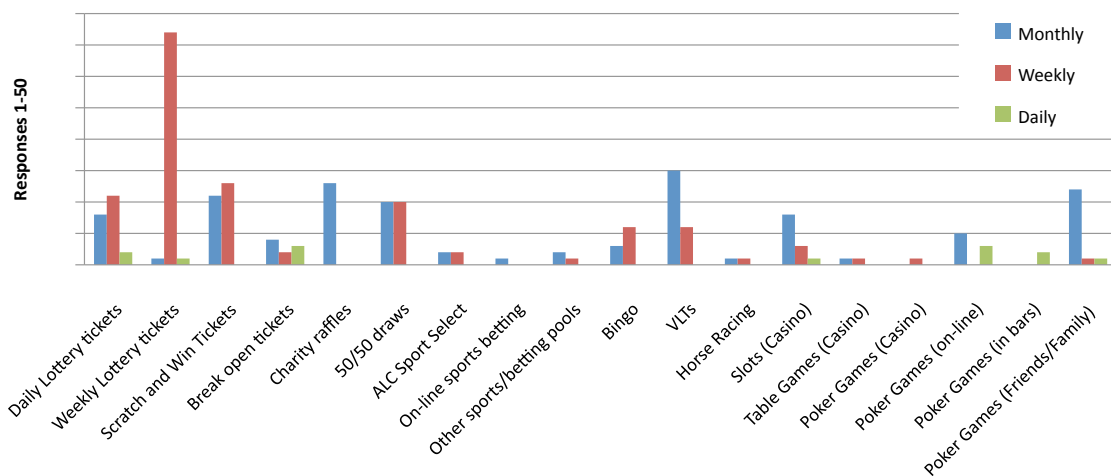
All surveys collect demographics, and this one was no exception; there were about equal male and female participants with 2% identifying as transgender and 1% as queer, and 1% as “none of the above.” 43% identified as gay, 21% as lesbian, 16% bisexual, 4% queer, and, oddly, 16%

warranted, that is, a needs assessment study.

About half of the respondents answered yes or were unsure, to whether they know someone who has had a problem gambling; 80% indicated that they wanted more information.

In the open-ended questions part of the survey, respondents wrote that they develop personal friendships with other players, that they had friends who developed problem gambling when they were single and in the closet, and that how little problem gambling is talked about.

What Gambling Products do you use?



gambling research has not been done anywhere else in the world and it has generated some international attention.” Shedden said when he applied for the job he thought, “I got to *go* to pride events and get paid for it!”

The study was overseen by OUT!Alive, an alliance of citizens concerned about drug, alcohol, tobacco and gambling issues within the LGBT community. The group is a volunteer committee of Addiction Prevention & Treatment Services, and for this project partnered with Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia, Addiction Prevention and Treatment Services, Pride Health - Capital Health/IWK, The Youth Project, Halifax Pride Society, Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project and the Halifax Sexual Health Centre. The group has been around for four years. The citizens’ panel for this study contained some well-known Halifax figures: Rick Anderson, Angus Campbell, Norval Collins, Patrick Daigle, Sheena Jamieson, Anita Keeping and Liz McQuaid.

The data for the study was collected during the summer of 2011 from face-to-face interviews at Pride

as straight / heterosexual. Most of the participants were between 25 and 44 years old. 72% of respondents lived in community of more than 10,000 respondents; what is more interesting that 28% lived in more or less rural settings. 82% reported their health as “excellent” or “good.”

Unlike most studies, this one identifies charity gambling (raffles, bingo, and 50/50 tickets) as gambling, and about 50% of the respondents reported doing it; 18% play on non-money social gambling sites, and about the same number use online “practice” gambling sites; see the accompanying graph for details. 70% did not know of any support services for problem gambling.

One of the main findings was that a far greater fraction of the rainbow community scored as a potential problem gambler. In a similar study in the general population, 6% of the respondents scored as potential problems; in the rainbow community study this number was 25%.

Several of the presenters emphasized that this is not a scientific study, and that the main purpose was to determine whether further action was

One person questioned the need for a specific LGBT related gambling response.

Questions from the audience

Q: How did you control many



times someone responded on line?

A: It was limited to three responses from each IP number; there were at most two duplicates.

Q: Is addictions services doing anything to improve the marketing of their services? A: We’re already making some changes; since the new year all staff have gone through sensitivity training and have gotten an “Ally” card and because of that training, we’re now placing rainbow stickers on the doors to Addictions Services. Shedden said, “I hope that this will open the door to more openness to outreach to the rainbow community.”

Q: How did you response rate align with your expectations? We didn’t really have any expectations. The Nova Scotia study surveyed 1500 homes, and traditional models are 10% of the population, so if we get 150 responses, we were doing pretty well. The fact that we got 229 responses speaks well to me, and shows an interest in the LGBT community to tell their stories.

Q: Are there any plans afoot to conduct that next step off research?

A: There is an opportunity to apply for a research grant to take this work to the next level, something that would be appropriate for peer review,

for example, a Masters student in the Dal School of Health & Human performance. There’s a need for it, for sure. It seems that people are open to talking about it. Patrick: It’s important to show that there’s a need for it. We’d love to pass “our baby” on to someone to continue the work. The gay men and alcohol project showed that there was some particular issues that should be addressed in the LGBT communities. I don’t think we talk about substance use and addiction enough in our community.

Q: Are you planning to publish?

We’ve started a contact tree and will be sending the report out to that. We’d like to have an easily downloadable version, a pocket version, and a video version on YouTube as well. Audience member: I think this research brings a lot more questions than it does answers. It should call into action some qualitative research regarding the rainbow community. Although this is not scientifically validated, it is fairly representative of the population, and a number of things stand out to me. We know that this is a highly stigmatized topic, and if there is a higher proportion of people experiencing gambling related harm, for that many people to come

...continued on page 11

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Prostate Cancer Support Group

Canada's first Prostate Cancer Support Group for gay men was officially launched in Halifax Wednesday, November 16th.

The meeting of the Halifax Rainbow Warriors took place at Prostate Cancer Canada Atlantic's Resource Centre at 5121 Sackville Street in downtown Halifax. The centre provided a comfortable and confidential setting where personal experiences were shared and participants discussed the many challenges related to prostate cancer.

Support group coordinator Rob Isbister and PCC Atlantic Director Peter Mallette are calling the launch of the gay men's support group a success.

"We are changing the face of men's health care in Atlantic Canada," said Mallette. "To be able to provide a forum for discussion for gay men around this disease is an accomplishment we are very proud of. As a health organization, we believe it is imperative to reach diverse communities and the launch of the Halifax Rainbow Warriors was a step for us in that direction."

The group received letters of congratulations from Toronto MP Olivia Chow, PCC President & CEO Steve Jones and PCC Chief Operating Officer Helene Vassos.

Chow's letter acknowledged the good work being done at Prostate Cancer Canada and commended

the group for their "achievements thus far."

The next meeting of the Halifax Rainbow Warriors will take place at the Prostate Cancer Canada Atlantic resource centre, Wednesday, December 14th at 7 pm at 5121 Sackville Street; Suite 101.

About Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer to afflict Canadian men. 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with the disease in their lifetime. Early detection is key as over 90% of prostate cancer cases are curable if detected and treated in their earliest stages. As of age 40, Prostate Cancer Canada recommends men begin the discussion with their doctors about their prostate cancer risk. Men should have a baseline prostate specific antigen (PSA) test at age 40 and every 5 years afterward. At age 50, men should begin annual PSA testing along with a digital rectal examination (DRE).

About Prostate Cancer Canada

Prostate Cancer Canada is the only national foundation dedicated to the elimination of this disease through research, education and awareness. Prostate Cancer Canada raises funds for the development of programs related to awareness, public education, advocacy, support of the afflicted and research into the prevention, detection, treatment and cure of prostate cancer. For more information visit prostatecancer.ca or visit prostatecancernetwork.ca



Eric Sangster and Krista Snow.

Halifax Pride's New Board

by Krista Snow, Chair, Halifax Pride 2012

The newly elected Pride Halifax board is already in full gear, preparing the biggest PRIDE festival that the Maritimes have seen.

"We're excited to get moving," says the board's new chair, Krista Snow. "2012 will be a huge celebration—a celebration of 25 years proud!"

The board has already had over 24 hours of meetings since being elected in October, and is preparing for the silver anniversary. Members are being very closed mouthed about details of 2012 PRIDE Halifax. "We don't want to spoil the fun by letting everyone know what we're planning," says Eric Sangster, Vice-Chair. "We can tell you that it's going to be a Pride Celebration that will be spoken of for some time!"

The 2012 PRIDE Halifax Board members bring a diverse skillset to the planning and execution for the

festival. "We have two members who both were chairs in Ontario; we have two members with extensive experi-

ence in web design and social media; there are others with leadership and business experience and others bring an incredible amount of creativity and volunteer experience with them," says Snow. "It's a wonderful board this year and we're already gelled into a great team. I do want to thank all board members over the previous 25 years who have laid the foundation of a great festival."

The 2012 PRIDE Halifax Board members are: Krista Snow, Chair; Eric Sangster, Vice Chair; Claudia Legg, Treasurer; Adam Noble, Secretary; Susan Sangster, Beverage Coordinator; Tamarra Vivian, Volunteer Coordinator; Kathy Walsh, Site Coordinator; Marion Steele, Sponsorship Coordinator; Adam Reid, Queer Acts Festival Coordinator; Paul Forrest, Parade Coordinator; Tami Mitchell, Web Design Coordinator; Blair Chapman, Marketing/Graphic Design Coordinator; Jenna Nelson, Merchandise Coordinator; Ken Murray, Entertainment Coordinator; Frank Bezanson, Fundraising Coordinator.

**Queerly Canadian
Hon. Scott Brison**

Canada's first openly gay federal cabinet minister, Scott Brison describes himself as "not a gay politician, but a politician who happens to be gay." Representing the Nova Scotia riding of Kings-Hants, and serving as Minister of Public Works and Government Services in Prime Minister Paul Martin's Cabinet, Brison has a storied history in Canadian politics already, winning his riding for the Progressive Conservative Party in 1997 and 2000, then for the Liberal Party in 2004. Shortly before joining the Liberals, Brison ran for the leadership of the Conservative Party, but left after feeling sidelined by their socially conservative agenda and by new leader Stephen Harper.

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trurosexualassault@hotmail.com

So You're Single—You Don't Have To Be Lonely

by Bill McKinnon

Last fall, Elderberries, the LGBT Elders group, met at Spencer House in Halifax and discussed being single. The following questions and answers are a composite of some of the thoughts expressed.

Q: Why do we become or remain unattached?

A: Sometimes we believe we are the only one like us on the planet and remain or become a loner. Perhaps our partner died. It's more difficult to get into a relationship as we get older. Perhaps we choose not to share our lives with another person since relationships are okay but they require a lot of give and take. Perhaps we are alone but not lonely. Some say that there is an LGBT lifestyle and maybe there is also a singles' lifestyle.

Q: What are the disadvantages of flying solo?

A: Life can be more difficult, especially as you become older and perhaps have limited income. You may become isolated (especially if you are LGBT) or can't get out to social events. You might also become invisible to others as you age—especially if you have mobility issues. Spending too much time alone sitting in the house with no one else there for you can lead to trouble.

Q: How does our society see singles?

A: Singles are the most unrecognized group and nobody stands up for them. They pay the most taxes and receive the fewest benefits. With the recent emphasis on gay marriage, some are made to feel like failures. Some people believe one should be sad if one is alone, or not with that certain someone, on New Year's Eve or Valentine's Day.

Q: Can I be a loner but not alone?

A: As a single I can reach out to the world and many of us have lots of friends. Being single doesn't mean I don't have friends. If I join just about any group there will likely be gays there. I do not have to rely

on the bars with their cliques and emphasis on youth and glamour. What I need can be found in many social settings if I keep active, take an interest in others and get involved. Good examples include churches such as Safe Harbour, sports, bridge clubs, karaoke, continuing education, writing groups, and gay and lesbian organizations such as Elderberries. If I become involved in volunteering, for example at Northwood, I soon realize that feeling sorry for myself is silly when so many are much worse off than I am. There are some amazing people out there whom I can easily get to know. Sometimes I take myself too seriously and one secret to making new friends is to lighten up.

Q: What else can single people do without a partner?

A: The possibilities are endless but here are a few: travel, photography, cross-stitching, model cars, antique cars, art and antiques, cooking, growing herbs, motorcycling, skiing, part-time work and writing a book. Furthermore, all of these hobbies can involve socializing and, though you could, why do them in isolation?

Q: What does the future hold for older LGBT loners?

A: Well some things do become more difficult as we age but we do not have to give up. We can take action. Seemingly there are no openly LGBT's at Northwood and other seniors' residences but that is going to change once the baby boomers start moving in. We will, of course, lose friends to death as time passes and that will be sad, but it is part of life and somehow we will cope. Life does not have to suck, even if we are a single and old as well, for it's not just for potentially suicidal teenagers to which the promise, "It gets better," applies.

This is only a synopsis, for you had to be there to better appreciate the sharing which took place; so make sure you come to the next Elderberries Meeting and get to know some wonderful people.

History of Live and Let Live AA Group

by Mike A.

Halifax has an Acoholics Anonymous group created by and for the LGBT community: Live and Let Live began meeting in about 1980 in a room upstairs at Hope Cottage. The meeting was sponsored by Father Mike MacDonald, but folded due to lack of participation.

In the spring of 1982 two new members to AA, Robert B. and J.J.L., decided the meeting should be restarted and had their first meeting on April 23 of that year. The first year's meetings varied in size from three to ten people and took place in a number of locations including members' living rooms. During the early years we occasionally had a brunch at a member's home and there was a great sense of community that a lot of us had not felt elsewhere.

In October of 1984 a few members went to the Gratitude Roundup in Toronto. One member was floored to discover Gay Al-Anon. People who were actually willing to stick with a gay alcoholic while he worked through his problem. The Roundup was large and showed us that gay people could come together and put on a meaningful gathering.

From 1985 to 1987 we met at a house which the GAE owned on

Black St. named Radclyffe Hall. That building was sold and we moved again.

In the late 1980s the meeting moved to the Field House on the Common. This location is well remembered by many because of the difficulty they had in finding it. One new member slipped on the ice outside the Field House and fractured his arm. He lost time from work and had to sue the city for lost wages.

We then moved to the basement of St. Mary's Basilica and were there for a number of years. On occasion we had a meeting where those who were gay were outnumbered by those who were not. I mentioned this one night and a man from New Jersey said, "Turnabout is fair play!" We met at this location for several years until construction caused us to seek a new location at St. Matthew's United on the other side of Barrington St. about 2004.

Over the years there have been people who came to Live and Let Live who told us that they found AA in general overwhelming or unwelcoming. However, they stayed with AA because our meeting seemed friendly and caring and eventually they became strong enough to go to other meetings.

NSRAP Report

Religion, Christmas and Queer Inclusion

by Linda Yates

In the late 80's, I was working as a laboratory technologist in an Infectious Disease Research Lab. I was fortunate to be able to work with several gay summer medical students who I helped train for their lab-based research projects. A laboratory is the one of the most confined and restricted of working spaces, where people work side by side all day long. It can be a place of great intimacy and friendship building—or the setting for terribly dysfunctional unfolding relationships. Luckily, for me, I got to know some incredible people very well.

One of these told me about being gay within a conservatively religious family. He was going home for Christmas and longed to tell them the truth. I was in my late twenties at the time and had a close relationship with my parents. "Tell them," I said. "They are your parents. They have to love you. It is a rule for Christians." He told them on Christmas Day and they kicked him out. He wandered the streets trying to find some acquaintance to take him in. When he told me his story later that year, I was mortified for all kinds of reasons. I cried. And I learned.

When I became a minister within the United Church in 1999, activism around queer inclusion became an integral part of what I understand to be the call of all Christians. Later, when my son told us he was gay, that call became personally significant. Quite frankly, it still blows my mind that any parent (especially "Christian" ones) can turf their kid out on Christmas Day for any reason, let alone coming out. Unfortunately, I know it happens all too often.

So there is pain at Christmas for many in the queer community. Incidence of bad family behavior tends to rise at this time of year anyway. It is a time when people who normally don't all live together gather under the same roof, a lot of liquor flows, unresolved issues are raised and money is in shorter supply than normal. For this these reasons and more, the average person has complicated memories about Christmas. For queer folk, there is the added burden of relationships not claimed (or claimed and rejected); relationships that have ended that do not have family permission to be mourned; and unspoken or spoken classification of who is "really" family. Slather over all of this mix a seasonal extra dose of religious imagery and language, and you have the recipe for some extra helpings of oppression and depression.

The thing that makes me want to scream is that it

is all so very, very counter to what the actual nativity story was meant to reveal by its early writers. In Luke, subversive activity begins with the conception. The shamefully knocked-up-before-marriage Mary breaks out into a song so radical in its understanding of the reordering of the world against oppression that it was the one scripture reading banned from south South American pulpits by oppressive regimes. So earthy and aligned with the 99% is Luke's baby Jesus, that he is greeted by shepherds, the modern day status equivalent of carnival work-

ers. They are the chosen few who announce to the confused young mother, that her child is the Messiah. Matthew's gospel provides his baby Jesus with a genealogy that includes four women, two of whom were sex workers. The other two had sexual

histories definitely not approved of in their day. So, what are the writers trying to say here about whom it is that God favours? Oh, and Mary being a life life-long virgin? I don't buy it. Why would Matthew's angel tell Joseph, Jesus' step-dad, not to have sex with her *until after* she had the baby? Come on. Certainly, white, blonde, Anglo and sexually "well behaved" people have no place in the biblical story—no matter what your religious relatives try to tell you.

It all comes down to incarnation. The idea of God embodied; that the proper place for a real God is found in that most vulnerable of human beings—a tiny, blood stained child, laid in lice-infested hay, staring up at his joyful, heart broken, homeless Mom. She knows he is headed for some hard things. He is Immanuel, "God-with-us."

What the incarnation means for Christians is that God is incarnate in everyone who has a body too. We are blessed with a the variety of God intended, incarnate diversity—which includes orientation, gender and an incredible array of physical attributes. No one can take the incarnation from you, no matter what they say. That is the real Christmas message.

So, at this time of year when the layers of memories, expectations and relationship burdens begin to oppress you, be kind to yourself. Find some quiet time. Seek out a place of worship. Know that you are loveable and loved and embodied. Give thanks and in gratitude, share that with someone else.

Linda Yates is a United Church minister serving St. John's United Church. Her areas of interest include sexual rights and death education. She is a candidate of a Doctorate of Ministry. lindayates@bellaliant.net.

"Tell them,' I said. 'They are your parents. They have to love you. It is a rule for Christians.' He told them on Christmas Day and they kicked him out."

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The Sanctuary Garden

by Bethana Sullivan

A Room Of My Own

I lit a first fire in my new Aspen woodstove in my first ever 'only mine' room. In times past I have had many rooms as a single tenant in one bedroom apartments. This is a room of my own in a house shared by my lover and partner. I feel so privileged and a friend even reminded me of this privilege when first viewing the 'room', a little to my chagrin. It is one thing to say it yourself, voiced by another tends to rub the wrong way.

This room, average size, carries with it a multitude of dreams and hopes. When Linda said, "and now you have a place for your sewing machine," (desk, writing table, drawing board, dreamer's couch, reading chair, etc, etc) I said enough is enough. I will be frozen with anxiety amidst all the expectations of what will be produced within these four walls. What I long for most is space, time and quiet, the luxury and the necessity of listening for what needs to be heard.

In today's world of global awareness, of economy, of politics, of science, of technology, of culture and of people it is a cacophony of sound assaulting the senses. Unlike the years of my youth when the struggle to find out more was the defining characteristic, the now is overwhelming present in its knowledge and experience. Is it no wonder to see those pernicious earplugs defining a space or to have empty and vacuous constant communication in an attempt to ward off the existential loneliness of a being floating unattached to this earth in a meaningful way. Thoreau wrote, in Civil Disobedience and Other Essays, "Most [wo]men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them."

Resonating within my heart, his words remind me of the sense of boredom I was experiencing last year with my own self. The monthly column, the weekly teaching, the relentless garden work, the tedium of repetition of behaviour sapped my energy. Depression you say, and I say yes, if depression is about a lack of creativity, of change, of differences left unattended, and of habits wallowing in unconsciousness.

It took about thirty years to grow into and out of my own self; the repetition of my opinions, thoughts, ideas, feelings and behaviours was wearing me down.

Maybe turning sixty had something to do with it as I woke up to the reality of mortality. In the years before 60 I had grown from a wild and shy girl fighting for a life to a woman battling for freedom, for fairness, for equality and the right to exist for all. Notice the language of war! In my life there are cycles of birth, death and rebirth, happening about every 7-8 years. The beginning of a cycle is characterized by energy, new ideas, passion and action; the end heralds in apathy, sadness, a sense of pernicious anxiety and a restlessness



"Is it no wonder to see those pernicious earplugs defining a space or to have empty and vacuous constant communication in an attempt to ward off the existential loneliness of a being floating unattached to this earth in a meaningful way."

though the beginning and ending are not quite as well defined as this sounds like. At either end I would begin to recognize the pattern and once I did the door opened to resolution. This time though, the pattern did not unfold as it had. Any ideas or plans met with a deepening of the experience until hope began to wither on the branch. But real hope is something like the image presented by Emily Dickinson in her Poem # 254, from The Complete Poems:

Hope is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul And sings the tunes without words— And never stops—at all.

And that is what my room is for—to hear hope singing when all else is silent and nothing works anymore. To hear without plans, to sing without action, to know without certainty.

It is not uncommon as we grow older to be aware of or to hear others say something like, 'I am 75 outside and a teenager inside' or '50 is the new 40' or '60 is the new middle age'. What I yearn for is to hear the song within me longing to emerge, so to speak. The life I seek is one congruent with my whole being, to live with peace my deepest values. No more fighting for or warring. Most of you have probably arrived here long before me. So welcome me to the group, saying well done, let's celebrate and ask who wants to sing their song.

Gambling

continued from page 8

forward and admit it, suggests that there are a lot more who do not come forward. And if they're experiencing harm, why don't they come forward and get some help with it? I'm excited by this study, I think it's a very important study.

Q: You reference the gambling problem as being one component of risk-taking behaviour. If you go into further studies, will you be looking at the interactions between alcohol, drugs, nicotine, and gambling? Or, would you isolate it? I think there's been a lot of studies done on the other behaviours; it's not that they're not linked, but there are a lot of studies on it. All of the elements include homophobia, transphobia, social networking, peer pressure, and other factors; it's possible that these are also influencing gambling in the rainbow community. The purpose of this study was to find out if this is a problem, and it looks like it is. One other question is, is gambling similar to the substance addiction? Or is it different? Another question is, how does LGBT culture support substance abuse and related behaviours? It doesn't make sense that a highly educated population also has a high incidence of risk-taking behaviour.

Q: I'm interested in the culture of alcohol and substance abuse. We see with some substances, harm occurring across all the normal determinants of health, that is, education, lifestyle, income. We don't see that with gambling. A: In the past, bars were the predominant way of meeting people, and were typically blamed for the use of alcohol. But that's changed in the last few years, and the alcohol / substance behaviour hasn't changed.



Response: the corporate interests that provide these substances and behaviours are very much aware of the things that make our community vulnerable or susceptible -- but they're not willing to share. Sheddon: the corporate cornering of the LGBT community over the last 20 years is obvious. Response: for example, the sponsoring of the Pride events by alcohol corporations.

Q: What about the respondents who identified as heterosexual? Do you think they are going to the gay bar to use the VLTs? A big fraction of those are probably trans, and identify as straight. Some comments showed that people were in the straight community but had some connection to the gay community. [A closeted or shy person] can go to the gay bar and sit in a safe little nest at the VLT, observe the community, and participate to the level that he or she is comfortable with.

If you or a loved one has an addiction problem, Addiction Prevention & Treatment Services has several locations to meet people where they are at. Those struggling with substance use and/or gambling; or their love ones who are affected by this can contact Phone: (902) 424-8866 Toll Free: 1-866-340-6700 for information or to complete an intake for services.

United Church Rainbow Discussions

by Jack Murphy and Daniel Poirier Meteghan Centre NS

On October 29, the United Church of Canada held a GBLTT Regional Consultation asking persons to tell their stories and voice their thoughts about the attitudes we have experienced towards homosexuality and heterosexism in the United Church today. About 25 persons attended and about half were heterosexuals. We met at St. Andrews United Church on Coburg St. in Halifax.

Here are some of the thoughts and experiences which Danny and I would like to share. One of the two facilitators began by stating: "I have a pamphlet to show you what Jesus

said about homosexuality as found in the 4 Gospels." She opened the pamphlet and it was blank. Another person stated: "If Jesus came to a church on Sunday he would not say I won't talk to you because you are gay, lesbian, widowed, a banker, or mentally or physically challenged. You are all my beloved creations." In the UC ministers can perform same gender marriage if the congregation gives him/her the authority. One of the ministers present stated that we must demand that all UC ministers have this power.

Finally the group concluded with this statement: "We should have zero tolerance of intolerance!"

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Atlantic Canada

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

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces

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

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

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: ea@accesswave.ca (Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 31 Gloster Court, Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X9

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society: Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: waydo7@hotmail.com

Names Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt): panels - helping create, and lending. 902-454-5158 email:larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.quilt.ca (Call if interested in volunteering or making a panel) at 3544 Acadia St. Halifax, NS B3K 3P2

Narcotics Anonymous: a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 1-800-205-8402 web: centralnovaarea.ca at Call the phone number or visit the web page for meeting times and places.

Project E: Presentation for youth, on gender expression, myth busters, proper terminology and other facts web: www.freewebs.com/xprojecte/ at available via web page

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

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. Needle exchange located in office at 65 Brunswick Street Fred. E3B 1G5 459-7518 email: jennifer@aidnsb.com web:www.aidnsb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

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

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

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

Spectrum: 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: monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday, 'Ai 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.)

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.portci-

tyrainbowpride.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.comweb: 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@bellalliant.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: lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org web: nlsexualhealthcentre.org

PFLAG Canada - St. John's NL Chapter: Monthly Chapter meetings, support and information for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons and their parents, families and friends. 699-0509 email:stjohnsnl@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca (We will aim to hold Chapter Meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Please check www.pflagcanada.ca for schedule and any changes.) at Community Connections, 9 Cathedral Street, St. John's NL.

St. John's Pride Inc: The officially-registered non-profit Pride company for St. John's

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: cumberlandpride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Monday (7-9 PM)

Annapolis Valley

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: Meets Thursday evenings at 7pm for coffee and socializing and host a gay/lesbian/bi and all genders 19+ dance on the first Saturday of each month from 9pm-1am.No Dance in November in lieu of two dances held in October. 825-3197,363-2055 email: embracingmen@hotmail.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@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.theShAc.org (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead.) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

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 Sexauls, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group Online Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ (No Meetings at Present! Please call if you have any questions, 499-0335 sue) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Cancelled at the present time.

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 Men's Prostate Cancer Support Group: Prostate Cancer Canada Network is launching a support group for gay men and their families. Our meetings are informal and provide a forum for personal discussion with prostate cancer survivors, those newly diagnosed and their caregivers. For more information or to become a member contact Peter Mallette at 902-420-9449 or peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca 902-420-9449 email: peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca at Prostate Cancer Canada Atlantic 5121 Sackville Street Suite 101 Halifax B3J 1K1

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.girlish.ca

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

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 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 last Monday (at 2:00pm.) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Roseria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LGBTQ community events to be involved with and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join. Also, join the "Mount Pride" Facebook group!

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 Malette 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. prideHealth- improving safe access to health

care. 220.0643

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

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

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: Providing comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in a safe, confidential and non-judgemental manner for women and men of all ages. PCCSH is affiliated with the Nova Scotia Association

of Sexual Health and the Canadian Federation of Sexual Health. They are a pro-choice and GLBTQQI friendly organization. 695-3366 email: pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com web: www.pictoucountysexualhealth.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 (GBLTQ 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: northernaidsconnectionsociety.ca (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See webpage for contact numbers in your area of northern Nova Scotia.) at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, N.S.

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: We are a social group for SW Nova Scotia. All GLBT people of any age and in any stage of coming out are invited, we have a monthly gathering at Sobeys community room on Starrs Rd. in Yarmouth at 7:00 PM on the 2nd last Wednesday of each month. We create a monthly calendar of events for such things as pool, potluck parties, day trips or what ever members like to do. So come join us have fun and meet other GLBT people. 645-2914/749-0977 email: jackanddan@eastlink.ca or diannefcc@eastlink.ca web: SWNovaPride.com (Check out our facebook at South West Nova Pride.)

Prince Edward Island (902)

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

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

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI 902-887-3620 email: 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@arcpei.com web: www.arcpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)



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Letter

Dear Wayves,
AIDS Saint John would like to express how grateful we are for your ongoing support of our AIDS Walk for Life. The ad you provide us in Wayves is a fantastic opportunity for us to rouse awareness for the Walk and for us as

an organization. Thanks to support like yours, we raised over \$7,500 which will help AIDS Saint John provide programming in South Western New Brunswick.
Sincerely Leigh Aube Office Manager
AIDS Saint John

Marriage is Bliss

continued from page 7



Our ties really do say "Just Married!"

Being a married, openly gay couple, you would think that we would encounter some problems like being called faggot, queer and such, but I will tell you that we haven't encountered any. For the most part, I think people are starting to change their attitudes towards homosexual life; it's not hidden anymore.

My boss knows I am gay and he has no issue with it whatsoever. I'm there to do my job and come home. I work with the public in customer service, and I have not encountered any ignorant people. I have had the odd customer ask me if I am gay and I tell them, "Yes I am." They tell me that gay people come a long way or "I have a family member who is gay and we don't look at them any different. We love them for who they are not what they are." These nice comments make my day. My husband's boss knows he is gay as well, and there is no issues there as well; again he is there to do

his job and come home.

We own our own home and most of my neighbours know we're gay, but again, it's not an issue. People have a lot more things to worry about in life then having a gay couple living next door to them or in the neighbourhood! And, I'm sure we are not the only ones in the neighbourhood that are gay.

An elderly lady who lives down the street told my neighbour, "I know what they are, and you know something, those two boys are the nicest people that live on this street. To each their own, I say."

I would like to add that my husband and I will be married five years this April, and our little saying since we first met is 2004 is, "Forever and ever, eternity and beyond."

I love you Stephen I am glad that you walked into my life. I don't know what path I would be on today if it weren't for you.

The 416er

by Randall Perry

I'm The Street You Walk, The Language You Talk

The sun is out and the fall air is cool. It's September, 1974, and I'm walking to school, eagerly anticipating the first day of Grade 2. My parents and I live in a high rise on The West Mall, in the west end of the city. Down the street from our building I stop at a huge weeping willow tree and wait for the crossing guard to put up her STOP sign and signal me to cross. I look at the building behind the tree, a low-rise in two pieces connected by a glassed-in foyer. I'm fascinated by the design and wonder what kinds of people live there.

Blink.

The sun is out and the summer air is hot. It's June, 1988, and I'm walking down Church Street, eagerly anticipating the first days of a new life. I'm between my third and fourth years of university and am spending the summer in Toronto. A few years earlier I began my coming out process and this summer I will meet the first well-adjusted gay people I've met in my life... well-adjusted, at least, by my reckoning after living in Charlottetown for a few years and finding late-80s gay life little more than furtive gropes in darkened cars parked on one-way streets; sad-looking closeted men in one certain bar were told by our university residence manager to stay away from.

Blink.

I open my eyes and the subway car is now completely packed. The train is rocking and someone a few feet away has farted, adding more perfume to the already pungent musk of several kinds of cologne, old sweat, someone's spicy breakfast. It's stuffy and when the train stops and more people jam themselves into the car I realize I still have ten more stops to go.

An ABBA lyric plays in my MP3 player: "The famous hotels and the cocktail bars/And the funny smells/And the turmoil, the cars and the people/The air that you're breathing is me/Yes I am the city you let me be." Funny smells, indeed. After a lifetime of living next to the ocean there's no salt-smell to the air and I have a sudden pang of homesickness.

I remind myself, this is what you wanted, this is what you were working for, so don't bitch. Still, I wonder what I've gotten myself into. I now live in this building behind the weeping willow on The West Mall... it's old, dry and even though there's lots of space, it's nowhere near the fantasy I envisioned as a child.

Truism number one: living in Toronto is a much different beast than visiting Toronto. It hasn't taken long to get the obvious touristy stuff out of the way

and getting settled into a nine to five (and allowing for two to three hours of commute per day) routine means I don't feel like I have to squeeze as much into my schedule as I used to when I visited. Hence, even given the hectic pace of the city, I've still managed to dial back my level of activity and take time to breathe.

Before I go further, I should explain the significance of the title of this new column. When telephone area codes were established in the late 1940s, Toronto acquired area code 416. As population density has grown over the years the city and its outlying areas needed more phone numbers two new area codes were introduced over the years. Nowadays, with cell phone use skyrocketing, phone numbers are being used up at a faster rate than ever, and numbers with the 416 area code are dwindling.

Put another way, there's a perception here that there's a cool factor to having a 416 phone number. You're in a sort of exclusive club, albeit that club has potentially 7.5 million other members, considering that's the number of potential phone numbers contained within an area code.

So "416er" it is. It wouldn't bother me if I were a 905er or a 647er or a 289er, or even a 365er in 2013 when that code is introduced. I've never bought into snobbish behaviour but I do get a kick out of making a mockery of sacred cows, so when in Rome...!

My last column, "The Last Word," always appeared at the end of the magazine and was thus a last word of sorts before the reader closed the final page. "The 416er" may appear at the back of the magazine but it will not be a last word; instead it will be an exploration of my transition from Maritimer to Torontonians. Since I lived 36 of my 44 years in the Maritimes, I will always be, at heart, "from there." Moving back to Toronto has always been on my agenda... even if I'm here for only a year or two, or until I get the city out of my system, as it were, and move on, it's one more item off the list.

I'm an observer by nature, and my curiosity is being rewarded. I moved to a city of millions to examine my life and find myself, as the cliché goes. My initial expectations have been shot to pieces and I have no idea what lies ahead. I never thought it possible, but the unexpected is what's firing me up now.

the416er@gmail.com

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Newfoundland Transsexual runs 30th Marathon!

When Jennifer McCreath crossed the finish line of the Newfoundland Provincial Marathon in St. John's on Sept 25, 2011, it marked the 30th time she finished a marathon. What makes this unique is that she completed them within a span of 52 months, and did so while undergoing a physically and emotionally-challenging sex reassignment process.

Although a somewhat competitive tennis player during her teenage years, Jennifer spent most of her life as a couch potato. At the age of 33, she came out to herself as transsexual and prepared to undertake the journey of transition from male to female, through a medical program that included replacing testosterone with estrogen and progesterone, having her primary sex organs removed (testes), and having her penis and scrotum transformed into a neo-vagina and clitoris. Her first step was to get in shape, as she knew that transition would be both physically and emotionally draining. She also knew that the hormone replacement process would mean that she would lose strength, speed, endurance, metabolism levels, and oxygen-processing levels, and gain body fat.

She was sitting at home on a cold January 1, 2007 evening, and decided right there and then to take up running. So she put on her winter clothing and running shoes and ran around the block. It was tough, as she was totally out of shape, and was carrying 238 pounds. She forced herself to run around the block every day, until she was able to run twice. As weeks went by, the running became easier, and the weight started to drop.

Come April, Jennifer had already dropped 30 pounds and was doing a weekly long run. Inspired by a neighbour who was very close to hitting what seemed to be an insane goal of running 50 marathons by age 50, Jennifer decided to sign up for the 2007 Mississauga Marathon (she lived in Toronto at the time). The experience proved to be so emotion-

ally satisfying that she couldn't wait to run another one, even though most training programs only recommend two per year. So a week later, she drove to Cleveland, Ohio, and ran another one! She was officially hooked and became a member of the Marathon Maniacs (a group of runners who complete multiple marathons in short time frames).

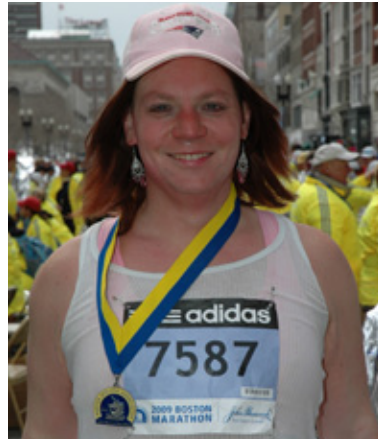
As summer approached, Jennifer had moved to Newfoundland and was ready to go full time as a woman. She expected to become a public figure, and would face perceived credibility issues, so she decided to use her status as a marathon runner, to help build her profile as a competent person who was capable of setting challenging goals and following through on them. It seemed to work.

One year later, at 165 pounds and training 160 kmn per week, she ran her personal best marathon time of 3 hours 16 minutes - good enough to qualify her for the legendary Boston Marathon. It was at this point that Jennifer had just started the hormone

"As 2009 arrived, Jennifer was chemically female, yet still anatomically and legally male. As a transwoman, she felt it was important that she not run under the male classification."

replacement process, and shortly thereafter, she would undergo her first of two sex reassignment surgeries. As 2009 arrived, Jennifer was chemically female, yet still anatomically and legally male. As a transwoman, she felt it was important that she not run under the male classification. She approached the organizers and asked if they would consider creating a third sex category. Although they declined, they did approve her to run as a female.

Disturbed by ignorance towards trans issues among the global athletic industry, Jennifer sought to raise awareness and seek acceptance. She approached the World Outgames in



Jennifer is depicted here moments after finishing the 2009 Boston Marathon.

Copenhagen with a policy proposal that would allow for the creation of a third sex classification for athletes who were in transition, or otherwise did not identify with the gender/sex binary classification scheme. Her proposal was accepted and she became the first person to run (and swim) in this category. Although slowed down by the hormone replacement process, Jennifer sought further trans visibility, and ran many more marathons over the next few years in cities all over North America.

In January 2011, Jennifer had her final sex reassignment surgery. She was determined to make an impression once again, and signed up for, and completed the Georgia Marathon just 55 days after surgery.

Come spring, Jennifer found herself going back to some of her favourite marathons to run them a second, third, and in some cases, the 5th year in a row. At the 26 km mark of the Halifax Marathon, already dealing with some serious knee pain from previous runs, Jennifer's knee buckled and her entire leg went numb. Motivated by the fact that she was running today to raise money for charity to help fight poverty in Africa, she refused to quit the race, and limped her way through two hours of pain to get herself across the finish line for the 29th time. The knee was such a mess that Jennifer was not able to run any races throughout the summer.

Not able to run, Jennifer found her health and fitness levels plummeting to where they were when she first started. She had gained back all the weight she had lost. She also found herself dealing with constant knee

Chef's Corner

by Darren Lewis

Classic Holiday Eggnog



We will soon be entertaining family and friends for Christmas and other holiday get-togethers. This recipe is a tried and true traditional favourite which was always a staple in my family. Eggnog fell out of favour for many years (all that fat and cholesterol!) but seems to be making a comeback. Even big grocery chains are producing ready-to-use containers of the stuff, full of preservatives, flavour enhancers and colouring. My feeling on this is the same as my philosophy at Chives. Use natural ingredients, make it delicious and consume in moderation. Besides, what are the holidays without being able to indulge a bit with your favourite people? This recipe uses alcohol, but you can omit the booze by using natural bourbon and rum extract. You can use a food processor, blender or good old fashioned whisk and the result is always delicious. What's great about this recipe is that the leftovers are great in a cup of coffee the next morning. You know, a little hair of the dog... Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Ingredients

5 egg yolks (natural free range)
3/4 cup granulated sugar in the raw
2 1/2 cups 2% milk
1 cup 35% cream
1/4 cup good quality Bourbon
1/2 cup spiced rum (or to taste!)
1 tsp natural vanilla extract
Pinch of sea salt
1/2 tsp freshly grated nutmeg

Method

1. Place all of the ingredients, except the heavy cream, into the blender, cover with lid and blend on high just long enough to combine all the elements smoothly.
2. Strain the mixture through a fine mesh strainer into your pitcher or punch bowl.
3. Stir in the heavy cream and chill for at least 1 hour.

Serving suggestions

As with everything, this recipe tastes better from a Martini glass. Chill the glasses in the freezer, rim the glasses with granulated raw sugar, drop in an ice cube or two, and pour the eggnog over the ice. Garnish with cinnamon stick, fresh grated nutmeg, and an orange zest twist. *Enjoy!*

pain on pretty much a 24/7 basis. But Jennifer was determined to run her 5th consecutive Newfoundland Marathon, and reach that elusive 30 marathon milestone. If she didn't do it now, she may never do it. So, she put the shoes back on and struggled through almost six hours of pure hell, but survived it!

Jennifer currently awaits x-ray results on her right knee. She may

never run another marathon, but feels content knowing she has made an impact. Most importantly, she has survived the transition process and is able to enjoy the benefits: having sexual organs that match her gender identity, having grown natural breasts, having softer skin and thinner body hair, and having natural female hormonal emotions!

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