

# Wayves

## Ed Oldford



Ed Oldford.

Ed Oldford was elected as chairperson of the Moncton River of Pride in September of last year and began planning fundraisers and profile raising events for the 2012 Pride Festival. Dan MacKay interviewed him in late January.

### Could you introduce yourself a bit?

I am from Newfoundland, and the proud father of 3 young men, Stephen, Matthew and Philip, and married to Ben Theriault. We are an English-French, Newfie-Acadian Couple who own and operate a Flower Shop In Salisbury, NB, called Ben & Ed—"da boys"—Flowers, Gifts & Home Decor. I came out at the age of 42 and have been growing ever since!

### Do you have any particular goals for this year's pride?

My goal as Chairperson is to bring the River of Pride "out" into the community at large and

work to be a part of the "community" whether that is volunteering as a group at a community event, work with other community groups to bring awareness of who we are and what we do. I want to build bridges between our group and community groups in general to raise awareness that people in our community are your next door neighbor, your local business person, your teacher, your doctor, your taxi driver, your floral designer (hint hint!!) and your local volunteer!

### How did you get involved with ROP?

This is my 4th year with River of Pride. I served as Secretary for 2 years, then took a year off and went back as Vice-Chairperson for one year in 2010-2011

### What's missing at ROP that you'd like to see this year?

I don't see anything missing, but we can always use more involvement from members

of the gay community, more input from people in our gay community regarding ideas, plans, events and growth. Our youths' and our seniors' voices could be developed, and we are always open to listening and learning from people in our gay community and the community in general!

### Is Pride for families and friends, or to make a political statement?

Not sure what other pride groups/committees are for, but the River of Pride is all about people, family, friends, a voice, being member of the community in general, a part of the Greater Moncton Area. We are here for our members and people in our community.

### If you could bring one celebrity in for ROP who would it be?

I'm not sure I buy into this approach. I like to work with local people and build our local skills, strengths and talents. I think that we're tired of always looking over the fence for "the star" when we have so-o-o many right here in our own back yard. We just need to strive harder to give them the platform to shine and the support.

### What do you say to the folks who think that pride week is outdated and not needed any more?

We need to celebrate who we are, why we are and where we are going, and so long as that stays strong, there will always be *Pride Week*. We should always celebrate our diversity and uniqueness. There are always people who look to the Pride events to remind them "its ok to be you!" Every year there are people who e-mail, call and just chat to us and tell us, thank you for doing pride week... Now I know I am *not alone!* So long as we have teens committing suicide, people afraid to talk and ignorance regarding *our* community, there will *always* be a need for our voice, and the importance of celebrating and raising our voice. We have come along way, no question, but the road has still got a few major bumps, curves and pitfalls. We need to be here!

## Jessica Bowden Receives Award

Jessica Bowden, an African Nova Scotian entrepreneur, is the first Nova Scotian ever to receive the esteemed Hope, Success & Empowerment Award on February 4, 2012 during the University of Ottawa Black History Month Gala.



Jessica Bowden at the event.

Bowden was nominated for her ongoing work with Nova Scotia youth, where she has brought back a sense of hope, success and empowerment to them through different platforms, such as the teen magazine she publishes (Teens Now Talk), motivational speaking and teen-oriented events she puts on, such as the Hali-Cares fashion extravaganza and TNT Passport 2 Youth Success XPO. Also nominated are His Royal Highness Prince Harry and His Royal Highness Prince Seeiso Bereng Seeiso of Lesotho for their collaborative work in Lesotho.

In attendance were several dignitaries, members of the Canadian Government, members of Diplomatic Corps, Students and award recipients such as Tre' Armstrong from So You Think You Can Dance, Stacey McKenzie from Canada's Next Top Model. Honourary Guests included her Excellency the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada, who received the award in 2010.

Ms. Bowden's magazine Teens Now Talk is the first magazine for teens written by teens in Atlantic Canada. TNT follows a wide scope of teen topics including LGBYQ, fashion, health, poetry, education and business.

### River of Pride 2012

will be from August 12 - 19. The dates and events will be finalized as we get closer to the time.

The theme for Pride 2012 is "PRIDE links us together!"

Please mark your calendars for the following dates of our 2012 Color Parties at Triangles Bar.

This year we are going to try something a little different...Our Color parties will have a theme with them which is: Color parties *with a twist!*

Cover charge will be \$7.00 for all nights except the *White Party* on Aug 18, with \$2.00 going to the **River Of Pride!**

- Saturday, Mar 3 - Orange Party
- Saturday, April 7 - Yellow Party
- Saturday, May 5 - Green Party
- Saturday, June 2 - Blue Party
- Saturday, July 7 - Purple Party
- Saturday, Aug 4, ALL COLORS OF the RAINBOW Party
- Saturday, Aug 18 - All white party

We are also hosting several other events as well at Triangles and with the *entire* door proceeds of \$5.00 going to the River Of Pride

Friday, February 10 - Men's/Leather Only Night

Friday, March 16 - Bear/Men's Only Night

Friday, April 20, Ladies/Leather only night

## Regular Columns



Groups & Services 12 • Kibitz and Bitch 6 • NSRAP Report 10 • The Sanctuary Garden 7 • The 416er 14



Deadline for April issue: Friday, March 2 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca • Online: www.wayves.ca • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine Rocks! ... and on Twitter: @WayvesMagazine

### Mea Culpa

On page 1 of the January-February 2012 issue, the article "PFLAG Meeting Evolves Into Party" was not credited. It was written by regular correspondent, Janet Hammock. Our apologies to Janet.

# Atlantic News

## Roberts Street Social Centre Hauling Anchor



*The little red house in Roberts Street.*

After seven years of activity, the Roberts Street Social Centre is entering a time of change. Just before New Year's they received notice that the lease on their building at 5684 Roberts Street will end as of May 1, 2012. Members of the collective met on January 9 to begin discussing how to deal with this news.

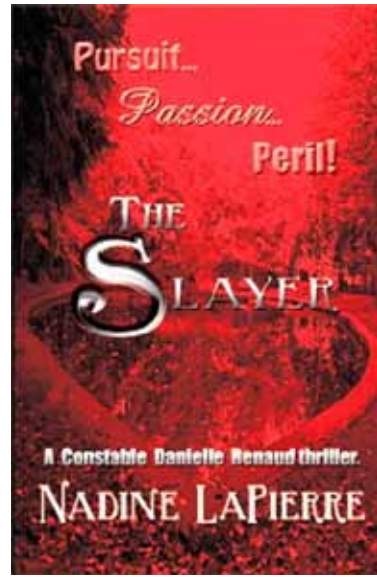
The Roberts Street Social Centre is a collection of projects dedicated to providing free or affordable access to independent and alternative media, art, and education. Projects that are part of RSSC include the Anchor Archive Zine Library, the Ink Storm Screen Printing Studio, the People's Photocopier, the Crow's Nest meeting space, and an artist and zine-making residency program.



*The Anchor Archive Zine Library.*

In the next four months we will be looking at options for a new space and figuring out how the social centre can continue its programs in the future. We will continue to be in touch as we make decisions and determine our course. In the coming months we will be looking for suggestions, support, and ideas from the community. We will need you more than ever.

Change is difficult, but we hope that through this process we will learn, become stronger, and make Roberts Street (or whatever we are to become) even better. If you are interested in helping, watch our weekly email newsletter, website or Facebook page in the coming weeks for ways in which you can help support us, and public meetings where you can give your input.



*Read this book!*

## LaPierre Nominated

Halifax author Nadine LaPierre has received two nominations from the American Golden Crown Literary Society. One for Best Debut Author, and the other, Best Mystery/Thriller for her novel *The Slayer*. The Golden Crown Literary awards celebrate the best in lesbian fiction around the world. *The Slayer*, the first in a series featuring a lesbian RCMP Constable, is set in Halifax and has been getting rave reviews. For Randall Perry's review of *The Slayer*, see the August 2011 issue. *The Slayer* is available locally and worldwide. Visit [www.nadinelapierre.com](http://www.nadinelapierre.com) for a complete list of retailers and formats available, or for more information on LaPierre books.

## EGALE in Newfoundland

Egale Canada is thrilled to announce the formation of a new partnership with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to promote safe and caring schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Through this partnership, Egale will be delivering teacher-training workshops on lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) inclusivity within schools, as well as producing a provincially-tailored Equity and Inclusive Education Resource Kit to be distributed to all junior and senior high schools in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"We are delighted to be working with Newfoundland and Labrador on this initiative," said Helen Kennedy, Executive Director of Egale. "This is the first province in Canada to make

MyGSA kits available to all junior and senior high school students, teachers and administrators. We are very proud of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to safe and caring schools for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity." The new program is funded through the Provincial Government's Violence Prevention Initiative, led by the Women's Policy Office, and developed in partnership with Egale Canada. It will be delivered to schools in spring 2012.

Egale conducted Canada's first and only national survey on homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in Canadian schools, published in May 2011. It revealed shockingly high levels of bullying, violence and harassment directed toward LGBTQ students:

*continued next page*

East Coast Music Week  
April 11-15 Moncton NB.  
showcasing artist  
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## EGALE

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- Two-thirds of LGBTQ students feel unsafe at school.
- 20% of LGBTQ students and almost 10% of non-LGBTQ students have been physically harassed or assaulted because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.
- 37% of youth with LGBTQ parents have been verbally harassed about the sexual orientation of their parents.

Egale Canada is Canada's LGBT human rights organization: advancing equality, diversity, education, and justice.

Helen Kennedy Executive Director

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Egale Canada is Canada's LGBT human rights organization: advancing equality, diversity, education, and justice. Support our work: become a member or renew your membership for 2012.

www.egale.ca www.mygsa.ca www.trans.egale.ca

## Youth Project News

### Graham Pinsent Bursary

The Youth Project offers a small educational bursary each year to LGBTQ\* youth (aged 25 and under) attending any post high school program in Canada. The bursary is in memory of Graham Pinsent, one of our original Youth Board members. His dedication to the Youth Project and his education is honoured through this bursary. The deadline is April 30. Anyone interested in applying should check out the website for more information and application forms at [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca).



### Rainbow Awesome Awards

The Rainbow Awesome awards are a way to thank someone in Nova Scotia who has gone above and beyond to make their school, city, community or the province a safer, happier, healthier place for LGBTQ youth! This can be a person of any age, in any occupation.

Do you know somebody who has made a difference in the lives of

LGBTQ youth? Nominate them for a Rainbow Awesome award—all nominations will be reviewed and voted on by the YP's Youth Board. There's no deadline for these awards, as they run all year. Nominations can be done on our website: [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca).

### Connect the Dots

Connect the Dots is an exciting new program The Youth Project is offering with the support of the IWK and Halifax Public Libraries. Connect the Dots is a social support group for youth, ages 18 and under. It gives youth an opportunity to chat with their peers, make connections in a safe and supportive space, and take part in some fun activities!

Currently, Connect the Dots meets in three library locations in HRM:

- Sackville Public Library Second Tuesday of the month 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Cole Harbour Public Library Third Tuesday of the month 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Sir William Spry Library Last Thursday of every month 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

For more information, check out our website at [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca).

## Gay Guide Comes To Halifax

Shawn Proulx, the website's creator, writes:

What we'll be doing in Halifax is what we've been doing online in Toronto since we launched as the city's first queer online portal—back before such things as Facebook and Twitter!—which is to offer our unique brand of feel-good, uplifting content to the Halifax-area queer community, content that is sophisticated, progressive, content that provokes fresh thought about what it means to be queer where you are in Canada right now.

We also intend to actively support the community we serve, as we have for ten years now via our flagship site. Over the past ten years GayGuideToronto.com has been media partner, sponsor and cheerleader for countless events, fundraisers, and parties, for artists big and small, Prides galore, and we hold a special place for serving our local AIDS service organizations whenever and however we can.

The twist is the role GayGuide-Halifax.com plays in our broader intention, which is to create an online

### Our Cover

Our cover was designed entirely by Cam MacLeod, no matter what anybody says.

thread that connects queers across Canada called TheGayGuideNetwork. This exciting first step of this is achieved once we touch down in your great city.

As well, we eagerly anticipate expanding Shaun Proulx Media's other platforms, using Halifax as a focal point for Season 3 of The Shaun Proulx Show, and Season 2 of our podcast, UNCENSORED! Eventually, I'd love to see us expand The Joy Project to Halifax, too, our charitable arm that helps us feed Canada's hungry.

If you need any more information please let us know, and of course we've got lots available about what we do at <http://www.shaunproulxmedia.com>.

## Online Gay Sex Hookups... Live!

The Gay Men's Health Project is hosting a presentation and discussion about what gay and bi men are doing online in Internet hook-up sites. They are looking for men's input in the form of experiences, observations and their questions! The discussion will also include an update on what the Gay Men's Health Project is now doing online in men's hook-up sites. The discussion will take place Thursday, March 29, 7 pm at Menz & Mollyz (2182 Gottingen Street, Halifax). For more information contact the Gay Men's Health Coordinator at 902-425-4882, ext 222 or GMHC@acns.ns.ca.

## Rainbow Refugees

Rainbow Refugees Nova Scotia (RRNS) is a new organization dedicated to helping LGBT refugees who have been persecuted in their home countries for their sexual orientation and/or civil rights support of LGBT issues.

## Important WAYVES Dates!

**Issue Content Deadlines:** Fridays: Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4: 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](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) any time!

**Production Meetings (Halifax):** Mondays: Mar 5, Apr 9, May 7; help decide what goes in the next issue, 6:30 PM, at a Place to be announced in Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

**Magazine Layout (Halifax):** Mar 11, Apr 15, May 20: 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!

The group made progress at a well-attended meeting in February; a bank account will be set up and the group will formalize by registering its name.

RRNS has the ultimate goal of sponsoring a queer refugee from a country where LGBT people face arrest, imprisonment, corrective rape and in some cases execution. Many have been driven from their homes into neighbouring countries, which may be equally unsupportive of LGBT rights. As part of a network of Rainbow Refugees groups across Canada, RRNS will be active in publicizing these issues, providing support to LGBT refugees already in Nova Scotia, and forming "Groups of Five" to sponsor individual LGBT refugees to immigrate to Canada. Its community partners include The Company House, ISIS, the Youth Project and the Schulich School of Law OUTlaw Society.

For recent news, see Rainbow Refugees NS on Facebook.

## Fred Connors Declares

Passionate about beauty, Fred Connors has worked as a clothing designer, stylist, makeup artist, and has developed his own signature cosmetic line. In 2004, after Hurricane Juan destroyed his Barrington St. building, Fred and his partner of twenty years, Joel Flewelling, opened FRED., a combined salon, café and gallery on Agricola St, in Halifax's north end.

Attracted to the locale because of its diversity and potential, Fred created business success by focusing on the neighbourhood's accomplishments. Fred and his partner also lend their talents to local community organizations through partnerships and fundraising events.



Now Fred Connors has put forward his name for the 2012 mayoral race in HRM. As mayor, Fred plans to celebrate the diversity of Halifax, including the vibrant LGBTI community, and focus on the vibrant business population and the many benefits of living in the HRM.

After announcing his candidacy for mayor, Fred was surprised at how much attention was given to his sexuality. "We live in a country where same sex marriage is mainstream. Gays in leadership roles should not be that surprising."

## 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](mailto: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.

### Wayves

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[www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca)

## 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](http://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](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca)!

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Blowers Street Paper  
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Want to tell your friends where to get their own copy of Wayves? Your first stop should be to [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca); you can download the current issue, a back issue, and also get the complete

list of our distributors in Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) and tell us where we should be!

# More Atlantic News

## SMU study

Adam Myatt is an Honours Psychology student currently conducting his thesis research at Saint Mary's University. His study looks at men's gender, ideas of masculinity and well-being.

If you are 18 years or older and male identified, you are invited to participate by completing an online survey. It takes approximately 15 minutes, and your participation is completely anonymous and confidential.

The following link will bring you to the survey: [adammyatt12080.limeask.com](mailto:adammyatt12080@limeask.com).

Myatt's study has been approved by the Saint Mary's University Research Ethics Board (REB.) and his studies REB # is 12-080. Contact information for the Board can be found at [www.smu.ca/academic/reb/contact.html](http://www.smu.ca/academic/reb/contact.html).

Thank you for your interest. Please forward this request to anyone you think would like to participate.

If you have questions, contact Adam Myatt at [adamjmyatt@gmail.com](mailto:adamjmyatt@gmail.com).

## Out in Rural Atlantic Canada

A celebration of GLBT communities throughout our regions

By Dianne O'Dea Event Coordinator for South West Nova Pride

South West Nova Pride is first and foremost a GLBT social group, open to all ages and in any stages of coming out. We provide a safe and comfortable place for the GLBT community to meet new friends and enjoy fun activities. At this time we have about 50 to 60 members throughout south-west Nova Scotia.

We hold a monthly social gathering to update the group on any information that is relevant and organize our monthly events. We usually plan movie nights, pot luck barbecues, brunches, trips to other communities for events like the Whirligig Festival in Shelburne and whatever other events the group would like to participate in. In the summer we average four events per month; usually two in the winter, including the social gatherings.

A few of our members have, and continue to, speak to groups such as Gay-Straight Alliance youth groups in the local high schools, nursing students at the Yarmouth campus of Dalhousie University, and human resource class at NSCC in Yarmouth. We are available to any group or person that would like us speak to them regarding issues of the GLBT community.

We have been a guest on a local radio show, had articles in the local newspapers and have participated in the local Seafest Parade for the last two years. We were proud to have been awarded a plaque for the most colourful float in our first year. A lot of our group members that marched in that parade said they have never felt so proud and empowered as they did on that day.

Our New Project

In mid-November I received a call from the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association. (YAS-TA), encouraging us to consider holding a conference in Yarmouth. We met later that week with three

members of our group and three members of the YASTA team. We discussed costs and what it would take to put on such an event. YASTA had already talked to the local mayor, other municipal government officials, as well as people in the business community and they are all in support of this endeavour.

We are now looking for organizations and people to partner with us to put together a GLBT conference. We are now thinking we may need to plan this for 2013, in order to give us adequate time to organize and submit applications.

SWNP will host the first year to be held in Yarmouth. Our hope is that the conference will become an annual event and rotate throughout rural Atlantic Canada in years to come.

We are asking for your help and guidance, as well as support, in putting this together to ensure its success. We have no experience with such a project but we do have lots of ideas, desire, drive, determination, passion and the willingness to do the work necessary to create this great opportunity for all GLBT communities in Atlantic Canada.

Some possible subjects for consideration fall under the headings of health (living healthy, mentally and physically), youth (parents with gay kids, kids with gay parents—understanding and supporting each other), social (create your own community, connect with others), financial (married or common-law, CPP, OAS, income tax, wills, power of attorney) and history (GLBT communities in Nova Scotia).

We hope to include a gala banquet and dance, cocktail party, and a farewell breakfast.

We need help with how to apply for funding (and to whom). Samples of applications or proposals, people that could assist in the application process, how to advertise... all this would be helpful. We would like to

encourage people from the health and education sectors to attend this conference and require knowledgeable speakers with the ability to encourage audience participation. We also need to supply forms of transportation, such as car pools or charter buses.

Our goal here is to find people that are willing to take on some of these tasks and follow through. I feel strongly that with the talents and ability of our own communities we can pull this off with great success. If you have anything to offer please contact me at [diannefcc@eastlink.ca](mailto:diannefcc@eastlink.ca) or call (902) 749-0977. We need loads of volunteers to get this done so please encourage any GLBT groups and or people you think may want to get involved in this event to contact me as well.

## NACS News

The Northern AIDS Connection Society is starting a community engagement project to enhance HIV & STI testing in Northern Nova Scotia. NACS will work in collaboration with local community partners, including the Central Nova Women's Resource Centre, the NS Agricultural College, the NS Advisory Commission on AIDS and the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre. It will engage various communities in finding new ways to address unsafe sexual health and needle sharing behaviours, primarily through safe and accessible testing options for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and blood borne pathogens like Hepatitis B and C.

Listening to the communities' ideas will be key: exploring such possibilities as linkages between HIV testing and STI and/or (Hepatitis B and C) testing, sexual health check ups, greater public and physician awareness and outreach through a variety of community settings.

**LEONARD PREYRA**  
MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island

"It's not my victory, it's yours and yours. If a gay can win, it means there is hope that the system can work for all minorities if we fight. We've given them hope."  
- Harvey Milk

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Once strategies are agreed to, NACS and its partners will move to putting them into action. Information gathered about unsafe behaviours will be shared. Part of the ongoing process will be conducting dialogue interviews with key stakeholder and community partners in Colchester East Hants, Pictou and Cumberland Counties.

NACS has been awarded a grant through the AIDS Foundation of Canada to conduct youth PhotoVoice programs in Cumberland and Pictou Counties. PhotoVoice has been part of NACS's programming for youth since 2010, with funding support from the NS Department of Justice. It is a way for people to use photographs to represent their life stories and to express themselves through less traditional means. NACS has held this program for youth in conflict with the law and marginalized youth within Colchester County. It is exciting to have the chance to take this successful program to other communities.

Check out the NACS website [www.northernaidsconnection.ca](http://www.northernaidsconnection.ca) and its Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/nacsns](http://www.facebook.com/nacsns).

## Halifax Pride

It's that time of year again and Halifax Pride is getting ready to start up our Annual Colour Party series. This year we are celebrating our 25th Anniversary and we'd like to ask the community to be a part of it.

Our initiative is to ask local community groups and programs to put together a poster on bristol board showcasing their involvement and evolution over the past 25 years. Whether it is from inception until now, or a collective collage covering only the past 25 years, we want to share with the community what your organizations' accomplishments are.

Our goal is to match the meanings of the colours represented in the flag to the community groups that best represent them. I have listed below the colours, their meanings, and the dates to our colour parties. Please pick a colour or colours where you think your organization would be best showcased. Then send a reply email stating what you have chosen and then let your creative juices fly!

March 9 - Orange -Healing - where in our community can we find healing and guidance? An option for this colour is to also add the color black in this category as it has recently become a new color to the flag to represent Aids awareness.

April 13 - Yellow - Sun - where do we show our faces in the daylight, we parade and march for all to see in the sun!

May 11 - Green - Calmness - where do we go to seek solace and find peace?

June 8 - Blue -Art - where and who brings us our art and beauty thru movement and visual means?

July 20 - Purple -Spirit- how and where do we show our Pride spirit in Halifax? This will be our kick off to Pride party!

An example of what were looking for is as follows: a poster for the Red party - red bristol board with the title of the group, date of its inception, and a collage of articles or pictures over the years showcasing what it brings to the queer community and how it is representative of the colour.

All posters can be picked up 2 days prior to the party date or sooner and will be displayed at Menz Bar the night of your colour choice. So let us know what dates/colour(s) you've chosen so we can make appropriate plans for picking up your creation.

Thanks for our support and we look forward to learning more about you and your organization!

**WEEKLY LINEUP**

MON: **RuPaul's Drag Race WATCH Party! @ 10PM\***  
Hosted by Kristi Davidson - Popcorn, Prizes, & Drag 101 Lessons!

TUE: **So You Think You Got Talent\* - 10PM • 2 Drinks for \$9\*\***

WED: **KARAOKE\* - Win up to \$500 • 32oz Pitcher Specials!**

THU: **OUTLANDISH! - The Fashion & Arts Based Dance Party - 10PM\***  
Hosted by Christopher Capstick (Starting March 22nd) • 32oz Pitcher Specials!

FRI: **Shitz & Giggles Comedy Show\* @ 9:30PM, \$5 Cover\*\*\***  
HOUSE DJ STARTING AT 11PM • 2 Drinks for \$9\*\*

SAT: **Happy Hour 3-10PM • HOUSE DJ @ 9:30PM\*\*\***  
Sing Along Show Tunes with GaRRy in the Music Room\*

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## I Am Still What I Amherst

by Gerard Veldhoven

### World-wide Equality Begins at Home

The Obama Administration has promised to promote equal rights for Queer citizens world-wide. The move, announced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in December, is viewed as a great step forward by those of us involved in equal rights. A positive move, indeed, as previous US administrations ignored gay rights, or at times denounced homosexuality as an outright abomination. The likes of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush were prime examples of presidents who vocalized their opinions. At one point Bush even suggested opening the Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Ronald Reagan believed HIV/AIDS is a gay disease and was unwilling to provide financial aid. There were so many negative statements by leaders of a country that fashions itself as a modern and inclusive nation.

Canada has its share of political foes of the LGBT community. Even as Prime Minister Harper condemned the attempt by Uganda parliamentarians to pass a law that would automatically mean the death sentence for any person thought to be queer, he tried to block same-sex marriage in Canada. However, the vote determined otherwise. The Canadian government would do well to become a partner with the Obama Administration and join the call for equal rights for the LGBT community world-wide. I believe Canada has a golden opportunity to become involved in such a great venture and in doing so will influence others to follow suit. Whether Mr. Harper will agree is doubtful as he is not a friend of the queer community in the first place and he has voiced his opinion on many occasions. The Conservative government did not approve same-sex marriage in Canada as some believe. The matter was settled through a vote in Parliament. Mr. Harper might change his mind



and join Mr. Obama in this venture. Do I think he is even willing to listen and give it some thought? The chance of that is as likely as the pope believing homosexuality is not a "threat to society."

The situation in Nigeria has caught the attention of Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird. He has spoken out against the anti-gay bill that passed the Senate there, and is the only minister in the Canadian government to publicly denounce it. Stephen Harper has been silent and that is cause for concern.

Harper should call for the expulsion of Nigeria from the Commonwealth. As the current Prime Minister, he has the obligation to publicly condemn the Nigerian bill. Liberal Foreign Affairs critic Dominic LeBlanc is calling for Canada to review the millions of dollars in aid that it provides to Nigeria. The queer population needs all the assistance it can muster and we should listen and make our concerns known to the Conservative government in Ottawa. This presents a perfect opportunity for Mr. Harper and Mr. Obama to jointly object and place restrictions on Nigeria should a final full adoption of the bill becomes law.

Our esteemed prime minister is not seen as a huge champion for queer rights. A bill that would see protection for our transgender and transsexual brothers and sisters did pass in parliament, but was defeated in a predominantly Conservative Senate. Even as we celebrate our rights we must not forget that other nations are far behind in human rights.



Glen Walton working on the film "Life After Diagnosis" in the late 1980's.

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## The Plight of a Coloured Transgendered Person in a Straight White World

by Sara Mukherji

Being a transgendered person can raise many eyebrows in this primarily heterocentric world. Passability is one of the primary avenues of success for a transgendered female or male. It does not matter whether I identify as one gender or not, it is how society at large perceives me based on my physical appearance, voice, and the way I walk and carry myself in public. Many transgendered women and men are quite successful in presenting themselves successfully with the gender with which they identify themselves. Despite a transgendered individual's ability to pass, she or he has to consult with various professionals, including clinical therapists, endocrinologists and psychiatrists, to prove that she or he can successfully live and work in their true gender before that person is certified for surgery. Until the surgical procedures are completed, the transgendered individual cannot change her or his gender marker on her or his driver's license, passport or any other forms of important documentation. In addition to such hurdles, the transgendered individual must also face discrimination from her or his family members, employers and colleagues who simply refuse

to understand that the gender with which she or he identifies is their true gender, not the gender that was forced on that individual from birth.

For us coloured transgendered folks, there's an additional barrier of discrimination to overcome which is racial discrimination. Despite the Human Rights Commission to put an end to all forms of discrimination, no real progress has been made to enrich the lives of coloured transgendered individuals. Transgendered people like me have to live our lives as a double minority, namely, a transgendered member of a visible minority. We face barriers to employment and societal acceptance because a) mainstream society likes to cling on to traditional conservative values which encourages homogeneity in the way people look and act and therefore does not take any steps in overcoming their transphobia and racial prejudice, and b) people feel threatened when they have to accept people who look different from them. Mainstream society uses transphobia and racism as defense mechanisms to protect the status quo. They fear that their way of life will be lost and their children will suffer and live in a second-class society if coloured transgendered people like

me are allowed to coexist in harmony with everybody else. Furthermore, some individuals have questioned how I can be transgendered and not be Caucasian. That is an odd phenomenon. Transgendered women and men come in all colours and they suffer just as much if not more than their Caucasian counterparts because people marginalize them further for being dark-skinned people.

Despite all of the technological advances that have occurred in this world such as the advent of the iPad and iPhone, Blackberries and tablets, society as a whole must put an end to transphobia, homophobia and racial discrimination. Unless we as a people take steps and measures to eliminate such discrimination, we will still exist as a primitive, archaic society that we were half a century ago. The evolution and progress of society will depend on its people to appreciate each other regardless of the colour of one's skin, gender identity and sexual orientation and coexist in harmony. The ability to click on electronic gadgets to obtain information and amenities does not constitute a progressive twenty-first century society, but overall societal acceptance and equal treatment of one another will help us achieve that goal.



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## Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom,

Happy spring! Or, almost. Soon the crocuses will be springing up, song birds will return, and your mother can go back to her hobby of shooting at prairie dogs from the kitchen window of her farmhouse. Hmmm, wonder if that is why there is no weather predicting groundhog out west: Too many firearms for the cousins of Schubencadie Sam?

Besides the vernal equinox and the beginning of Daylight Savings Time, March also brings us Saint Patrick's Day. Just between you and me and the lamp post, Saint Paddy's celebration always seems like a bit of an ersatz festival, more American than Irish in nature with the green beer, parade in New York and just general over-the-topness of it of the whole thing. Not that I have anything against the Irish. I have happily complied with the Kiss me, I'm Irish buttons on several occasions... although, to be fair, I would probably have had a similar reaction to Kiss me, I'm Lithuanian or Grope me, I'm a cable installer, depending on the charm of the button wearer. I do feel a certain pull of the Celtic heritage, however, some part of my blood responding to the call of standing stones, burial mounds, fairy rings and the rhythm of bodhran drum and penny whistle, especially if I've been imbibing Irish whiskey or peaty, smoky Scotch. And, of course, the ingrained semi-depressive quality of the Celtic character meshes well with my carefully cultivated cynicism and slightly curmudgeonly take on life in general.

The Anthill and Fisherman's Freud continue to inveigle me with invitations to visit them in Scotland. One hates to call it gloating but remarks like, "Oh no, no snow at all this year. A tree in the back yard was blooming in January. The gardeners were out in full force by the first of February," make it difficult to maintain my composure while gazing at gale force winds and heavy snowfall through my living room window. However, you know how I love to travel to foreign lands, Tom! Come to think of it I've never been with a Scotsman so there would be a chance to put another check mark on my bucket list. I did have someone send me a Polaroid once of the inside of his kilt, taken from the ground up, but that's not really the same, is it? It took me a while, actually, to identify the subject of the photo. I remember peering at the shot up close and wondering why on earth someone would send me a pic of their hamster on a plaid blanket. No, wait, it's a red-haired Chihuahua with its eyes shut. I had to kind of move it from one side to the other, getting the angle right before I could make sense of it. Not the kind of view I've ever had before really. I mean, it's not like I lie on my back on a regular basis while bagpipers step over

me on their way to the Tattoo, is it? Although... come to think of it... One sec, Tom...gotta add something to my bucket list.

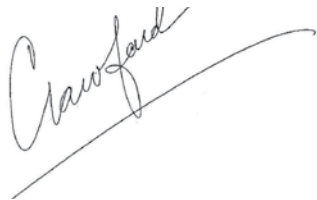
Oh, by the way, Happy Year of the Dragon! I know next to nothing about Chinese astrology but I've read—by way of Yahoo and Google—that the Year of the Dragon is quite auspicious generally, and, in particular, for those of us born during the Year of the Horse. Okay, I'll admit I did read the article online entitled Year of the Dragon: How will this affect you? Turns out that Dragon years are good for Horses, which is funny when you think of it since horses are generally considered a good food source for those countryside-ravaging, constantly-voracious dragons of folklore and legend. Once again, I may be over thinking this.

I spent the weekend watching all the episodes of the first season of Game of Thrones. Dragons feature quite heavily in one of the rather Byzantine storylines. You've heard of the three R's, Tom? Well, this features the three S's: Swords, Sorcery and Sex. Not in that order. It is a wonderfully complicated story of different ethnic factions vying for power, obsessed with their own interpretation of regional history and tradition and the extreme lengths that some individuals will go to in order to further their own selfish, power-hungry ambitions, all the while ignoring the real danger which is an ancient evil now awakening. Sound familiar? Enough about politics.

Best of all, Game of Thrones features rather a lot of nudity... not just the women and breast variety, but also the young-lords-with-rampaging-hormones type. And not all of the erotic scenes depicted are of the heterosexual variety. One principal character is decidedly of the homosexual persuasion and the pennant that flies from his flagpole has bright rainbow colours, metaphorically speaking. There is even a rather delicious shaving scene.

Which reminds me, I have some manscaping to do before bed time so I better sign off. *Sláinte mbath*, my friend!

Love ya!



## Dan MacKay Speaks!

**What's changed in the Atlantic Canada queer community since you got involved?**

Well, I've changed partners a couple of times. (laughs) But I don't think that's going to happen again.

The whole world has changed! We've seen homophobia go from normal and expected, to being recognized as unacceptable redneck behaviour. We've seen a lot of organizations, and a lot of businesses in the community come and go, we've seen our own community grow, work out problems of working together, learn how to be activists and now, wonder what is the next thing for us to be fighting for—trans rights? Seniors rights? Queer rights in developing nations?

Electronic communications has given the ability of almost everyone to be a publisher of some sort, with mixed consequences. So what have now, via Twitter and Facebook, is fire hose blasting us with useful and factual information mixed in an unknown proportion with rumour, humour, speculation and malice. On the other hand, people, and hopefully young people, are honing their skills at determining how reliable information is.

We have the ability to quickly tell hundreds of people about exciting events happening in the gay community; but oddly, it does not really seem like more people come out to these events; we have hugely more people who are out of the closet, and yet community organizations still struggle to find enough volunteers to operate.

And, of course, casual sex has gone from harmless frequent recreation, to terrifying Russian roulette with unknown bullets in an unknown gun, and condom use has gone from a novelty to routine.

**What's still the same?**

As I mentioned in my acceptance speech, the drag community or family, has probably changed the least. I haven't changed where I live either, and I'm hoping that continues. And — Wayves is still here, perhaps the only organization in continuous existence since the mid-eighties. And, a few of the people who were active in the community still are.

And, unfortunately, teenagers, and to some extent adults, are still being bullied and people are still coming to harm for who they are or who the bullies think they are, and teenagers are still committing suicide because they can't imagine themselves into a happy and productive adulthood. I don't know how much of that can ever be changed, but we can continue to work on it.

**Who were your mentors?**

There really are too many to mention. The ones I think of first are Al Stewart, Jim DeYoung, Kevin Crombie, Lynn Murphy, Bob Fredricson, JJ Lyon, and above all my aforementioned long suffering partners who seem to, for no reason that I can identify, tolerate a three-way relationship with me and entire rest of the gay community.

**If you could change one thing about the queer community, what would it be?**

I'd like for there to be a little more of a "village" — and I think that Gottingen Street is just the right place for it. It would be cool if there was a small apartment building that was mostly gay. From that there would be synergy of having more people around in the day and evenings, a lgbt owned café, maybe another bookstore to complement Venus Envy's offerings, maybe some free meeting space associated with one or the other. I see a thriving lgbt community on Gottingen Street as part of its gentrification, renewal.

**What was your favourite bar that's ever been in Halifax?**

Hm. You know, every one has had its own charm and I've had good times in each. One that stands out is The Rainbow Room, which later turned into the Eagle. The Rainbow Room was charmingly, a gay bar as imagined by an older, straight, Greek man. One of my favourite gay friendly spaces in Halifax was right below that, the Insight Café. I had great times at the Eagle while it was on Gottingen Street, and to go to Menz Bar on a Friday or Saturday night is still a treat for me and Gabe. We also have a lot of events - meetings, birthday parties and receptions at Menz & Mollyz. Everyone misses Mollyz Restaurant.

**What's your favourite part of a Pride Parade (other than the motorcycles!)**

Well, this is going to sound weird, but for me the most surprising part ...continued on p.10



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## The Sanctuary Garden

by Bethana Sullivan

I went to the opera on the wrong day. We enjoy the monthly opera presentation by the Metropolitan Opera by way of Empire theatres. I feel a part of a privileged lot, a throwback to the days when it was difficult for the 99%ers to afford the theatre. Each opera day we prepare a lunch and thermoses of tea, taking cutlery and china cups to more enjoy the repast. We head out at our usual time, taking extra time to stop for the weekly treat of the Saturday Globe and Mail while still keeping focus on the goal of getting there in time to claim our regular seats. The opera that day was the final instalment of Wagner's Ring Cycle, not my favourite opera composer but mythic in its scope. As we waited for the doors to unlock, surrounded by a youthful group of parents and children, we wondered why there were no familiar opera fan faces, reasoning that we were just more ambitious or that this wasn't as popular as the other segments. Finally, we are allowed into the theatre and sigh with relief as we spot our empty seats along with all the other empty seats. Shedding coats and scarves, getting out the reading material, and lunch, stomach and mind each anticipating their own nourishment, we sink into the high back seats.

Suddenly a young theatre attendant springs up the stairs, and with some signs of embarrassment, tells us there is no opera today! What, we exclaim, are you sure, let's look at the ticket and sure enough it is the next week. Now it is us who flush with

embarrassment, especially as grey-haired humans we fear being treated as the stereotypical forgetful elder—surely not an outcome for the never-aging boomers!

So we gather up all the paraphernalia of our outing, including the shreds of dignity, and slowly make our way back to the foyer, laughing at how we tried to make meaning of the lack of other opera fans with never seeing it could be because we had the wrong date. What to do with the day, the energy built up, the anticipation, the lunch... and off we go to buy tickets for The Iron Lady.

What a film, much better than I had thought it would be, Meryl Streep carrying the film and the film being a startling vehicle for seeing connections between then and now. In fact it scared me to see the parallels. Let me attempt to make sense of the connections I see. Thatcher took the reins of power at a time when it seemed that a national decline was unfolding rather precipitously. Her political philosophy and economic policies emphasised deregulation particularly of the financial sector, flexible labour markets, the sale or closure of state-owned companies, and the withdrawal of subsidies to others. The workers lost power as their unions were broken, big business reaped the rewards, investments brought wealth to some and others lost wages and benefits. Sound familiar? Thatcher's popularity waned in the wake of a recession and high unemployment. The economic recovery of the eighties and 1982 Falklands

war brought her renewed popularity and re-election. But by the late eighties it became apparent her overpowering hold on her cabinet and out-of-touch thinking on what was changing in the world were to be her downfall. Let us hope that the same fate is in store for the one who shall remain unnamed!

Bringing it home to life here in HRM, the struggle between the transit drivers union and management is startling in its connection to those struggles in the eighties (and as the distance and disconnection between workers and management has unfolded over the last thirty years). Why do you think the 99%ers are demonstrating? Why are people not out there supporting the transit drivers—is it jealousy because the drivers have some control over their work environment? Is it because the transit drivers can make a fair living wage with only grade 12? Is it because the media is not playing a fair role in this, offering a clear analysis of both sides, providing thoughtful and in-depth analysis? Is it because on our micro-level we have a mayor and council that support big business and development at the cost of the environment, the everyday person, rural areas and local small businesses that the struggle between the drivers and management cannot be negotiated with a win-win outcome? Do people still believe that some inconvenience is not worth the fight for fairness and equality; do they not believe it cannot happen to them in their

sector? What is keeping the blinkers firmly in place? Maybe some of that highly touted Nova Scotia spirit might be seen here in walking, riding bicycles, and car-pooling.

We who have lived on the edge (though I mustn't make the mistake of situating all GLBATT on the edge), who have experienced injustice, disconnection, a lack of fairness, of choice, of scarcity, as well as the richness and diversity the edge provides, can surely offer a different way of doing things. Strength in togetherness, justice, a voice, how to be strategic and most of all, a place where diversity are what it is all about, if not more than I am able to name right now.

My heart is heavy at the mean-spirited words. Have we become so special as to think that my need is the only need to be attended to? The policies of the eighties have wreaked havoc with our lives, not only financially but with our souls and spirit. It is time to say no to such depersonalization and disconnection.

I'll leave you with the words of E.B. White:

"As long as there is one upright man, as long as there is one compassionate woman, the contagion may spread and the scene is not desolate. Hope is the one thing left to us in a bad time."



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# McKinnon at Large



DQ Dixie Landers "sings" Bette Midler songs for Sheila Copps at the Mercury Lounge in Ottawa's Byward Market on Thursday, January 12. Other notables at Sheila's standing-room-only reception included: Nova Scotia's own Scott Brison, the ever-delightful Dominic LeBlanc from Beauséjour New Brunswick, ladies' heartthrob Justin Trudeau from Montréal, and staunch LGBT supporter Hedy Fry of Vancouver. Sheila was seeking election to the position of president of the Liberal Party of Canada but lost in her bid to Mike Crawley of Toronto by 27 votes. (Photo by Bill McKinnon)

## Early Pride at St FX



Raising the rainbow flag on February 6 at StFX to kick off Pride Week, February 6-10.

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This study has been granted REB approval #2011-2390.

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# prideHealth Gets Better



On January 20 prideHealth premiered a joint Capital Health and IWK It Gets Better video, which featured GLBTIQ staff from both organizations sharing their personal experiences as GLBTIQ youth, coming out, and their advice to present day youth that life does get better, and that it is worth living. The video has been added to the international movement against bullying of GLBTIQ youth, and is now available on YouTube, [www.itgetsbetter.org](http://www.itgetsbetter.org), and through Capital Health NS's social media channels. You can watch the video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c-Cm3MZ80I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c-Cm3MZ80I).

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# Guerilla GayFare



Striking a pose.

For those who have been hiding under a rock, Guerilla GayFare is a bunch of Gays, Lesbians, Bis, Trans, Fagnets, Faghags, Staghags and the like who homo it up and “take over” a straight bar the last Friday of every month. Each takeover the guerillas are assigned a specific dress code, usually a colour, pattern or some other identifiable theme.

2012 kicked off with a bang. The committee approached superstar designer, Matt Mackay, to design a provocative poster that encouraged the gays to “Occupy Straight Bars” and plastered them all over town and the Internet. Word of mouth spread like wildfire, and the January takeover at La Trinidad was incredible. A crowd of nearly 100 showed up in red and danced the night away to the awesome beats of the Famous Players Halifax DJs. Everyone remarked at what a

Photo credits – Peter Graham

On February 29, 2008 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, a big group of queers dressed in pink showed up at Tribeca and transformed the club into a gay bar for the night. Four years and 36 takeovers later Guerilla GayFare Halifax is still going strong.



The Guerillas shake their red hot booties on the dance floor.



Parting the red sea.



Boys in red.

great vibe the crowd had and how much fun it was. Bar owner Chris Richards was thrilled to host the Guerillas and encouraged the gays to come back any time to get their groove thang on!

The January takeover was just the beginning. This year Guerilla GayFare is breaking out of the box and will be trying out a few outrageous themes including Mardi Gras, Retro and Nautical Sailors. Make sure to join the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/gayfarehfx](http://www.facebook.com/gayfarehfx) for all the latest details, or follow us on Twitter @GayFareHfx

Credit for Poster design – Matthew Mackay, seamz.ca.

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ROYAL LEPAGE Atlantic

*NSRAP Report*

# The criminalization of transgendered identity in the name of “security” continues...

by Kevin Kindred

Just off the heels of new provincial rules requiring fingerprinting and a criminal record check for trans people changing their names, we learned this month of new federal regulations that could lead to trans people being turned away at airport security.

The new rules—passed last year, but just coming to light now thanks to a network of trans bloggers—say that airport staff should bar from travel anyone whose appearance doesn't match the sex/gender marker on their ID.

That will be a problem for trans folks who haven't yet (or won't ever) undergo sex-reassignment surgery (SRS). In most cases, some form of SRS is a pre-requisite for getting one's ID changed.

So far, there have been no reported cases of trans people being turned away from their flights. Indeed, the regulation allows exceptions for “medical reasons,”

and NSRAP encourages any trans person to carry with them a letter from a health care professional explaining their circumstances.

However, every trans person now has to worry on the way to the airport whether they'll encounter an officer who understands gender identity and lets them through. We may not hear about the cases of people who get turned away and don't want a fuss. We probably won't hear about the people who choose less convenient means of travel in order to avoid the hassle. Or the people who've had to explain to their boss, their travel companions, their travel agent why they need a back-up travel plan just in case.

All of this needless stress, for what? Where are the cases of gender discrepancy posing a risk to our ability to travel security? What palpable benefit justifies treating a whole swath of travelling Cana-

dians as suspected terrorists or smugglers, just because of their gender expression? As with so many other situations in the last decade, the mere mention of “security” is assumed to justify any level of discrimination, indignity, or unfairness.

All of this could have been avoided with a simple effort by the government to talk to trans people and their advocates before changing the rules.

We at NSRAP join the opposition parties, and trans activists across the country, in asking the Harper government to re-examine this rule and find a way to balance security needs with the basic human dignity that trans people deserve when they travel.

Moreover, this situation just demonstrates the need for governments to pay attention to the needs of the transgendered community. We think a good start is to make an explicit recognition of

transgendered Canadians in our human rights legislation. One attempt to do that on the federal level has failed, but a new attempt is in the works. On the provincial level, NSRAP has made it a priority to demand that the Dexter government recognize trans people in the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.

That won't mean the end of the fight for transgendered equality. In some ways, it will just mean the beginning of a new phase in that fight. But we think it's time that governments started openly talking about the transgendered community as one that deserves our respect and protection—not as one that threatens our security.

*Kevin Kindred is a board member and former president of NSRAP. He currently heads the Law & Legal Reform Committee. To find out more about NSRAP, visit nsrap.ca, facebook.com/nsrap or twitter.com/nsrap.*

## MackKay Speaks

...continued from p.6

of the Pride Parade, as of the last few years has been... the banks. If, thirty years ago, you had asserted that in the future, banks would be celebrating homosexuality, you would have been laughed at. If you had followed up earnestly by saying that they, and real estate companies, and car dealerships were chasing the purchasing power of the “pink dollar” you would have been locked up. And cops and firefighters, and the Halifax Bridge Commission for gosh sakes! Also, I love the Japanese tourists smiling and waving enthusiastically as if we put on this parade just to amuse them during their visit.

## New GLBT Website Launches in CB



A new queer resource is coming! Coastal Braid will be an on-line magazine for the LGBTQ community of Cape Breton. Its premiere issue will be released on March 1 and new issues will follow on the first of each month. Madonna Doucette is in the process of launching this new venture.

“My goal is to produce a Cape Breton resource and a creative outlet

that will allow both members of the gay community as well as our allies a site where diversity is celebrated,” she says, “and acceptance is the norm.” Coastal Braid will include articles from Pride Cape Breton, ACCB, PFLAG and CBU's Sexual Diversity Committee, along with written content coming from members of the community at large. Doucette is hoping for an eclectic selection of written work—educational and socially conscious stories plus personal tales that will make us laugh or cry.

Submissions can now be sent to [submissions@coastalbraid.com](mailto:submissions@coastalbraid.com).

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# Honest To God II: LGBT Spirituality Options For Fredericton

by Daniel MacKay

A recent discussion on the Fredericton LGBT FaceBook page (its name is "Queer Theory Collective") initially addressed the issue of a lack of worship communities. As the discussion progressed, however, it became obvious that there is more of a lack of knowledge of the various options available.

Members of the QTC have contributed the following comments.

**"E" writes:** I know that Hinduism itself doesn't discriminate against LGBTQ persons and in fact includes them. I have never been to the temple here so I don't know if it is specifically LGBTQ friendly. However, I know the Hare Krishnas that are often in town are LGBTQ friendly! Heck I hung out with them for 3 days straight and I'm pretty darn obvious!

**"J" writes:** The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton ([www.uff.ca](http://www.uff.ca)) is a formally Welcoming Congregation. For those looking for a more traditional (i.e. Christian) religion, I believe that the Wilmot United Church is the United Church equivalent. This means that members of the GLBTQ communities are treated as much as possible as equals. The institutions are, however, religious institutions and all respect the community. As a cross dresser, I am accepted in drag or in drab, however, I take care to make sure that regardless I dress appropriately for a church service, i.e. modest garb, clean and neat, for whichever gender.

At any rate, you will not find disapproval from the pulpit of a Welcoming Congregation for being GLBTQ. When I am service leader,

I explicitly mention the welcoming status in some way. Long before same sex marriages were legalized, the United Church ministers and lay chaplains would perform ceremonies of union for same sex partners. The church considered these the same as marriages and we were among those lobbying for the right to perform these unions as legal marriages and we are now proud to be able to do so. Again, many United Church ministers will also perform same sex marriages.

**"D" writes:** The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton is a fabulous option for some folks, with a very long history of advocating for queers. And Wilmot is available too. There's also the Shambhala meditation centre, and the Quakers are also very queer-welcoming.

**"T" adds:** In 2011, Wilmot United Church hosted several Rainbow Brunches which were all very well attended. Late in the year it was decided as a group that we would set the dates for our gatherings for this year for the second Saturday of every other month beginning in February. The next one will be on April 14. We gather in the kitchen/church parlour of the church about 10:30 am to enjoy a potluck meal and a time of fellowship and sharing. Each person is asked to bring along their favourite breakfast/lunch dish to contribute to the shared meal. All are welcome. Although Wilmot is not officially recognized as an Affirming (the term used in the United Church context) congregation, it has come to be known as a very open and welcoming

presence to the GLBT community in downtown Fredericton. This hasn't necessarily been widely advertised to the community at large. One of our best kept secrets, so to speak. There may be some developing news on this front in the coming months.

My husband and I count ourselves among the growing number of same-sex couples who have exchanged our wedding vows at Wilmot. For us it was a very affirming and supportive experience as the congregation shared in our celebration in the fall of 2009.

**"L" writes:** There is also Integrity for those who want an Anglican mass. It is a small group, but its mandate is to provide a worship environment for those who feel alienated within the church. I found it especially helpful when I was first coming out because for me it wasn't enough to worship in a LGBTQ friendly environment, I needed it to be explicitly queer affirming. Integrity gave me back my own sense of spiritual integrity.

**"S" writes:** I go to Shambhala Centre in Fredericton, and I've never been treated in any of those ways, never marginalized or patronized.

**"D" writes:** My same-sex partner and I were married at the Unitarian Fellowship and I have to say that it was a wonderful experience for us. We had never been there before but we were treated with respect and I only felt positive vibes.

**"K" writes:** My experience at the Shambhala meditation center has always been good and I've been going there for about 4 years.

**"D" writes:** Sexual orientation and gender are both specifically mentioned in the Principles of Unity in the Pagan community. The one in Fredericton ebbs and flows when it comes to public rituals and events, and right now it's on an ebb, but anyone can join the Yahoo group for more information.

## Information about the places mentioned here

- Hare Krishna: visit Fredericton from time to time. For more information, visit [www.everytownandvillage.net](http://www.everytownandvillage.net)
- Hindu Temple: 259 Doak Road, 457-4550.
- Integrity: meets at the Unitarian Fellowship Building, 874 York St, the 3rd Sunday of each month at 4:00 PM.
- Pagan Group: Yahoo group "paganrituals"
- Quakers: meet Wednesdays at noon, Chapel of St. Thomas University, call 454-7479 for details, and Sundays at 10 AM. Call for location. 454-5882 or 472-9086 or [fredericton-contact@quaker.ca](mailto:fredericton-contact@quaker.ca)
- Shambhala Centre: 20 Serenity Lane (off Hanwell) 449-3051 [fredericton.shambhala.org](http://fredericton.shambhala.org)
- Unitarian Fellowship 874 York St, 451-0919, services are held at 11:00 am Sundays. [www.uff.ca](http://www.uff.ca)
- Wilmot United Church, 473 King St (King & Carleton.) The web page [wilmotuc.nb.ca](http://wilmotuc.nb.ca) lists the Rainbow Brunch events and contact information for the LGBT group. "The Board of Session of Wilmot United Church will consider all marriage requests from members and adherents. This may also include couples who have expressed the desire and demonstrate a willingness to become part of the life and work of this faith community."

# "La Cage" at Neptune

LGBT-themed entertainment in Halifax goes Broadway big this spring with the Tony award-winning musical *La Cage aux Folles*, playing April 10-May 27 at Neptune Theatre.

she says.

"Look at Kim Kardashian," MacKay notes. "The 80s were a fairly dramatic look but she doesn't wear any less makeup than they did. There's



Senior Makeup Artist Jane MacKay.

The Birdcage, a 90s movie starring Robin Williams, was originally a French stage play. It tells the humanizing story of a gay couple whose son brings home a girlfriend from an ultra-conservative background. The play is set in St. Tropez, where the couple owns a glitzy nightclub featuring performers in drag.

M.A.C Cosmetics recently signed on as a sponsor of the show, with a commitment to provide professional training. Senior Makeup Artist Jane MacKay, who has created looks for fashion photography, runway, stage, video and TV, will travel from Toronto to Halifax in March to give the cast of *La Cage aux Folles* advanced classes in stage makeup.

She explains the inspiration behind the looks she designed for the Cagelles, the showgirls in Neptune's production.

"The traditional *La Cage aux Folles* play was from the 70s, and that play when it came to North America was set in the 90s. But this production is set in the 80s and we're using the 80s show *Dynasty* as style inspiration for the showgirls," she says. "It's over-the-top glam. Not kitschy, not campy, but glam."

She says she's tailoring the training to help the actors learn fundamentals first.

"These are actors. They're not drag queens. They have to learn how to do drag makeup. And the lead actor has to come in and out of character during the production so that's really challenging for him."

But whether you're a performing drag queen, or an actor performing as a drag queen, you can benefit from learning about the magic of makeup,

a lot of emphasis on contouring. The color palette has changed, but the techniques remain the same."

"Drag is a kind of theatre," she points out, adding that the most essential part of the drag transformation is to soften the angles of men's faces, including the eyebrows, which she recommends stencils for.

Asked about specific products that she'll be using on the Neptune actors, Jane says more is more when it comes to the Cagelles.

"Reflects Glitter is a very small glitter size, really crystallized and has great light-reflecting effects. It'll go on their brow bones, eyelids and lips, in different colors depending on each actor's color palette."

For men who prefer a more natural look, MacKay shares some pro tips that she uses on celebrities like Gale Harold and James Woods.

"I first of all put on moisturizer because it plumps up and smooths skin. I recommend Studio Moisture Tint SPF 15, for men and women. Also, the cameras on photo shoots can be very hot, and no-one looks good with a big spot of oil on their forehead. So I also use Blot Powder Pressed and Blot Film to take down shine on men's foreheads. And always a clear lip conditioner."

A pioneer in the HIV/AIDS arena, the M.A.C AIDS Fund has been a trailblazer, funding groundbreaking programs like the high profile VIVA GLAM campaign, which supports men, women and children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS (to learn more visit [www.macaidsfund.org](http://www.macaidsfund.org)).

Tickets are now on sale for *La Cage aux Folles*. Call (902) 429-7070 or visit [www.neptunetheatre.com](http://www.neptunetheatre.com).

## Explore your options

### Aqua Vista • King's Wharf

301, 1 bed, 1 bath, 847 sf \$299,900 EXCL  
407, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,200 sf \$429,900 EXCL  
606, 2 bed, 2 bath, den, 1,278 sf \$459,900 EXCL  
1201, PH 2 level, 2 bed, 2+ bath, den \$899,900 EXCL

### Keelson • King's Wharf

309, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,150 sf \$369,900 EXCL  
605, Studio, 875 sf \$299,900 EXCL  
1101, PH 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 balcony, 1,755 sf \$624,900 EXCL

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# WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

## 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](http://www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes)

**Atlantic Canadian Lesbians:** 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/](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/)

**Egale Canada - Atlantic:** (888) 204-7777 email: [egale.canada@egale.ca](mailto:egale.canada@egale.ca) web: [www.egale.ca](http://www.egale.ca)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca) web: [www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews](http://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](mailto:waydo7@hotmail.com)

**Names Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt):** panels - helping create, and lending. 902-454-5158 email: [larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca) web: [www.quilt.ca](http://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](http://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/](http://www.freewebs.com/xprojecte/) at available via web page

**Wayves Magazine:** Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine! email: [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) web: [wayves.ca](http://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](mailto:jennifer@aidnsb.com) web: [www.aidnsb.com](http://www.aidnsb.com) (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

**Fredericton Lesbians and Gays:** Email list/serv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: [jamesw@stu.ca](mailto:jamesw@stu.ca)

**Integrity:** Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: [integrityfredericton@live.ca](mailto:integrityfredericton@live.ca) web: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46207976587](http://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](mailto:pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca) web: [www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com) web: [www.sida-aidsmoncton.com](http://www.sida-aidsmoncton.com) at (506-859-4726 fax) 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

**PFLAG:** Supporting all people with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues (506) 869-8191 email: [monctonn@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:monctonn@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html](http://www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html), meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday, Â 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](mailto:riverofpride@hotmail.com) web: [www.fiertemonctonpride.ca](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:unsurdix@umoncton.ca) web: [etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix](http://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](mailto:info@gngnb.ca) web: [www.gngnb.ca](http://www.gngnb.ca) (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See [www.gngnb.ca](http://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](mailto:catalyst@mta.ca) web: [www.mta.ca/clubs/catalyst/](http://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](mailto:catalyst@mta.ca) or the Students' Administrative Council at [sac@mta.ca](mailto:sac@mta.ca).)

**PFLAG:** Support and education for GLBTT2IQ persons, friends & family 506-536-4245 email: [jhammock@mta.ca](mailto: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](mailto:cqsunited@nb.aibn.com) web: [www.cqsunited.ca](http://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](mailto:aidssj@nb.aibn.com) web: [www.aidssaintjohn.com](http://www.aidssaintjohn.com)

**Gay Men, Aôs Supper Club:** web: [www.portcityrainbowpride.com](http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com), meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St. Saint John New Brunswick

**PFLAG:** Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (506)648-9700 or 648-9227 email: [saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn](http://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

**Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library:** over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: [cqsunited@nb.aibn.com](mailto: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](http://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 „AûE News.Â. 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](mailto:richardb@nbnet.nb.ca)

## Newfoundland & Lab (709)

**Frontrunners Newfoundland and Labrador:** Running/walking club. 722-5791 or 753-9529 email: [tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net](mailto:tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net), [jennifer.mccreath@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@acnl.net) web: [www.acnl.net](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org) web: [nlsexualhealthcentre.org](http://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](mailto:stjohnsnl@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://www.pflagcanada.ca) (We will aim to hold Chapter Meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Please check [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://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](mailto:stjohnspride@yahoo.ca) web: [www.stjohnspride.org](http://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](mailto:info@HepatitisOutreach.com) web: [www.HepatitisOutreach.com](http://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](mailto:Program@HepatitisOutreach.com).

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

**Venus Envy Bursary Society:** An annual award open to all women studying in NS. web: [www.venusenvy.ca/halifax](http://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](mailto:shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca) web: [cumberlandcounty.cfh.info](http://cumberlandcounty.cfh.info) (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive (Side entrance). Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms.

### 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 leu of two dances held in October. 825-3197,363-2055 email: [menembracingmen@hotmail.com](mailto:menembracingmen@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](mailto: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](http://www.stfx.ca/people/xpride)

### Bridgewater

**Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County:** Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops 527-2868 email: [LunCo@NS-SexualHealth.ca](mailto:LunCo@NS-SexualHealth.ca) web: [www.theShaC.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:acns@acns.ns.ca) web: [www.acns.ns.ca](http://www.acns.ns.ca)

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Live & Let Live AA Group for LGBT community (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: [courage449@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:bedfordunited@eastlink.ca) web: [www.bedfordunited.com](http://www.bedfordunited.com), meets every Sunday (9 am service: Casual and contemporary, with free coffee and muf=ifins before church to take into this service. 11 am service: Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. During the summer months, we have one 10 am service but occasionally during the year we change our service times for special occasions, so please call to confirm service times) 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](mailto:sueandrews1964@hotmail.com) web: [ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynof-halifax/](http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynof-halifax/) (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](mailto:dalout@dal.ca) web: [www.dalout.ca](http://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](mailto:Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca) web: [www.frontrunners.org/clubs/index.php?club=Halifax](http://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](mailto:peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca) 902-420-9449 email: [peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca](mailto: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, Counsellor, at 421-6797

**Get Out, Halifax!:** Recreation activities (team activities, cycling, running, rowing - you name it) for metro & beyond! web: [www.getouthalifax.ca](http://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](http://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@yahoo.com](mailto:hal-gal@yahoo.com) web: [groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal/](http://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](http://www.HSHC.ca)

**Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society:** Fundraising 902-449-7612 web: [www.imperialcourtns.com](http://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.integrity-canada.org](http://www.integrity-canada.org), meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at All Saints Cathedral

**Koinonia Ecumenical Church:** Meaning „Acommunity, Aô. 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](mailto: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](mailto:ilovemy2moms@gmail.com) web: [momsquared.weebly.com](http://momsquared.weebly.com)

**Mount Pride:** LGBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University

## Groups & Services continued

email: [mountpride@mountstudents.ca](mailto: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](mailto:nsrap@nsrap.ca) web: [www.nsrp.ca](http://www.nsrp.ca) at TBA

**Outlaw:** GLBTQ & Allies Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School email: [chad.skinner@dal.ca](mailto:chad.skinner@dal.ca) web: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2416842853](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@halifaxpride.ca) web: [www.halifaxpride.ca](http://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](http://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](mailto:queerplay@gmail.com)

**SMU-Q:** A student-driven society that provides positive support, advocacy, activities, and education through the dissemination of information to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersexual, and ally persons of Saint Mary's University

and the LGBTQIA community at large. 902-496-8216 email: [info@smuq.ca](mailto:info@smuq.ca) web: [www.smuq.ca](http://www.smuq.ca) (See our facebook group <http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarysUniversityQ> and website for details on upcoming events) at Saint Mary's University

**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](http://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/](http://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](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca) web: [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://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 help you 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:secstory@eastlink.ca) web: [www.secstory.com](http://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](mailto:middletonns@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca/middleton.html](http://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 GLBTQI friendly organization. 695-3366 email: [pssexualhealth@hotmail.com](mailto:pssexualhealth@hotmail.com) web: [www.pictoucountysexualhealth.com](http://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](mailto:pcwc@womenscentre.ca)

### New Minas / Annapolis Valley

**Valley Youth Project:** Sexual Orientation. Gender Identity. Allies. Youth. email: [valleyyouthproject@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:christineporter@accb.ns.ca) web: [www.accb.ns.ca](http://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](mailto: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: [sydneys@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:sydneys@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, 714 Alexandra Street

**Pride Cape Breton Society:** Dances and

Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: [info@pridecaperebron.com](mailto:info@pridecaperebron.com) web: [www.pridecaperebron.com](http://www.pridecaperebron.com) (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

### Tatamagouche

**Tatamagouche Centre:** We are an affirming centre, welcoming all gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. 1.800.218.2220 email: [tatacentre@tatacentre.ca](mailto:tatacentre@tatacentre.ca) web: [www.tatacentre.ca](http://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](mailto:cnwrc@eastlink.ca) 535 Prince Street, Truro, NS B2N 1E8 (902) 895-4295 web: [cnwrc.weebly.com](http://cnwrc.weebly.com)

**Colchester Sexual Assault Centre:** Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: [trurosexualassault@hotmail.com](mailto:trurosexualassault@hotmail.com) (Centre Hours Mon-Thurs 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive, Truro Nova Scotia

**Hepatitis C Aware:** a project of Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) working to educate members of the communities in Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants and Pictou counties on Hepatitis C. 1-866-940-AIDS email: [nacs@eastlink.ca](mailto:nacs@eastlink.ca)

**Northern AIDS Connection Society:** HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland & East Hants 895-0931 email: [nacs@eastlink.ca](mailto:nacs@eastlink.ca) web: [northernaidconnectionsociety.ca](http://northernaidconnectionsociety.ca) (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See webpage for contact numbers in your area of northern Nova Scotia.) at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, N.S.

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

**RESPECT:** Students Making Healthy Decisions 893-6300 email: [respect@nsac.ca](mailto: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](mailto:lyoung@nsac.ns.ca) (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

### Wolfville

**Acadia Women's Centre:** 585-2140 email: [womens.centre@acadiu.ca](mailto:womens.centre@acadiu.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](mailto:jackanddan@eastlink.ca), [diannefcc@eastlink.ca](mailto:diannefcc@eastlink.ca) web: [SWNovaPride.com](http://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](mailto:gay-pe-owner@yahoo.com) web: [groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pe](http://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](mailto:pei@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://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](mailto:info@aidspei.com) web: [www.aidspei.com](http://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@arcofpei.com](mailto:info@arcofpei.com) web: [www.arcofpei.com](http://www.arcofpei.com), meets 1st Monday (6:00pm) at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE

**Lay Chaplaincy Services**

Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax  
5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1J8  
[uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca)  
902-429-5500

**Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw** Lay Chaplains  
[sstephen57@gmail.com](mailto:sstephen57@gmail.com) [armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca)

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**The 416er**

by Randall Perry

**Sock It From My Big Red Rattler**

One morning, a couple of months ago, on my way to work a woman sat next to me on the subway. Since transit is a shared communal space this is not an unusual thing and most times I don't notice since I usually read or listen to music during my commute. On this morning something felt amiss, so I glanced over. Impeccably dressed and well-coiffed, she might have been on her way to the boardroom or a fund-raiser. In one hand she held a small Bible. She smiled at me, one eye looking northwest, the other southeast.

"Jesus is coming!" she announced.

"That's great," I answered. "Hope I can get tickets."

A week later a young man carrying a large birthday cake got on one stop after mine and sat down a few seats away. The cake was store-bought, the kind loaded down with that addictive butter frosting. When the train started moving he whipped out a fork, popped the top off the cake box and dug in. I got off fifteen stops later and he was still going strong, having devoured

nearly half the cake. I wonder if he finished it and lived to tell the tale.

In his 1969 song, "TTC Skidaddler," Stompin' Tom Connors romanticized the life of a TTC streetcar driver. I doubt he envisioned these scenes. Or maybe he just stayed away from the subway. Maybe he knew the subway's the domain of the edgiest of commuters. I can imagine what kind of song he would write if he were to ride the 300-series Blue Night buses, the ones that run the main routes after the bars close and seem to collect every fabulous weirdo and fun freak job on the way.

I live in the west end of the city, in the neighbourhood where I lived in the early 70s before my folks uprooted and headed back east. Even though it's a temporary spot, it's about an hour from downtown and that means enduring packed buses and subway trains a minimum of twice. It's not bad in the morning—there's a collective hesitancy on the part of the sardined masses, a restraint you can almost touch,

for those heading to work before the sun comes up. When the work day is done you can practically hear the air being sucked out of the buildings as people make the mad rush home. And the commute can be horrendous.

I noticed immediately people jealously police their personal space in Toronto. On the streets and in the shops there's an unspoken, agreed-upon separation between arm and arm. Violate it and suffer the consequences. In contrast, personal space rules tend to go out the window on the transit. When you're in a box on wheels jammed up toes to temples there's no way to avoid body contact. Up top... or down there. In the morning I may acquire an impressive rack of back-boobs (horrifying!); on the way home there might be a suit-pant-bulge pushed up against my butt (arousing!).

I fall in love every day on the subway. I get on at Kipling (end of the east/west line) and 45 minutes later, by the time I get

off at Bay, I've spied my one true love across the crowded subway car (whether he knows it or not). We've met, had our first, second, third dates, kissed, fought, made up, called the wedding planner, exchanged rings, bought a condo, realized we weren't right for each other, separated, divorced, edited his friends off the Christmas card list, endured the gossip. (And it might only be Monday!)

And if I spy my one true love getting off the train at the gay village, I've been known to give the operator a knowing wink, just to let him know that if it doesn't work out, I can always get back on the subway and execute my backup plan.

The cab is big enough to hold two.  
the416er@gmail.com

**Dan MacKay Out Loud**

Thank you ISCANS and selection committee for considering me for an award. I was speechless when Nathan told me about it in mid-December.

But, I'm not speechless now. I have it right here.

First of all, as I said when I got the NSRAP Community Hero Award in 2008, I really do not feel like I deserve this alone. I *always* work with a team of smart, funny, well-read, hard-working people. I love doing volunteer work in our community. It puts me in contact with the best people in our community. I hope that everyone else who does volunteer work feels the same way.

I could not have done half of the stuff that I did, or make even a reasonable number of reasonable decisions, without my man, my mate, my partner, Gabe, who listens when I rant, and, some time later, when I've calmed down, offers beautifully thought out suggestions.

First of all, I'm going to follow Miss Vicki's lifetime format and log a couple of my favourite causes:

Elderberries: for senior LGBT folk, that is, over 50, social events. If you know any lonely queers, send them here and also buy a cookbook.

LGBT history project: we need people who were around during the beginning of the community—the early '70s—to tell their stories. Please encourage anyone you know. And if you have recollections about the community in the '70s and '80s, make a recording, or write them down. I have a place for them in the encyclopedia. There's a place for every person, place, thing and event, ever, there.

You know, history, too is a little like what Harvey Fierstein said about drag queens and oil paintings: sometimes you have to step back a few paces to really appreciate them.

And of course, Wayves. We need more dedicated people to help produce the magazine. No experience necessary, just regular volunteer work. We can find work for you; you can make the world better.

Who here remembers Jim De-Young? Jim made up a drag name for me: Rosanna Rosannadanna. I never understood that and I never used it but it has stuck with me, like a piece of clothing that doesn't fit you but you think it might some day.

Let me remind you of some context: it was 1982, people were getting beaten up quite regularly on the Hill and in other cruising areas (catalog on request). You would not think of going to the police for that or for being called fag there—or in the street, from the other side, on your side, or from a car. There were a few kinds of jobs where you could be out, there were a lot of jobs where you could be fired for being gay.

So, anyway, on a Saturday night, there would be a sort of a "party" at Jim's place. Hands up, people who have an idea of the kind of party. Mmm-hmm. It would rage on late into the night.

The next morning, some time before the crack of noon, anyone left around the apartment would get dressed up and dolled up and we'd go out. And we'd walk—me, and a small group of drag queens, up Barrington Street, past the Turret, and to the restaurant at the top floor of the Delta Halifax. I *think* it was called Edward and Julie's—is that right?

And, that experience—of being on the street, in the restaurant, with a bunch of screaming queens who

didn't even NEED to say, "Don't fuck with us"—with all of us watching out for each other, that got me started in a life of being out and proud.

You know, the drag community in Halifax has been studied a few times. The studies were looking at how much the drag community formed a family, possibly to replace a family that was alienated by one's coming out or performing drag. After spending some time reading the theses, the theme that comes through is that there is a sort of a family there, but not a uniformly happy one, not a Leave It To Beaver family, but one with its ups and downs and clashes and redemptions—just like a real family.

So, in working with the community for thirty years, I've seen lots of things come and go. We've seen homophobia mostly go, we've seen the community owned bar go; we've seen human rights for LGBT come in as a result of efforts starting fifty years ago. Many of us have said goodbye to many of our friends. Some would say we've all witnessed the lgbt community, as such, disappear. One thing though, has been steady throughout the years. Despite squabbles and bitchyness, despite differences in taste and principles and ideology, the solidarity of the drag family has been there, and there's every indication that it'll be here for decades to come.

Thank you.

**ISCANS Award Winners**

On January 20, ISCANS celebrated those in our community who continued to do memorable and awesome work. The winners were:

Youth Award: Sheena Jamieson; Pride Award: Ed Savage; Entertainer of the Year - Male: Ewan Love; Entertainer of the Year - Female: Cadence MacMichael; Citizen of the Year: Patrick Daigle; Lifetime Achievement: Dan MacKay; Most Heart in the Community: Liz McQuaid; Rising Star: Fashionista Jones; Best LGBTQ Community Owned Business: My Mother's Bloomers; Most Friendly Organization: NSRAP - Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project; Best Gay Ad: Gaze Magazine; Trans Award: Michelle Mallette; Best Fundraiser: Youth Project Auction; Candle Award: Elderberries; Mentor Award: BullyingCanada.ca; Making a Difference: Auburn High GSA; The Bitch Award: Deva Station; Best Makeup: Deva Station; Best in Costuming: Heckella Jekyl; Glamour Award: Jenny Blake; Best Comedy: Mrs Stewart; Best Lip Sync: Kristi Davidson.

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# Pink Triangle Day

by Daniel MacKay  
On Pink Triangle Day, February 14, a small crowd gathered at Veith House for a talk by Robin Metcalfe on the history of the day. Robin connected the dots between World War II, The Body Politic (the most famous gay pa-

per in Canada), and the declaration of a new holiday for queers in 1979. The evening's visual and historical journey started in 1900, when German Magnus Hirschfeld led a movement for homosexual emancipation. After World War I, Hirschfeld wrote about how wars, specifically the movement of troops, contributed to the development of LGBT communities, for example in San Francisco and Halifax.

"The period after World War I is usually denoted as decadence," said Robin, "but really it was a time of openness, acceptance and progress in gay emancipation."

Hirschfeld's studies, and something of a gay society, ran from his Institute for Sexual Science. Author Christopher Isherwood lived here for a time, but it ended with the Nazis; his library was hauled out and burned.

Under the Nazis, a triangle was used on the prisoners' uniforms to indicate what kind of prisoner they were: political, Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, gay, etc. In the fastidious German documentation, there's specified colour for lesbians, but some have suggested it might have been black.

The oldest extant LGBT organization in the world, the COC (Dutch acronym for "Culture and Relaxation Centre") sprang up during the Nazi occupation of Holland. It was followed by Denmark and Norway in 1948, and in 1950, the Mattachine Society in the USA.

In Canada, The Body Politic started publishing – the name of the publishing house was Pink Triangle

Press – in November 1971. TBP wasn't just a magazine of Canadian affairs; if you were active in gay lib-

eration anywhere in the world, you would keep up with TBP. In 1977, TBP published the controversial

article, "Men Loving Boys Loving Men" which triggered police raids, criminal charges and an escalation of gay militancy in Canada.

In July of 1979, Robin wrote a declaration of February 14th as "Pink Triangle Day" and The Body Politic headline read "Vote Ousts Cupid In Favour of Pink Triangle Day."

Celebrations of Pink Triangle Day have come and gone over the years; there was a lull for a few years after the initial declaration, and it was revived in the early '90s by ACT UP. The university student associations for Dal, NSCAD and SMU have fairly consistently recognized it with events articles in the student papers.

The text of Robin's proclamation, and Chris Aucoin's poster of it, can be found in the Halifax LGBT Encyclopedia by googling "gay halifax pink triangle day."



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## ISCANS Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Daniel MacKay