Renaissance of Ryan

By Hugo Dann

Into the pale aquatic of mid-winter Halifax, Ryan MacGrath has injected a blast of warmth and colour with his exhibition of new, abstract paintings (on show in the gallery space at FRED until January 26). Many of the paintings employ vivid reds and bursts of orange and yellow, evoking volcanic fire or primaeval star bursts. One mid-size canvas suggests shards of stained glass lying on a desert floor, while another flows with a myriad of seemingly simple amoebas or other beings, streaming along in the river of evolution itself. Yet another mammoth piece, with a waving brush line suggesting mountains and another like an underlining slash of freshly bleeding red, is so textured and built up, its colours so vibrant, it seems to be bursting out of its two dimensional confines and into the viewer’s three dimensional world. Wayves had a chance to sit down with this multi-faceted talent shortly after the exhibition was unveiled to chat about his background and his process in creating these paintings.

Ryan may be known to music lovers more for his singing and songwriting abilities than for his artwork. He and his band, the Wooden Horse, have been featured at Halifax Pride the last couple of years, and Ryan gave a heartfelt solo performance at the May 17 Rally Against Homophobia here in Halifax this past spring and played at Wayves' Punoqun launch at the Seaboard in September. Ryan may have begun singing while he was in his foundation year at NSCAD, but it was art that drew him to study there, and art was the focus of our conversation as we had an afternoon cup of tea in FRED's chic yet welcoming gallery and cafe.

Ryan was born in Antigonish and spent most of his early life either in Antigonish and Guysborough Counties. When he was a teenager his family settled in Lock Harbour and he began commuting to high school in Sherbrooke. Despite an interest in drawing and music, he excelled in maths and sciences and upon graduation went to Acadia on scholarship to study biology — perhaps these early studies were the wellspring for some of the organic imagery in Ryan’s latest paintings. While at Acadia, he took an art history course with local artist Rose Adams. Knowing she had achieved a successful career as a painter inspired him to prepare his own portfolio and apply to NSCAD, where he was also accepted on scholarship. Somewhat cautious initially, he majored in art history until, in the middle of his degree - feeling strongly that he “had to contribute something” (some might say he “had something to contribute!”) he suddenly switched his major to painting.

Ryan has always been interested in exploring non-traditional methods and media for painting - perhaps another legacy of his youthful interest in science. Even while still in high school, he was mixing his acrylic paints with varnish, polyurethane and tar from his father’s workshop. “One day I thought it would be a good idea to take a pair of tongs and stick the paintings in the furnace in the execution of an idea.”

Diamond Divas Fundraiser 8

Join the Maritimes best Female Impersonators & Special Guests for one of the most highly anticipated, amazing and entertaining extravaganzas filled with fun, laughter, surprises and good times with all proceeds going to support Moncton’s "Ligne Téléphonique CARA Helpline Inc."

Tickets are now on sale for you to join the Maritimes’ best female impersonators and special guests in a gala evening to support Ligne Téléphonique CARA Helpline Inc. “This spectacular event continues to be our biggest fundraiser of the year and helps us to maintain our services. The show is presented entirely by volunteers from our community and their friends at no cost to our agency,” states Karen Eustace, Executive Director of the CARA Helpline. Executive Producer Wayne Richard and a host of volunteers invite one and all to come and be entertained by the offerings of the regions most outstanding and memorable entertainers to delight in those who are new to the Diamond Divas Revue all while supporting this great cause.

Producer Steve Laviolette will be returning for his fifth year as the Master of Ceremonies and hopes to open this year’s event up to a full house seeing that attendance has been steadily increasing year after year. “It’s gone from around 100 people in its first year to over 600 plus persons attending in the past couple of years,” advised Steve. The silent auction returns to the lobby of the Capitol Theatre, where you can place your bids early on a great collection of donated items and finalize them during the intermission. Returning for its fifth year, as a great precursor to the event is the Amoré Passion Gastronomi Supper, held in the early evening before the Diamond Diva Revue. Enjoy a delightful gourmet five course meal, the likes of which you won’t find anywhere else in the country. Your meal includes wine and champagne along with preferred reserved seating at the Capitol Theatre. For further information and to make your reservations early contact Amoré Passion directly at romance@amorepassion.com or (506) 854-0220.

Tickets for the 8th Annual Diamond Divas Revue are $15 in advance and $20 at the door on the night of the performance. Give someone an extra special Christmas present and support a great cause by getting your Diamond Divas Revue tickets now from the Capitol Theatre Box Office. Call 856-4379 (Toll Free 1-800-567-1922 or visit www.capitol.nb.ca).

All proceeds from the Diamond Divas Revue, the silent auction and the Amoré Passion Gastronomical Supper go directly towards assisting the Ligne Téléphonique CARA Helpline Inc. in maintaining its important place and operation within our community.

In This Issue

Features & News
Adoption 8 • DalOUT hosts Gavin Crawford 5 • Diamond Divas Fundraiser 1 • Gaystromenie 2008 3 • Halifax AIDS Vigil 4 • Northern AIDS Remembrance Society 2 • punoqun 8 Call For Submissions 5 • Ryan McGrath 1 • Tightrope Disbanded 6 • Tourism In Halifax 13 • Wayves 2008 Production Calendar 8 • Wayves 2007 In Review 18 • Youth Project Auction 9

Columns
Chef’s Corner 12 • Classifieds 17 • Dawn’s Early Light 7 • Events Calendar 15 • Groups & Services 14 • Kibitz And Bitch 6 • Letters 19 • Opinion 19 • Reviews 11 • Transgender Diaries 17 • You Tell Us 19
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Northern AIDS Connection Society

The Walk

by Al McNutt

Once again the AIDS Walk for Life was a huge success in northern Nova Scotia, with walks taking place in Truro, New Glasgow and Amherst. This event is not only to raise much needed funding for education and support programs, but also to increase awareness and the visibility of the Northern AIDS Connection Society.

This year’s walk celebrated the 11th anniversary for our organization. Every year sees an increase in attendance. When we combine the three walk sites there were approximately 300 people taking part either through walking or volunteering. The sites were at the Truro Welcome Centre and the YM/WCA in Amherst and New Glasgow.

The total money raised was about $15,000.00. This amount included some in-kind donations from business owners. These donations ranged from cakes, courtesy vehicle rental, restaurant, coffee or physical office sites and more. A very unique concept that our organization offers to participating teams is 50% of what they raise to develop capacity to do HIV work at their respective agencies. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all who walked, made a pledge and all business owners who supported in-kind. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all the Board of Directors and staff, for without them this event certainly would not be possible.

This was the first year that the Northern AIDS Connection Society was involved in an online registration and fundraising web site (Artex). This is a great way to generate additional pledges and we hope to build on this excellent opportunity in 2008.

We would like to acknowledge Soebyes Atlantic for supporting all the walks in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Soebyes provided certificates to provide hot dogs, buns and drinks. This support is very much appreciated and we would like to commend Soebyes for their support in the fight against this dreaded virus. Thank you for this generous contribution.

In light of the concerns in Truro, especially around the Rainbow and AIDS Awareness Flags, the organization would like to thank all those who supported this event and stood up against issues like discrimination and stigma. The towns we work in are very supportive with the exception of the Mayor of Truro and a few of his followers. This type of reaction often makes the work we do extremely difficult. We will strive forward and we will survive with the support from all of you... remember HIV/AIDS truly does affect us all.

We must keep providing the services related to prevention education, needle exchange, harm reduction, access to condoms, testing and more. We cannot do this very valuable work without adequate funding and resources. We need the Government of Canada to step up to the plate and be more proactive. Are we going to wait until Canada is in the position some developing countries are in, with increasing transmission rates? New HIV/AIDS is 100% preventable through education and knowledge. HIV/AIDS truly does affect us all.

What is needed is a larger financial commitment from the Public Health Department of Canada and all government parties.

About The Society

The Northern AIDS Connection Society is a community based HIV organization working in the northern area of Nova Scotia and based in Truro. The agency works in Colchester, Cumberland, Pictou and East Hants counties. NACS has never received operational funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, however is presently receiving funding from the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia through an upward amendment. This much appreciated funding is used to provide one full time staff, for without them this event is not possible.

It is really unfortunate that all groups working in the HIV/AIDS area feel threatened about funding cuts. Through the larger picture as a member of the Canadian AIDS Society, the reports regarding funding cuts and shortages are increasing all across Canada.

It is also very unfortunate that Canada seems to be following the United States in making the moral high ground. It is really unfortunate that all groups working in the HIV/AIDS area feel threatened about funding cuts. Through the larger picture as a member of the Canadian AIDS Society, the reports regarding funding cuts and shortages are increasing all across Canada.

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Halifax AIDS Vigil

On December 1, the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia held its annual AIDS vigil—an event of remembrance and reflection at FRED’s in Halifax. Approximately eighty people attended the poignant ceremony which is now in its 19th year.

The focal points of the vigil was the lighting of the Vigil candle which was used to light every candle being held in the room and the reading of the names of members of the community who have succumbed to HIV/AIDS yet prevail in the hearts of those who were present.

The speakers this year looked at HIV/AIDS and its effects from the perspectives of past, present and future. Mike Sangster ACS Chair gave the opening talk and we share an excerpt of his reflections below:

“Good evening everyone! I want to thank each and every one of you for attending this year’s World AIDS Day Vigil. It has been over 25 years since the AIDS epidemic began and almost as long since this Vigil has been held each year here in Halifax.

We are here together to not only remember and take ward with us.

Over the years there have been great medical advances. We who are living with HIV/AIDS can now live longer lives. Yet, the number of Canadians testing positive continues to rise and there remains no cure for AIDS! I would ask that everyone look around to those sitting next to you and notice that we are a community and we have friends and loved ones to help cope with this illness. All of you here tonight and those of you who will be touched by HIV/AIDS in the future, my hope is that we will continue to attend this Vigil to remember the lives of those lost.

I would ask, as I do each year when I walk through the door, that we continue to keep our promise to never ever forget!!”

Halfway to Pride Party and Launch

I was recently in Southwest Nova Scotia and saw rainbow flags on businesses from Digby and Annapolis Royal to Wolfville. These hotels, restaurants and boutiques may not be owned by Queers, but they’re all proclaiming to their communities and to travelers that they support our rights and our culture, and they want our business. Does LGBT-friendly tourism benefit us here at home? You bet it does!! It creates jobs and helps support our entrepreneurs, who in turn can lend their support to groups such as the ACSU, NSRAP, the Youth Project and, of course, Halifax Pride.

In 2006 HP received a grant from Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture & Heritage to help us promote Halifax Pride Week outside the region. As part of our commitment, we hosted an afternoon gathering at our Host Hotel, the Harbourfront Marriott, of about twenty-five or so industry and government leaders. All of us shared an interest in developing LGBT tourism in HRM and Nova Scotia. Yet it’s fair to say that, along with good intentions, there was some degree of scepticism in the room. How were LGBT travellers different? Would it be worth the effort and expense? Weren’t we already doing enough? These were just some of the reservations felt by those from outside our community who gathered at that table. We were lucky to have Bruce MacDonald, of TravelGay Canada, with us that afternoon to educate us in how other cities around Canada and the USA were aggressively targeting this multi-billion dollar market.

From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow! Well, it may be a little premature to call what’s resulted from that meeting an oak tree just yet, but the idea has certainly taken root. Destination Halifax, the organization that exists to promote Has has since hosted two more such meetings and each time the industry response is warmer and more engaged. As a result of their last conference (again featuring Bruce MacDonald and HP’s own Raymond Taavel), Pride is organizing a bus tour for local tourism providers to show them just what Halifax has to offer LGBT tourists, helping them respond to their guests who want that information.

This leads me to our Halfway to Pride party at Reflections Cabaret (one of our oldest and most important partners). This has always been our launch party and our first official fundraiser, but this year we’re adding some events that we hope will provide winter entertainment for everyone in our community, including those with children, and those who may prefer to socialize outside the clubs. We hope it will be a “Mini-Pride Week” and help develop the idea that Nova Scotia can be a year-round destination for LGBT travellers. As this article goes to press, we’re still finalizing details, but check out our website on January 7, 2008 for the full schedule of events. Happy New Year everyone and Happy Pride!

Halifax AIDS Awareness Week Planning Committee for Metro Halifax created a Red Ribbon Display for HIV/AIDS Awareness Week 2007 (from November 24 to December 1) on Citadel Hill at Riverfront Drive in Halifax. Eight thousand flags, symbolizing one for each person who dies every day due to AIDS. The official opening took place on Monday, November 26. Local youth created art work and messages about HIV and AIDS on the white flags.
**Gavin Crawford & DalOUT**

by Jennifer MacDonald and Lisa Buchanan

On Thursday, November 29, DalOUT hosted Gavin Crawford of “This Hour Has 22 Minutes” fame as part of the Dalhousie Student Union Speaker Series. An audience of over sixty people gathered to hear Gavin speak about how his sexuality has influenced his career in Canada and the U.S., his experience working on 22 Minutes, and how being gay affects his comedic style.

Gavin, raised in rural Alberta, came out later in life but before he reached fame. When he started to “make it” in show business, he decided it would be easier to “just be out” and so he has been out for the entirety of his career. In Canada, his career has definitely not suffered as a result of being out, which he credits, in part, to Canada’s relaxed attitude.

Things seem to be different in the U.S. When working on Hype, a sketch show filmed in the U.S., the two producers, who were a gay couple called him into their office and asked him, “What are we going to say about the whole gay thing?” Until recently, his U.S. agent wouldn’t distribute Gavin’s positive Canadian reviews because they all mentioned his sexuality. Gavin is positive that things are changing, though, as his agent recently told him, “Gay is so hot right now!”

Gavin joined the cast of CBC’s This Hour has 22 Minutes in 2002 during the fervour of the same-sex marriage debate and he found writing jokes about it to be difficult. Separating his own feelings from that issue was hard and he sometimes found himself writing comedy out of anger—and ending up with something that was ultimately not funny.

Now he finds it easy to broach the issues that are sensitive to him through his characters, such as “teen correspondent” Mark Jackson, whose father is gay. This allows him to get his personal feelings out of the way and address them obliquely. “Comedy allows you to take something to the absolutely most ridiculous limit and that lets you cut through the crap,” says Gavin.

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**punoqun 2008 Call For Submissions**

It was hugely successful last year, and it’s back for 2008! Reborn and unbound, punoqun is Atlantic Canada’s literary annual, written by Atlantic Canadians and published by Wayves.

For punoqun 2008, we want submissions of fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction from writers living in the region for its 2007 edition, to be published and launched in September. Submit your best work, since there are no restrictions on style or substance. Original, unpublished work from all four Atlantic provinces is encouraged. Fiction and creative non-fiction submissions should be no longer than 1,500 words; 500 word maximum for poetry. Manuscripts can be e-mailed to punoqun@wayves.ca as attachments or text directly within the e-mail. If submitting by postal mail, manuscripts must be typed double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 paper. If you wish to use a pseudonym on your work, please provide your real name, which will not be used, in addition to the pseudonym.

Deadline for submissions is Saturday, May 31, 2008. If submitting by postal mail, please postmark by this date to Wayves, P.O. Box 33090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S1.

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**Wayves On Line!**

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don’t fret. We’ve made some improvements to our website. Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download archival copies. We have 2007 back issues online now and will be adding 2006 soon.

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**Queer news. Your views.**

xtra.ca
Hey Tom
January being that weird kind of end-of-year, beginning-of-year time I decided to try and take stock of where I am and where I want to be. This can be a dangerous emotional undertaking so I decided some professional help might be a good idea. So I went to a Gypsy fortune teller. Really. She’s a Gypsy; she said so. Besides when picking a soothsayer, a mystic masseuse so to speak, you have to rely on intuition. She’s right. She has some sort of unpronounceable Hungarian or Russian name, Madame something.

Speaking of Russians, did I ever tell you I had a Russian great-grandfather? Heavy accent and I remember he smelled faintly of tobacco, kippers and oranges. I would sit on his lap and he’d let me play with the family jewels. Not those family jewels! Real ones: garnet brooches and sapphire rings, even a diamond – a tiny one – all housed in a carved wooden box with a worn velvet interior. I assumed they had belonged to his mother or sister until I found an old photograph of great-gramps dressed as a woman, swathed in scarves with stones glittering on fingers, earlobes and wrist. A blurry old photo but unmistakably him. (So glad I didn’t inherit his nose!) I was about eighteen at the time and by then he was extremely old and frail. Surprise made me blunt when I asked if he had been a drag queen. “NO!” he roared with surprise. “I was a drag Tsarina! Drag Empress!” and then broke into laughter. “What was your name?” I asked. “Igor Beaver? Did you borrow my name?” I asked. “NO!” he roared with surprise. “I was a drag Tsarina! Drag Empress!” and then broke into laughter. “What was your name?” I asked. “Igor Beaver? Did you borrow my name?” I asked. “NO!” he roared with surprise. “I was a drag Tsarina! Drag Empress!” and then broke into laughter. “What was your name?” I asked. “Igor Beaver? Did you borrow my name?”

I also remembered those we lost this past year, like a Russian great-grandfather? Heavy accent and I remember he smelled faintly of tobacco, kippers and oranges. I would sit on his lap and he’d let me play with the family jewels. Not those family jewels! Real ones: garnet brooches and sapphire rings, even a diamond – a tiny one – all housed in a carved wooden box with a worn velvet interior. I assumed they had belonged to his mother or sister until I found an old photograph of great-gramps dressed as a woman, swathed in scarves with stones glittering on fingers, earlobes and wrist. A blurry old photo but unmistakably him. (So glad I didn’t inherit his nose!) I was about eighteen at the time and by then he was extremely old and frail. Surprise made me blunt when I asked if he had been a drag queen. “NO!” he roared with surprise. “I was a drag Tsarina! Drag Empress!” and then broke into laughter. “What was your name?” I asked. “Igor Beaver? Did you borrow my name?” I asked. “NO!” he roared with surprise. “I was a drag Tsarina! Drag Empress!” and then broke into laughter. “What was your name?” I asked. “Igor Beaver? Did you borrow my name?” I asked. “NO!” he roared with surprise. “I was a drag Tsarina! Drag Empress!” and then broke into laughter. “What was your name?” I asked. “Igor Beaver? Did you borrow my name?”

Maybe that’s where my get-taste for vodka, and why I can be charmed by any man with an accent. So, when the Gypsy fortune teller asked me to give her something of personal value to hold, I gave her the amethyst ring which had been a gift from him. Clearly there were strong vibrations since as soon as the stone hit her palm, her fingers closed over it, she gave a gasp and hit her fist against her chest. (Almost like Celine, but with vibrations since as soon as the stone hit her palm, her fingers closed over it, she gave a gasp and hit her fist against her chest. (Almost like Celine, but with vibrations since as soon as the stone hit her palm, her fingers closed over it, she gave a gasp and hit her fist against her chest. (Almost like Celine, but with vibrations since as soon as the stone hit her palm, her fingers closed over it, she gave a gasp and hit her fist against her chest. (Almost like Celine, but with vibrations since as soon as the stone hit her palm, her fingers closed over it, she gave a gasp and hit her fist against her chest. (Almost like Celine, but with)}
Dawn's Early Light

Dear Dawn,

I enjoy reading your column every month and I would like to get your opinion on something. I am 63 years old. I’ve been a big ol’ out queen for many, many years. Over the years I’ve seen wonderful advances in the struggle for our human rights but there is one issue I have a hard time understanding. Last month I attended a town hall meeting run by the Capital Health folks and a few others. They wanted to find out if there is support in the community for a separate health center specifically for the “Rainbow” community. So herein lies my issue: why do we continue to separate and segregate ourselves? Isn’t this a way of perpetuating and segregating our people? I am of two minds on this issue.

Sincerely, a Concerned Queen!

Dear Concerned Queen,

First, I think that there is a vast difference between “segregation” and “separation.” To me segregation implies the need to get rid of or keep apart as if there is something wrong with us. While I agree segregating our community is not a good thing, I am strongly in favour of providing group specific health services. This ensures the safety of our community members as well as the cultural appropriateness of the services provided, which is a necessity to our health and well being.

In many ways our health care needs are very specific and our health care services must reflect this. Ensuring their services are inclusive. The creation of a center for excellence in LGBT health is just one example of their movement towards cultural competency. While I applaud their efforts, we still have a long way to go before the health care needs of our community are addressed appropriately but they are working towards that goal.

To find out more about what is happening in Capital I encourage you to visit prideHealth on the web at www.cdha.nishealth.ca. Kindest Regards Dawn

Menz & Mollyz Update

By Randall Perry

When David Landry walked into Mollyz Diner early in the morning of December 17, 2007, he almost felt relieved that he had been served an eviction notice by the building’s new landlord. “When David walked in around 5:30 a.m., it was literally raining in the annex,” said co-owner Doug Melanson, dryly. “Some water pipe which had either not been repaired or had not been bled out after the fire [back in the summer of 2007, which gutted the upstairs of the building which houses the Mollyz Diner annex] ended up freezing and breaking during the recent cold snap.”

The hunt is now over for a new location for Menz Bar. Two previously-considered locations—the former Taz Records, reported in the previous issue of Wayves, and the former location of Vortex—were both cost-prohibitive and fraught with potential problems. The new location will be within...it will be good to be in a new location

In addition to this I feel that those who provide any service to the public at large have an ethical responsibility to ensure the cultural appropriateness of the services they offer. A separate health center or a center of excellence in LGBT health could afford service providers, policy makers, program developers and researchers with the tools and information they need to do this. Capital District Health Authority has come a long way towards ensuring their services are inclusive. The creation of a center for excellence in LGBT health is just one example of their movement towards cultural competency. While I applaud their efforts, we still have a long way to go before the health care needs of our community are addressed appropriately but they are working towards that goal.

To find out more about what is happening in Capital I encourage you to visit prideHealth on the Capital Health website at www.cdha.nishealth.ca. Kindest Regards Dawn

Come To The Light!

Dawn wants to hear from you. Let Dawn shed some light on your personal problems. Contact her at dawn@wayves.ca.

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Does God really condemn loving homosexual relationships?

Is the claim separating Christianity from gays and lesbians too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate? These questions and more are answered in this award-winning documentary, which brilliantly reconciles homosexuality and Biblical scripture - and reveals that religious anti-gay bias is based almost solely upon a misinterpretation of the Bible.

Through the experiences of five very normal, Christian, American families - including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson - we discover how people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child or family member.

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Wayves
January-February 2008

7
Adoption — Agencies

By Lara Morris, BA, LLB, CPCC

A 212-year-old boy named James is the joyful result of Terrah and Pattie’s application for adoption. The couple is the subject of a case study conducted by a social work agency, following the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services. James is now living with Terrah and Pattie’s 6-year-old son, Jesse, who was adopted by Pattie after Terrah gave birth to him in 2001. Pattie is a person who has been gay for legal relationships, but it is only recently that same-sex couples have gained the legal right to adopt children together. The law was changed in Nova Scotia as a result of a court case decided in the spring of 2001.

The next change came in New Brunswick, where the Adoption Act made adoption by same-sex couples legal in 2003. Then in 2004 a case was decided in New Brunswick, making it legal for a same-sex couple to adopt each other’s children. Now married same-sex couples in New Brunswick can also adopt a child not biologically related to them. Further changes are in the works so that unmarried couples can also adopt together.

In Newfoundland, the agency in this issue, Adoption Services, has a similar process in which the adopting parent(s) receive the child into your home for a total of about 24 hours. They come to your home to talk about your parenting style and lots of intimate questions about your history and relationship, including your sexual relationship. Clearly participants must be prepared to provide answers to lots of intimate questions.

Many people wonder about the home study. The process can vary, depending on the agency, but Terrah and Pattie’s experience is pretty representative. “The social worker made six visits to our home for a total of about 24 hours. She met with each of us and Pattie individually one time and then met with us together. Pattie visited with James on the days she toured our home, asked us about our parenting style and lots of intimate questions about our history and relationship, including our sexual relationship.” Clearly participants must be prepared to provide answers to lots of intimate questions.

“By the end of the meeting, Pattie and I, we knew what you’re looking for in a child, and what factors are important to you. “For example, people need to know how they feel about adopting a child with fetal alcohol syndrome or a history of physical abuse or sexual violence.”

Once the couple completed their application, home study and the agency classes it was time to wait. It’s hard to know how long it will take before child is available. “In our agency, the social workers have weekly meetings where they try to match children with appropriate families,” says Terrah. She and Pattie waited for approximately seven months before they heard about James.

If an individual or couple is identified as a possible match, their social worker will present them with information about the child. After getting some initial information, Terrah and Pattie then went to a meeting with their social worker, James’s social worker and James’s foster mom. This gave them a chance to hear all about James, and it’s when things sped up considerably. “By the end of the meeting they wanted to know if we wanted to take him.” Terrah and Pattie said yes. That was a Monday.

Next came some visits with James. “The frequency and length of the visits depends on the age of the child,” says Terrah. She and Pattie visited with James on the Tuesday after their meeting, and again each day until Sunday when they brought him home with them. Terrah describes how thrilled they were to welcome James into their family, and what a celebration it was with the agency workers. “They brought us a cake, cards and gifts for both boys, it was such an occasion. We were ecstatic!”

Terrah describes the next stage of the process being focused on settling James into his new home and transitional visits with social worker. “She came after he’d been with us for two weeks, two months, and then again at four months. There were also many calls from our social worker in between visits to check in and see how things were going.” After the four month mark, if the child has settled into the home the social worker completes a report with a recommendation for adoption.

The next step is a legal adoption process in which the adopting parents usually hire a lawyer to help them with a court application. The purpose of the application is to get a court order for permanent adoption. The person or couple adopting the child becomes the child’s legal parent(s), after which they can apply to have the child’s birth certificate changed so it names them as the child’s legal parent(s).

Coming in the March 2008 issue of Wayves: Adoptions by a relative.

The process Terrah and Pattie followed is similar throughout Atlantic Canada: 1) Contact the government department responsible for adoptions; 2) have a social worker assigned to you; 3) complete an application for adoption; 4) attend whatever meetings/classes offered by the agency; 5) participate in a home study; 6) wait for a child match; 7) receive the child into your home; 8) once the agency recommends adoption, follow the legal process to get an adoption order to make you the child’s legal parent(s).

Here is contact information to get you started in each province:

Nova Scotia
Adoption Information: 866-236-7801
Department of Community Services website: www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/adoption.html

New Brunswick
Adoption Information: 866-236-7801
Adoption information website: app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca

Newfoundland and Labrador
Adoption Consultant, Ethel Dempsey: 729.729.5134
email healthinfo@gov.nl.ca.

Prince Edward Island
Adoption Services: 902.368.6511
Adoption Services website: www.gov.pe.ca/adoption

It is recommended that you seek legal advice regarding the particulars of your case.
Youth Project Auction

by Gerrit Volkmann

The Youth project held their 3rd Annual Brunch & Auction this year on December 2 at the Prince George Hotel in Downtown Halifax. The auction is one of the biggest and most important fundraisers for the Youth Project, and turned out to be a very classy and wonderful event.

The almost 200 people were seated at luxurious tables, ideal for mingling and meeting new people, in a big bright open room, with a delicious brunch provided by the Prince George. Over 120 auction items were presented in the hallway, giving everyone the opportunity to pick out their favourite things from the “Christmas Wishlist.”

The auctioneer was Lisa Scott, a professional flown in from Toronto just for the event, and with her enthusiasm and great sense of humour she made the event way more than just another charity auction.

Highlights of the auction items included a Cape Breton Getaway, a 26” Flat-screen TV, a 14k diamond ring, a chance to have Darren Porier from Just Dressed Catering as a personal chef for a night, and — one of my favourites — photographs from Youth member Alison Wamboldt.

All in all, the Youth Project raised more than $16,000, which is an incredible amount of money, compared with around $5,000 raised last year.

Mike Williams, Chair of the 2007 Auction Committee, was “overwhelmed by the success of the event. I’m very proud of our team for putting this together, for a brighter future for our youth,” he said. Next year, they are hoping for even more sponsors and support from businesses.

The money raised will help the organisation to raise its profile to an even higher level. In case you didn’t know, the Youth Project is a lot more than a Halifax-based safe space for LGBT youth to come together. The organisation has a full provincial mandate, thereby providing help for LGBT youth in all Nova Scotia through support, education, resource expansion and community development. Furthermore, aside from the Board of Directors, a Youth Board exists, to ensure a constant flow of information and input between the youth and the directors.

If you didn’t make it to the auction, there are many other ways how you can support the Youth Project. You can make an online donation over their website (www.youthproject.ns.ca), or choose the Youth Project as your designated United Way charity. If you want to get actively involved, the Board of Directors, chaired by Ann Levangie and Layton Dorey, are welcoming any help, especially with regards to newly formed fundraising and media/promotion subcommittees. And if you’re a handyman, stop by at the Youth Project house on 2281 Brunswick Street, Halifax, and help keep the house in good shape.

There are so many ways to get involved, and it is so very im-Portant. I’m glad that Nova Scotia has the Youth Project, and I would definitely have benefited from such an organisation when I was young. As youth member Kris Jennings put it, “the Youth Project was a place where I felt comfortable for the first time in my life.” And at the end of the day, isn’t that all that matters?

Photos by Gerrit Volkmann

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Photos by Gerrit Volkmann
basement and see what would happen, if the paint would bubble up.”
He laughs, “It caught on fire! But it looked good - it looked cool.”
This experimentation continued at NSCAD. When he began applying thick layers of plaster to his canvases, it was politely suggested that - in a replay of Leonardo Da Vinci’s classic put down of Michelangelo — he might feel more at home in the sculpture studios — the sculptors might not mind the mess quite so much.
Ryan obliged and found a more tolerant and even supportive environment. This legacy of experimentation can be seen in his current works.

Ryan walked us around the exhibit, discussing each picture in depth. He explained that rather than start with preconceived ideas, his intention was to allow the paintings to reveal themselves. He often flicked gobls of wet sawdust on to a picture, altering the contour and texture, applying more paint or varnish when it dried. Sometimes he dribbled varnish on to a blank canvass, allowing it to collect in random pools which then provided the ultimate form of the painting. He would build up layers and layers of paint, intensifying colour, and giving the paint itself a three dimensional quality. Taking each picture in turn, exploring them at our leisure, we were able to see that each one, while satisfying in its wholeness, also contained subtleties and details, as rich in themselves as the larger painting itself; small, inner realms that could be glimpsed only on closer inspection — worlds within worlds within worlds.

Not one to sit still, Ryan already has a new series of paintings in mind. We asked him how he was able to balance his two worlds of painting and music. He acknowledged it was a challenge. “When I was focused on preparing for this exhibit, I felt badly because the band wasn’t getting all the attention it might have needed. And it works the other way as well, when we’re putting some new songs together, the painting has to take a back seat.”
However, despite his own protest, he’s also deep in rehearsal with the Wooden House and putting the finishing touches on a new album. Wayves can only wish him continued success in all of his endeavours. Pour vous, gentle reader, we strongly urge all of you who can to “Hie thee to FRED!” to see these beautiful and evocative paintings while you still may. For those of you unable to make the trip to Halifax, keep reading Wayves for more information on Ryan’s upcoming CD. You’ll be glad you did!

Cont’d from Ryan p. 1
Undoubtedly intended to be emulating a psychiatrist, Dr. Alicia Salzer, and produced by a New York 30-minute documentary directed and the Ex-Gay Movement” is a “Abomination: Homosexuality By Calandra Smith Reviews Damn “Abomination”

“Abomination: Homosexuality and the Ex-Gay Movement” is a 30-minute documentary directed and produced by a New York psychiatrist, Dr. Alicia Salzer. Undoubtedly intended to be emulating a psychiatrist, the film (also available on DVD) lets us down in some pretty fundamental (no pun intended) ways. Perhaps most importantly, there is no mention, let alone support, of bi, inter-sex and trans folk—a huge oversight which is most admirable traits are his relentless pursuit of happiness and his ability to laugh at himself when he fails, over and over again. Aiding and interfering are his best friend, Quinn and his free loving but rather domineering mother, Mrs. J.

His latest novel, Fruit Cocktail, continues the hilarious adventures of Curtis who has now written a book on how to find Mr. Right—all the while hiding the fact that he himself is still single. While publicizing the book, Curtis tries new ways of meeting his soul mate—naked yoga, online meetings and flirting with customers at book signings. His record of success, however, remains the same including one scene where he has to be rescued by his mother from a bondage scenario. His rather worldly mother merely reminds him, “If you’re going to get tied up, always make sure it is at their place. That way they have to untie you eventually.”

Wooten manages to combine great compassion and humour together. We laugh with Curtis and empathize with his predicament. In fact, some scenes seem so familiar you might suspect the author of snooping through your private diary. Others are outrageously outlandish—Quinn and a truck driver having a very unusual one-handed “race to the finish” on the interstate, an appearance that turns into a telethon for a live cable program with a personality called Bobbie Vibrato, Curtis’s mother’s same-sex romance, and Curtis doing the can-can in drag in Provincetown (forgetting he wasn’t wearing underwear.)

Fruit Cocktail will make you smile, cheer and laugh out loud.

By Calandra Smith

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I also noted by their absence, a lack of references to non-Christian religious identities, let alone any acknowledgement of systemic issues such as the intersection of various forms of oppression like racism and sexism with heterosexism. The documentary is further weakened by the inclusion of footage from anti-gay activism and right-wing propaganda which could arguably reinforce homophobia, internalized or otherwise, in some viewers. Even the title created some initial confusion in my mind as to which side of the fence the documentary was on.

In a film created by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, I expected both a more enlightened stance and more clarity. Peppered, liberally or otherwise, with sound bites from various American mental health care professionals, the film is also self-promoting. The heart of the film is comprised of extracts of interviews with four individuals, including a mother from Arkansas whose lesbian daughter committed suicide, a lesbian from rural Mississippi, and two gay males. Subjective as they undoubtedly are, these interviews would have been more powerful if not sliced and diced and interspersed with the more “scientific” material presented. Overall, this documentary tries too hard to appeal to a mainstream, presumably straight audience, rendering it pretty useless as an effective tool for queer or questioning individuals, particularly youth. In the end, I couldn’t bring myself to “damn (‘Abomination’) with faint praise.” Ultimately I just said, “Damn it!”

By Arthur Wooten

Fruit Cocktail

By Arthur Wooten

www.Alysonbooks.com

Review by Ralph Higgins

Naked Boys Singing!

www.TLAreleasing.com

Review by Ralph Higgins

Naked Boys Singing! held its world premiere on March 19, 1998, and the stage play has since been performed all over the globe in different languages and winning rave reviews and festival awards. It is entering its seventh year playing off Broadway in New York. Not bad for a play that was on its last legs when first staged! It is a story of Curtis Jenkins, a rather hapless forty-year-old truck driver having a very unusual appearance that turns into a telethon for a live cable program with a personality called Bobbie Vibrato, Curtis’s mother’s same-sex romance, and Curtis doing the can-can in drag in Provincetown (forgetting he wasn’t wearing underwear.) Fruit Cocktail will make you smile, cheer and laugh out loud.

Cont’d next. page
Chef’s Corner

Now that the Holidays are over and that we have set our New Year’s resolutions to eat healthier and exercise, I offer a favourite salad of mine that I think you will find delightfully refreshing and yummy as well. This one is an adaptation of a recipe used to make when I worked for The Mousse in Florida. The nice thing about this salad is that it truly is a balanced meal in a bowl. It contains veggies, fruit, dairy, protein, good fat, natural sugars and whole grains. You couldn’t ask for more. It makes a great lunch, or even dinner if that happens to be your lighter meal of the day. This salad was served on December 4, 2001 during Chives Bistro’s opening night gala and on numerous menus ever since. It has always been a hit. Give this one a try and let me know what you think. Enjoy!!!

Chef Darren is Chef and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, Halifax’s newest two star restaurant, 1537 Barrington Street, Halifax, N.S. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, www.chives.ca.

Cont’d from prev. page

that has no real plot or story line. Naked Boys Singing! is a return to an old form: the revue, a kind of queer Ziegfeld Follies—although with considerable less costuming. There are sixteen songs like “Gratuitous Nudity,” “The Bliss of A Bris” (ouch) “Fight the Urge,” “Nothin’ but the Radio On” and “Members Only.” The scenes are performed either as solos or en semblé pieces and each of the ten cast members gets to shine in the revealing spotlight. I was afraid at first that this might be another “tease” movie, like those drive-in movies from the Sixties that lured with the promise of nudity but somehow never came to the screen. But Naked Boys Singing! is a return to the gay community comes from within itself. No one wants to be helpless, vulnerable and afraid. And threaten them, now the danger to fight those who would harass and think “good riddance.”

The Dream Ender is an excellent depiction of the panic felt especially in the early years of the AIDS epidemic when death seemed to be everywhere and everyone felt helpless, vulnerable and afraid. For those of us who have followed the series from the early days, we’ve watched the character of Dick Hardesty grow with each...
Making Halifax A More Gay Friendly Place

On November 27 and 28, 2007, Destination Halifax sponsored a major provincial travel and tourism conference in Halifax which drew approximately 70 businesses from major hotel chains to bed and breakfasts to VIA Rail and sundry others. This conference was designed to specifically address LGBT tourism in Halifax and in Nova Scotia. This conference was the culmination of a promise by Lynn Ledwidge of Destination Halifax to follow through on a commitment made more than a year ago when DH met with several Halifax Pride organizers, Bruce MacDonald of IGLTA/Canadian Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Co-founder and other interested partners to discuss marketing Halifax as a gay friendly destination nationally. There has been a growing movement right across Canada and share what we have been doing and discuss future opportunities.

From the attendees at the TIANS seminar more than 97% want more information and want the topic covered in greater detail at next years TIANS Conference! Where would you place Halifax in terms of relating to LGBT tourism to the rest of the country? Halifax and the Atlantic Region are showing as a destination of interest on the radar of LGBT Travellers in Canada and the US. As for the destination; the DENTION Marketing Organization (DMO) - Destination Halifax has approached the market as we recommend. Engage the LGBT community and suppliers to make a plan and provide resources and training so the destination is “market ready”; then invite travellers to experience your destination.

Why do you see this an important opportunity for the tourism industry and the LGBT community here in Halifax? Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors and brings in dollars from outside your region that enhances your economy. The LGBT market is one of the most lucrative segments of the tourism market. The LGBT community has an opportunity to benefit from increased LGBT Tourism by having greater attendance at their events and businesses—thus greater financial resources to enhance local events and services in the community.

In your opinion how have things changed in Halifax as it relates to businesses and organizations being more gay friendly or more receptive to catering to the LGBT market? Mainstream businesses have been made aware of the LGBT opportunity and if they want to participate in the market they know they are looking internally and examining if they are “a good place to work” for LGBT employees before reaching out to the market. Businesses are learning how to market to the LGBT community and make them feel welcome.

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Plans are in the works for subsequent follow up conferences however the real proof in the pudding so to speak will be the emerging campaigns and outreach to local businesses within the LGBT community and the follow through that will help to ensure Halifax is indeed seen as a gay friendly destination within the country and abroad.
Amherst
Second Monday
PFLAG Amherst/Sackville - in Amherst one month, Sackville the next. 506-536-6245 email: amherst@yahoogroups.com. Sackville: 165 Main Street Amherst 12 La Plante Street.
First and Third Wednesdays
Annapolis Valley & Annapolis Valley Gay & Bisexual Youth Group Meeting. 7-9pm. Anyone who is GLBT or questioning their sexuality in the Annapolis, Oxford, Springfield, Pugwash and Parrsboro areas is welcome. This is a safe space where anyone can come and feel safe in talking about their sexuality and just being themselves without fear of ridicule or harassment. lygbt. amhemb@izmail.com; all emails confidential.
Third Thursday of every month
Cambuild Pride Support Group - Social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meet the third Thursday of each month. Contact information: Gerard Veldboer at 902-460-5004 or E-mail gaylords@unb.ca

Amherst

Cape Breton
Every Second and Saturday
Pride Cape Breton Society hosts community dances at the Southend Community Centre in Sydney; admission just $5 and open to those 19 yrs of age and older.
Charlottetown
...see Prince Edward Island

Fredericton
Every Tuesday
Spectrum: UNB and STU’s social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, etc. students. As a group, our aim is to create a safe and supportive space for those who are questioning or Discoverying their sexuality, as well as providing a social outlet for members of the campus LGBTQ community. While our membership is primarily composed of UNB and STU students, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. 7pm, Top Floor of SUB 2B3 (in the Socials Centre, across from the Ballroom) Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at spectrum@unb.ca
Every Wednesday
UNB/STU Women’s Collective, at the University Women’s Centre in the SUB, 7pm. Contact Lesley Gallant at gvnkr@stu.ca or call 450- 368-3753.
Third Sunday of each month
Gay Men’s Coffee House
7 pm, T op floor of SUB 203 (in the Diversity Centre) on the corner of the old women’s residence. 7 pm. We are an active and online group that meets bi-weekly on sundays at 12 noon in the diversity centre in Rosetta on campus, and online at meetup.com/yahoogroups. Com. Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers, and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open to everyone who would like to join.
First and Third Sundays
The Annapolis Valley Gay Mens Coffee House
Third Saturday of each month
WildeVil Dance. Smoke free. For more details call 685-3279 or email info@wildevilpride.ca or www. wildevilpride.ca

Cape Breton

Cape Breton Island

Cape Breton

Fredericton

Halifax
Every Sunday
Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: a Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome! 455-9249 email: safeharbour@easlink.ca or call 450- 367-9300.
Halifax
Second and Fourth Sundays
PFLAG Halifax
First and Third Sundays
LGB Youth Project Movie Night, 25 and under, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca
Second and Fourth Sundays
LGB Youth Project Social Drop-in Nights. This is an unstructured event. It’s a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-9pm, 25 and under, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

LGB Youth Project aged 18-25 Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

First and Third Sundays

LGB Youth Project 18 and under Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

First and Third Sundays

LGB Youth Project Movie Night, 25 and under, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

January-February 2008

Events >>

Events >>

Events >>

Events >>

Events >>

5184 Sackville Street www.reflectionscabaret.com (902) 422-2957

In closing, why not celebrate more than once a year—show your PRIDE!}

Open 7 days a week till 4:00 am for half way to pride week A whole week celebrating Halifax's upcoming 2008 pride January 24th to 30th

Huge Celebration Half Way to Pride Night Saturday January 26

check out www.reflectionscabaret.com for the entire week of Half Way to Pride events!
Halifax Youth Project events open in a 4-week schedule. To find out what we’re working on, please visit our website or contact us: www.youthproject.nsc.ca, youthproject@youthproject.nsc.ca, 429-5449

Week 1: Monday - Transgender Discussion Group: A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what on their transition process. How can the facilitators incorporate about whatever topic is being discussed. 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 2: Tuesday - Social Drop-In nights (ages 25 and under) A new program for young people at any stage of their lives. This is a facilitated drop-in program that will have regular events. It’s a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Wednesday - LGBT Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 and under) For your next visit we are showing a movie about early 1900’s. Come watch or learn how you could win a fabulous prize. 5 pm-2 am, 7 days a week

Halifax Bar & Business Calendar

BLUES MONDAY BISTRO/BACK BAR
2091 Fourteenth Street, Halifax (401-415-7755) 5 pm - 7 am, every Monday

Bridgetown - Moncton Leather Chapter Leather Nights at the Bridgetown - Moncton Leather Chapter Leather Nights at the Truro Bar. DJ daBoss, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters $3 all night.

Johnston's - 895-0931 or email truropride@hotmail.com

Fridays - DJ Specialtee. Spinning the latest 10pm. Drinks and cash prizes for the karaoke winners. Til the wee hours. Come watch or learn how you could win a fabulous prize. You could win a fabulous prize for GLB youth, 14-25. For more info call 895-0931 or email truropride@hotmail.com

WOLVILE - The Bridgewater

Wolville - Every Second Thursday Kings County Private Cancer Support Group. 7-9 pm in the East Kings Memorial Public Health Centre on Eardley Ave in Wolville. You can ask information questions if you ask the doctor or nurse and you can think aloud to help you make a decision. There is growing evidence that your group of a group of people who have gone through the process are you now is facing major medical and may well contribute to your recovery from prostate cancer interventions. We are an easy-going informal group of 12 men, some of which bring their own snacks to our monthly meetings. Know that you are truly welcome to join us and if you need more information please call me on 869-6224 and I'm the same as my address home. 210 Main Street, Wolville NS B4P 1A4
Transgender Diaries

Dear Diary

I always found this time of year stressful and soul destroying. Some things have changed but while my personal outlook has improved I am still burdened by those I know struggle to find a reason to survive despite a crazy kind of a year I set myself some goals and for those who are unable to walk or drive up to me at the most stressful and soul destroying. Some personal successes I have had, people and discuss gay literature. Check our webpage at www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes visit our website at www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes drinkers, call us at 902-466-7077, or offer to friends & families of problem diverses. By 2007, I say thank you. It was these experiences that now provide me with the courage to look into 2008 and share the knowledge, love and support that has been shown to me and my family. I am proud to be able to walk and work with those who are able and for those who are unable. In the last ten years I have gone through more changes than shows on the surface and many can never be fully explained in words. The Capital Health Group struggle to respond to issues that have for too long been ignored and Jeanne Rokosh and her team the doors slowly slide open for all GLBT people. So many personal outlook has improved I

For myself it has been an interesting and productive year while the finish is questionable concern about my health. Each chest infection has been a struggle and I say thank you. It was these experiences that now provide me with the courage to look into 2008 and share the knowledge, love and support that has been shown to me and my family. I am proud to be able to walk and work with those who are able and for those who are unable. In the last ten years I have gone through more changes than shows on the surface and many can never be fully explained in words. The Capital Health Group struggle to respond to issues that have for too long been ignored and Jeanne Rokosh and her team the doors slowly slide open for all GLBT people. So many groups are striving on our behalf and their enthusiasm and patience is so strengthening. The amount of calls from NB, NF, and PEI have shown a need that before was questionable. Many people have taught me new things regarding love and acceptance and the people who step up to the plate and meet the challenge is often most surprising. The Myth of Family love always being the strongest is belied by the amount of GLBT young people who every year are cast out of their home upon discovery of their nonconforming Gender Identity and/or sexual orientation. I have been blessed by my family, yet not without cost. My son who is over 32, left the family and has not communicated for several years now. In the last ten years I have gone through more changes than shows on the surface and many can never be fully explained in words.

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meet the challenge in supporting me while perhaps not fully understanding me or some of my issues. The Capital Health Group struggle to respond to issues that have for too long been ignored and Jeanne Rokosh and her team the doors slowly slide open for all GLBT people. So many groups are striving on our behalf and their enthusiasm and patience is so strengthening. The amount of calls from NB, NF, and PEI have shown a need that before was questionable. Many people have taught me new things regarding love and acceptance and the people who step up to the plate and meet the challenge is often most surprising. The Myth of Family love always being the strongest is belied by the amount of GLBT young people who every year are cast out of their home upon discovery of their nonconforming Gender Identity and/or sexual orientation. I have been blessed by my family, yet not without cost. My son who is over 32, left the family and has not communicated for several years now. In the last ten years I have gone through more changes than shows on the surface and many can never be fully explained in words. The Capital Health Group struggle to respond to issues that have for too long been ignored and Jeanne Rokosh and her team the doors slowly slide open for all GLBT people. So many groups are striving on our behalf and their enthusiasm and patience is so strengthening. The amount of calls from NB, NF, and PEI have shown a need that before was questionable. Many people have taught me new things regarding love and acceptance and the people who step up to the plate and meet the challenge is often most surprising. The Myth of Family love always being the strongest is belied by the amount of GLBT young people who every year are cast out of their home upon discovery of their nonconforming Gender Identity and/or sexual orientation. I have been blessed by my family, yet not without cost. My son who is over 32, left the family and has not communicated for several years now. In the last ten years I have gone through more changes than shows on the surface and many can never be fully explained in words.
2007 Wayves In Review

We are seven years into the 21st Century! As a child you would read science fiction stories about the 21st Century and the wondrous events told in those tales seemed very far off. Life, of course, is not as fantastic as the adventures you read – but infinitely more absorbing and complex.

Wayves Magazine has always been written by our community. The stories on our pages are being told, of the most part, by those who lived, experienced, and made them happen. It’s always our hope that our readers see with a bit of their own lives in the magazine. Or, if not, will feel compelled to tell the rest of us what is important to them.

In 2007 we started the year covering major stories on the various events marking World AIDS Day in late 2006, including the announcement of Maria MacIntosh as Executive Director of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and Heather Patriarche as Operations Coordinator of the Nova Scotia AIDS Connection Society. The Jan-Feb issue also contained a heartfelt letter from Chuck Gillis, AKA Lulu LaRude, thanking people who had helped him through a long illness with a brain tumor. This took a tragic overtone as Chuck died soon after and the March cover story covered the very personal loss our community felt over the beloved entertainer and AIDS activist.

Our annual celebrations were covered in our April issue covered Moncton’s Diamond Divas Show which raised $5500 for the Crisis and Referral Agency’s Helpline. The ninth annual Mister Atlantic Canada Canada Leather – “Pirates of the Chaleur” title match was covered from August through October with Rich Arsenault and Maisie Walker taking the male and female titles. Pride celebrations started to take centre stage in the June issue with PEI Pride and lasted right through the October issue ending with Moncton’s Parade. Coverage included Prides in St. John’s, Cape Breton, Picton, Saint John, and Halifax. The Eighth Imperial Court events were covered in our October issue with Boom Boom Lubalicious winning her second term as Empress.

Some new events were added to the calendar in 2007 as the December issue reported on the first Antigonish Pride held October 8th-12th to accommodate University students. November brought attention to the Nova Scotia Transgender Remembrance Day on the 19th of that month, and May 17th featured the International Day Against Homophobia. Originally planned as a fun “Kiss-In” Event on Halifax’s Grand Parade Square, the IDAH planning took a very serious turn as the bodies of Trevor Paul Brewster and Michael Paul Knoott were discovered in cruising areas in Burnside in HRM and Mill Cove in Lunenburg County. Halifax City Police cautioned men to be aware of all cruising areas and the entire community breathed much easier after the accused suspect was caught trying to smuggle himself into Mexico.

The now rather somber IDAH Rally was very well attended by the community, Halifax City council members and police force, and politicians of all brands.

The ongoing struggle for equal rights was the subject for a number of stories in the magazine. In April, Al McNutt’s long battle for survivor benefits from the Canada Pension Plan was won. In June we covered Transgender Activist and Wayves contributor, Denise Holden, as she opened a new ground by holding information displays in Truro and Stewiacke. We covered the “Pink Shirts” demonstrations in Nova Scotia schools – a series of anti-bullying events that had the effect of making that province’s schools a bit safer for queer students. In October we covered the plight of Jamie and Emily O’Neill, legally married lesbians who discovered that Nova Scotia couldn’t register a baby with two mothers. The Nova Scotia Government acted admirably fast in correcting the problem.

On the darker side, Mayor Bill Mills of Truro, Nova Scotia became one of the year’s great villains by refusing to fly the Rainbow Flag during Pictou County Pride, the first week of August, on religious grounds. National and international news coverage flashed this incident around the world. A rally held in opposition to the town decision led to the formation of Truro Pride and the beginning of plans for a Pride week in 2008.

The town decided to never fly any flag but the town’s, the province’s, and the country’s ever again. However, before that decision was made, Truro had agreed to fly an AIDS Awareness Flag during the week of Dec 1st. Incredibly, the town resided on this agreement refocusing the world’s attention on small town Nova Scotia. Municipal elections in Truro might actually be interesting in 2008!

Two other events centered on past and present activists in the region. The Reverend Eldon Hay of Sackville, New Brunswick celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. It sometimes seems as through Eldon founded every PFLAG organization in Atlantic Canada and he has won the Order of Canada for his human rights work.

On the other hand, former youth activist and Halifax resident, Mike Glatze became a very public convert to the “ex-gay movement”. Mr. Glatze, co-founder of Young Gay America and co-author of an award winning film on gay youth, proclaimed homosexuality as dangerous, if not deadly. Offered the chance to respond to stories of his conversion in Wayves, Mr. Glatze never answered. However, in other media he has advocated the imprisonment of queer folk.

The magazine itself had a number of landmark events. In 2007 it marks itself for any reason, is a very serious subject. Wayves will continue to keep our readers aware of such situations.

With a possible federal election, a provincial election in Nova Scotia, and municipal elections all over the place, 2008 is already shaping up to be an exciting year. The offer stands, as always, for members of the community in any of the Atlantic Provinces to become involved. Articles and pictures are the most obvious way to become part of the Wayves Collective. But we value any opinion you may have on how we cover our lives. Even recommending a business as a new advertiser or distribution point is a great help. Visit our website at wayves.ca for all the details.
Getting the Word Out

By Eldon Hay

How can we forward our message? How achieve a world where all are equal? What do we need to do, and accept? One of the biggest challenges is to get the good news out there.

One of the easiest ways, given some energy and persistence, is to use the media—especially radio and newspapers—regional and national.

Take letters to the editor. I've written hundreds. Of course, only some were published. Here's what happened to one:

I have noticed in all the ads, especially the personals, that there is a whole new breed of people who deal with bigotry. They seek others out, and then try to convince them to join them in their cause. They want to have the spread of this message, but they do not want to be seen doing it. They prefer to be uninvolved, yet still be considered part of a group. This is a dangerous situation, for it allows the growth of extremism.

Discrimination means to show a lack of respect or consideration for someone. It is a form of prejudice, and it can be harmful. It can lead to violence, and it can cause people to feel isolated and alone. It is important to understand the reasons behind discrimination, and to work towards消除 it.

I Am Me

Dear Wayves Readers:

I Am Me... The Diaries of a Father who is Gay!

If you will notice in my title I choose to say "father". Too long and after more prompting and support from my "partner-to-be", Ben, I decided to put my thoughts on paper. I truly appreciate the openness of Wayves written by and for fathers who are gay... I know you are out there.

Are you also interested in restarting the Gay Fathers' Group? Write to Wayves - submissions@wayves.ca!

Ouellet’s Apology

By Gerard Veldhoven

An apology from Marc Cardinal Ouellet is an abrupt attempt to minimize the abuse of power by the Roman Catholic Church in involving gay people. The Church's position is and he does not "turn you gay"

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