Moncton’s 2008 Pride week was a grand success. The activities were well-attended and greatly enjoyed by a broad spectrum of the community.

The week began on Saturday morning with a stroll along the Petitcodiac River with the Front Runners Walkers. The White Ball, held that evening at Triangles Bar, was probably the best attended Colour Party to date, with most patrons wearing white, dancing the night away under black lights.

On Sunday the kick-off barbecue, hosted by the Moncton Leather Chapter and held at Amoré Passion, was a huge success. The MLC used the opportunity to sash the new Mr. Leather Moncton, René Arsenault. He was joined by his sash wife, Bea Norman, who had received her sash at an event in July. The MLC made a donation of $415 to the River of Pride from the proceeds of the barbecue.

Parade day was a huge success, with clear skies for the first time in five years.

In this issue

Richard Blaquiere, an educator and gay youth advocate from Woodstock, says this move by School District 10 was not a wise choice. “It appears as if the district was bullied into bowing to the pressure of a few malcontents and homophobes. Because of that, an excellent opportunity has been missed for hundreds of students and teachers to hear a proud, gay, successful man talk about his life and thus the lives of between five and ten percent of the people in his audience,” he said.

Blaquiere strongly urges everyone to take action on this issue. “There should be a letter writing campaign by people of good conscience to the superintendent, Keith Pierce and the Minister of Education, Kelly Lamrock.”

Alex Sanchez’ first novel, Rainbow Boys (2001), was selected by the American Library Association (ALA) as a “Best Book for Young Adults.” Two sequels, Rainbow High (2003) and Rainbow Road (2005), were honored as “Books for Teens” by the New York Public Library.

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Saint John AIDS Walk, continued

AIDS PEI is pleased to announce that the 2008 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life was a huge success. The walk was held on Sunday, September 21 and raised over $8,000 in support of AIDS PEI programs, services, and harm reduction strategies. Cory Roach, this year’s Walk Coordinator says the walk is important to AIDS PEI. “The walk ensures that AIDS PEI can open its doors. It provides the necessary programs and services that are essential to support of people living with HIV/AIDS and prevention education.”

Mark Hanlon, program director at AIDS PEI, says that community support has been overwhelming. “Our clients depend on these funds. They depend on us to be able to provide them with the supports necessary to assist them in taking control of their health and maintain a consistent standard of living. Many thanks to our donors and partners.”

The 2009 AIDS Walk for Life will be announced early in 2009 and the staff of AIDS PEI will work hard to build on this year’s success and to engage the community to get involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. “I think many in Prince Edward Island are under the impression that HIV/AIDS barely exists in this province. The reality is that many people are currently living with HIV/AIDS and that’s only where it begins. Their family and friends are also affected. More still needs to be done to ensure AIDS PEI can ensure the rate of HIV/AIDS infection on the island are reduced,” said Mr. Hanlon. AIDS PEI is a non-profit organization and Prince Edward Island’s only AIDS service organization. Their mission is to create supportive environments for persons living with HIV/AIDS, to increase public understanding of the impact of HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Prince Edward Island. For media inquiries, contact Mark Hanlon at 566-2437 or by e-mail at mhanlon@aidspei.com.

The Amherst Corner

By Gerard Veldhoven

Cumberland Pride has become a society. On September 22 the decision was made to rename the group to “The Cumberland Pride Society,” a change made after a new set of by-laws was adopted. The society is growing, and therefore it was felt improved organizational policies should be in place. After much thought and deliberations, the membership came together and unanimously voted for this change.

The September meeting also set up a committee to organize a holiday event set for December 13, 2008. This event will be held at the Old Warehouse Café on Havelock Street in Amherst. This Holiday Gay-la Celebration is certain to be a great time and will include a turkey buffet, a dance, a cash bar, door prizes and a draw. Tickets are on sale now. The cost is $30.00 per couple or $20.00 per person. If you want to attend just the dance, the cost is $10.00 per person.

To purchase tickets please call Sue and Debbie at (902) 661-1874, or Norman and Gerard at (902) 660-5004. The deadline for securing tickets is Friday, December 5.

Amherst is where the GLBT community and the famous Cumberland blueberry join forces to make this county a terrific place to visit. Visit our website at cumberland-pride.sytes.net for lots more information.

Canada’s source for queer news

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Mentalist & hypnotist “The Amazing Raven” amazed the Walkers in Saint John. In this photo, AIDS Saint John President Leslie Jeffrey asks him if he can make more funding appear out of nowhere.

MP Paul Zed gets ready to line dance, along with AIDS Saint John Support Coordinator “Nicky” Nickerson (left).
Daniel MacKay: NSRAP's Inaugural Community Hero

By Randall Perry

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project held its fifth annual gala on Saturday, October 4, 2008, during which NSRAP Chair, Kevin Kindred, presented the organization’s inaugural Community Heroes award to Wayves publisher, Daniel MacKay. The Community Heroes award will be given annually to a Nova Scotia resident in recognition of his or her service to the province’s rainbow community. “For the inaugural award, we had an easy choice in Dan MacKay,” says Kindred. “Anyone who has done any work on LGBT activism in Nova Scotia knows that you can’t go too far without bumping into him. He has shown a deep commitment to building our community, keeping us in conversation with each other, reminding us of our history, and planning our future.”

“My flabber was completely ghastled,” Dan quips, when asked about how he felt about being the first to receive the award. “It’s a real honour. I wasn’t in any way expecting it and didn’t know they were going to have the award in the first place. So, it came as a total surprise when I got a call from Kevin, who told me about the nomination.”

Dan has been a familiar fixture in the province’s queer community for well over 20 years. Born in Shelburne, he lived in Barrington Passage (“about as far south in the province as you can get”) for a time before his family moved to the Bridgewater area, where the seeds of his interest in publishing were planted while taking a Communications Technology course offered at the newly-constructed high school. A summer job at a local print shop, working at various “printer’s devil’s” jobs, including weeks spent in the darkroom and shifting the hundred-year-old platen press, served to fuel his ambitions.

After moving to Halifax in 1981 to attend university, Dan met Jim DeYoung, one of the individuals who was very active in the growing gay movement at the time. “Jim was a great role model and I met it is part of an extremely interesting series of stories,” says Dan. “Over the course of a few months he introduced me to dozens of the shakers and doers in the community and showed me a great deal of what it means to be out and proud.” Soon afterward, Dan became involved with volunteer activities, including the GAZEZETTE, which was the printed monthly magazine of the Alliance for Equality (GAZE). The GAZEZETTE began as a photocopied, stapled letter-sized booklet and eventually moved to the unbound, newspaper format, which in 1995 became Wayves magazine.

During the late 1980’s Dan was also involved for a few years with the Halifax Pride committee. “I was working with a bunch of extremely enthusiastic people and we ended up expanding the Pride parade from a very small number of participants, somewhere between one and two hundred, to between one and two thousand in just a few years,” he reminisces. “The amount of positive energy in that endeavour was mind-boggling.”

Dan is known for being a “finger in every pot” kind of gay. Over the past little while, though, he’s done a bit of pulling back and began to focus more of his energy on publishing projects, including Wayves—and its recently-resurrected literary annual, panoqua—and the massive Rainbow Encyclopedia, an ongoing, online publishing project wherein he’s collecting the past and present stories of queer Halifax. “It’s not just a website,” he explains. “It’s a big piece of written work, and what I’m doing is publishing it. I’m not writing it—I’ve written some of it—but largely it’s written by other people and I publicize it. That’s what a publisher does!”

When asked about future projects, Dan added, “We’re going to have a big bear hug to all!”
Why Gay Men’s Health?

By Angus Campbell

I’ve been having some interesting discussions about why we bother looking at gay men’s health issues and not just men’s health. In talking with a few medical professionals, I informed one general practitioner that a substantial percentage of gay men here in Atlantic Canada have not come out to their doctors. His reaction was that all of his patients have come out to him. I couldn’t help but laugh. How could he possibly know this?

In my opinion, “Dr. Psychic” is a good doctor and not as arrogant as he may appear, but surely most health professionals, professional or not, he doesn’t truly understand the need for a focus on gay men’s health. To all of you who share my opinion, I dedicate this column.

Where to begin? If we look at the Population Health Model, gay men are a specific population or community with unique needs. Awareness of gay men’s health began in the 70’s was transformed by the AIDS crisis, and has progressed so much further. It is no longer HIV-centric but holistic, encompassing a myriad of issues because health is much more than diseases and syndromes. Social issues are just as significant.

Some of our health concerns, which are not necessarily exclusive to gay men but are factors in us leading healthy lives, include:

- **Aging** – There is a real focus on youth in today’s society. Studies of middle-aged gay men reveal high-risk behaviours. And we have only recently started to look at senior’s residences for GLBT’s.
- **Alcohol and Drugs (including Tobacco)** – For a variety of reasons there are higher rates of alcohol, drug and tobacco use in our community.
- **Anal Cancer** – There is a much higher rate of anal cancer in gay men, especially if HIV-positive, due to the human papilloma virus (HPV).
- **Body Image** – Unrealistic “perfect body” images have left some gay men with poor self-esteem, depression, eating disorders, compulsive exercising and steroid abuse.
- **Coming Out** – Coming to terms with one’s sexuality, especially during the formative teenage years, can be filled with shame and confusion. Mental, social and spiritual support from knowledgeable professionals can assist.
- **HIV/AIDS** – Accurate, timely and practical HIV prevention and treatment information delivered in a non-judgmental way is required for all gay men. Stigma and discrimination and what we as individuals (including our allies) can do to combat them should be included.
- **Homophobia, Heterosexism and Internalized Homophobia** – These have a huge impact on whether gay men develop good self-esteem and healthy self-identities. We need to be prepared for rejection by learning appropriate responses and coping skills.
- **Social Support** – Everyone needs a network of social support but gay men often are excluded from conventional social support models, consequently causing additional stress.
- **Violence** – Whether it’s a hate crime or domestic violence, they can be very real to a gay man’s life and they are often unreported due to shame. More than half of all hate crimes are against gay men.

Understanding gay men’s health is necessary for all health practitioners and all gay men. Clip this column and mail it to your doctor, anonymously if you must.

Got health and sexual health questions? Email me in confidence at: AngCam59@yahoo.ca.

Laramie Back In Halifax

The Laramie Project is a play by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project about the reaction to the murder of Matthew Shepard. The play draws on hundreds of interviews conducted by the theatre company with inhabitants of the town, company members’ own journal entries and published news reports. It is divided into three acts, and eight actors portray more than sixty characters in a series of short scenes. It was later adapted into a film of the same name. 8:00pm, November 25-29. For more information see gay.hfhs.ca/events

We Are: Expressions of Family; A Queer Experience

From November 8th to November 27th, Pier 21 presents We Are: Expressions of Family; A Queer Experience, a Community Presents exhibition in the Ralph and Rose Gagnon Harbourside Gallery. This community based art exhibit features artwork by LGBTQ parents and their children that expresses their experiences as a family. We Are gives the LGBTQ community a chance to display their stories as part of the mosaic that shapes Canadian identity.

Exhibition opening and family fun day: Saturday, November 8th between 2:00 pm and 4:00 p.m. At the opening, visitors can meet the families featured in the exhibit and participate in crafts and activities for all ages. Visitors will also be encouraged to interact with the exhibit by contributing a piece of their own story. Admission is free.

For more information please visit pier21.ca.
Catch-Up on B.L.T.

BLT Women of Halifax Third Annual Camping Event

By Sue Andrews and Karen Clarke, Facilitators

Our recent camping event, the third for the BLT women's group, was a great success. It was our biggest camping event to date. We arrived around noon on Friday and we had members arriving almost immediately behind us. Women kept arriving through the afternoon as tents, lawn chairs and all kinds of camping supplies were unpacked from their vehicles, with everyone helping each other. We had members from our group, their friends and non-member women all showed up—it was wonderful to meet new friends and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

As women embraced women, older, wiser lesbian, Anita M., said, as she was overcome with emotion, “This event brings back memories... it reminds me of lesbian camping events of years ago.” Over the past few years the community has become so divided, and we believe that the only group that is working on the issue is the BLT group. The weekend brought together bisexual, lesbians, transgender and gay-spiritualized women. We sang songs around the campfire, told stories and laughed.

On Saturday evening the moon was glowing over the ocean and outlining the tree tops. It was a perfect picture for a wonderful weekend. On Sunday the women were feeling sad, saying the weekend was over so quickly, and they did not want it to end.

This was a definitely a successful BLT camping event.

NSGEU – Much More than just a Float in the Parade

By Angus Campbell

On Saturday, October 4, I was greeted with great enthusiasm by about 40 people at the NSGEU Human Rights Conference in Truro who are concerned about the state of human rights in Nova Scotia and wanted to know more about our community.

From the heart came many personal stories of my experiences and some of the bigotry I have witnessed such as a march by right-wing fundamentalists in San Diego carrying placards stating “G.A.Y.—Got AIDS Yet?” My presentation included photos of Fred Phelps, the Baptist minister whose grandson and followers picketed Matthew Shepard’s funeral with signs that read “God Hates Fags — Romans 9:13.” This may have been ten years ago but their hate and prejudice still linger. (Sidebar: You may want to check the Laramie Project at The Dal Arts Centre Nov 25 – 29)

I spoke about discrimination here in the Maritimes by touching on Lindsay Willow’s five-year nightmare, the denial of personal privacy for Eastern Blood Services has lost out on some of my personal experiences. For example, that of Stephen Harper’s. This naturally outraged people, and from that small exercise instant empathy for our transgender community was born and transgender issues were received with open minds and hearts. I thank Denise Holliday and other trans friends for arming me with the knowledge of their personal experiences.

Everybody loves a parade and the room exploded with excitement with a picture of the joint NSGEU/Nova Scotia Government award-winning float and we discussed the history of Pride parades, their relevance and absolute necessity in today’s political climate.

By the end I think everyone agreed with my “same, same but different” theme and story. More importantly, they understood that the euphemism, “alternative lifestyle,” is inaccurate and highly insulting. The only alternative we have is whether we choose to live openly, honestly—and lovingly—out of the closet.
Trans Family Nova Scotia

By Michelle Malete

I'm excited to say that by this time the issue of Wayves has hit the stands, we will have celebrated the birth of Trans Family Nova Scotia, at our first meeting right here in Halifax.

We are the family of a 17-year-old, trans-identified child in transition. Trans Family Nova Scotia grew out of a need to forge and foster connections with other allies and families. While we are grateful that our daughter is well connected and supported within our community (IKW Mental Health, Youth Project, the CAWay Health Centre, NSYND, family, friends, etc.) there have been no supports readily available to us as a family. We feel strongly that if trans-identified children, youth and adults are to be well supported in their journey to authenticity, it is imperative that the supporting individuals also experience support and empowerment. We would love to share this incredible journey with other families, extended families, parents, siblings and friends of transgendered individuals.

We are welcoming to individuals at all stages of acceptance of their loved one...

Hi Tom

I'm quite used to being a part of the mailing list for an anti-gay organization. They tell themselves concerned citizens or some such tripe but really they are raving homophobes who dress up their rants with specious logic and feigned distress over the future of "the family." When I first got a message from them I was angered and wanted to immediately get my name removed. Then a friend reminded me of the old adage "keep your friends close, and your enemies closer" and it has been quite entertaining and enlightening keeping tabs on what they are thinking and saying. I wasn't sure how big a deal this Connecticut Connecticut Supreme Court ruling was until I received the e-mail declaring that this judicial decision was bringing the entire United States one step closer to the abyss. It is often the little things that really make me smile.

On a lighter note, I recently found out about an organization who gives out what they call Ig Nobel prizes. These are for legitimate but silly research like why a ball of string will tangle or if dog feces jump higher than cat feces. My favourite favourite however was the study done in 1985 that found that Coke will kill sperm. Apparently some women were using coke as an after sex douche hoping to avoid pregnancy and kill HIV. While not effective as a birth control method – sperm swim too fast – the little wigglers do in fact explode in Coke. Would it be visible to the naked eye? I wonder? Much more fascinating than sea monsters! Any pubescent boy with a bottle of Coke could conduct his own experiment. Think of the swelling this could create in the ranks of young scientists.

I recall with a certain pride my own Eureka moment as a teenager. One afternoon, while exploring blood flow principles in the human body with some advanced yoga positions I made the discovery that semen has astringent effect on the human eye. Am I eligible for a prize? Of course one of the big issues both here in Canada and in the US has been the financial crisis created on Wall Street. While legislators have been bailing out Fannie Mae and Freddie, I've continued to deal with my own bankers, Peter and Paul. In spite of the Shakespearean injunction to neither a borrower nor a lender be, I continue to borrow from Peter to keep Paul quiet. I'm quite used to it now, my middle name is Impetuous, named after my uncle, the old Imp, spoken of in the family with a tone bordering on affection.

Speaking of affection and the love that date not speak the words "I do," I see that Connecticut has combined two Beatles classics I Wanna Be Your Man and The Long and Winding Road. Jack Layton tried to update his image (Ozone) while Stéphane Dion combined two Beatle Green/ On a Clear Day (You Can See the Hole in the Broken Arts? Elizabeth May sang a medley of Little Cuts Like A Knife followed by the other party leaders Harper performed a country and western version of his lips a lot but without really saying anything. The answer? Nothing. What's the difference between an election in Canada and a reality show? The answer? Nothing.

I'm used to being a part of the mails groups where we can come together with other families, partners, friends, co-workers, service providers and allies of trans-identified individuals to support and be supported. If and when the need arises, there are plans to form a closed group for families seeking a more private forum.

You can join us on the third Monday of every month from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Dalhousie Women's Centre. Looking forward to hearing from you or seeing you at our next meeting.

For more information, call (902) 431-8500, e-mail transfamily@eastlink.ca, or join us on Facebook at www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=70907170076.
Wayves Launches at Word On The Street

By Randall Perry

On Sunday, September 28, 2008, Wayves made its first appearance at the Word on the Street book and magazine festival. The annual fête, held for the past few years at the Cunard Event Centre on the Halifax waterfront, is the east coast venue for the national festival, which also holds events in Calgary, Kitchener, Toronto and Vancouver. The festival’s website, www.thewordonthestreet.ca, describes its mission as “...to unite the country in a national, annual celebration of reading and writing and to highlight the importance of literacy in the lives of all Canadians.”

Wayves publisher Daniel MacKay and associate editor Randall Perry arrived early and set up shop with stacks of current and back issues of the magazine for the reading public to pick up, as well as rate cards, business cards and a “one-pager” capsule history and Wayves raison-d’être. We were soon joined by Wayves advertising director Jim Bain and managing editor Raymond TAaron, each of the four of us took turns at the table while the others worked the room, networking and socializing, meeting up with old friends in the publishing world and making new connections.

Our table had good company on all sides: we had Writers’ Federation of Nova Scotia to our right, the Editors’ Association of Canada to our left, and across from us were tables for Toastmasters and Halifax Public Libraries (and on the other side of the curtain, behind us, we found literary interests ranging from NSCAD University’s Dawson Printshop/NSCAD Press to Esperanto Nova Scotia).

Three local candidates vying for the federal riding of Halifax—Catherine Meade (Liberal), Megan Leslie (NDP) and Darryl Whetter (Green)—dropped by the table, chatting and exchanging insights (look for a review of Darryl’s novel, “The Push and the Pull” in a forthcoming issue). Our back covers, featuring the sometimes-controversial CruiseLine ads, were a hit, especially with female visitors (hmmm... I wonder why?).

Our primary reason for attending WOTS was the chance to expose Wayves, as one of Atlantic Canada’s longest-publishing magazines, to a broad audience of readers, most of whom fall beyond our “traditional” readership. It was evident—and somewhat surprising to me—that many people who came by the table had either not seen the magazine before or did not know that such a publication existed in this region. In that sense alone, the time meeting the reading public was well-spent. The few hundred people who stopped at the table to say hello, ask questions or offer ideas took away not just a back issue or two of Wayves, but also a real, human impression of the volunteers behind the words.

As for next year’s event, well, eleven months is just enough time to make plans...
M.A.C. Leather X

Mr. Leather Moncton 2009 – Ken Arsenault was quite “cheeky” & very good at it at Sunday’s main event.

Ms. ACL 2007 – Marcy Walton presented an award to long-time sponsors & supporters to the o/o’s of Halfway Creations – Joanne Chouat and Kate Hoey. Thanks for all you’ve done!

MrACL 2007 – Marcy Walton presented an award to long-time sponsors & supporters to the o/o’s of Halfway Creations – Joanne Chouat and Kate Hoey. Thanks for all you’ve done!

Don Murchy was the recipient of and presented with the MACLeather “Volunteer of the Decade”. It couldn’t have gone to a better person within the MACLeather Family. Thanks & Kudos for all you’ve done right from the start of it all Don!

Leather also means “Community Involvement” & here it’s proven by 4 guys from NB entertaining the crowd as KISS and rocking MENZ Bar on Sunday night.

MENZ Bar co-owner Doug Melanson was another of the several business recipients that were honoured for their support of the MACL Society over the past 10 years shown here along with current titleholders – Maisie & Rick.

There’s something about the way you look tonight... “HOT”!

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event was held at Université de Moncton. Later that night fun and laughs were the theme for the second edition of O69 Gay Bingo, hosted by Sally Sue. Great prizes were graciously donated by our sponsors.

A busy Wednesday evening saw sports coordinator, Roger LeBlanc, hosting a GLBT soccer game, complete with a half-time doggy drag show, followed by line dancing at Triangles. Pride Karaoke, hosted by Princess Drew, was also held that evening at Triangles, with more great prizes from Mikes Hard Lemonade, Moosehead, RBC Insurance and Triangles.

Volleyball, a repeat activity from last year due to its popularity, kicked off the Thursday evening activities. Back-to-School student night was held later at Triangles bar, hosted by DJ’s Sunny D and Just Jack—student night is a weekly event at Triangles featuring great beats and amazing drink specials for students throughout the night.

Friday night, in conjunction with the CIBC’s Run for the Cure, the River Of Pride committee hosted “Le Nuit en Rose,” a retro dance party featuring DJ John, with almost everyone wearing pink. Roger LeBlanc organized a co-ed hockey game, held that evening. Parade day was a huge success, with clear skies and prizes from Mikes Hard Lemonade, Moosehead, RBC Insurance and Triangles.

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Local Moncton.com, Studio 7 Hundred, Graffiti and Pastalli.

River Of Pride committee would like to remind everyone the Annual General Meeting will be held at Amoré Passion, 154 Church Street on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Your nomination and votes count in the election of the executive for 2009. We need two co-chairs (one man and one woman), a treasurer, a secretary, a media relations person, and four coordinators, one each for volunteers, events, sponsorship and parade.

For more information, visit www.fiertemonctonpride.ca or e-mail glih@nbnet.nb.ca.

Photos by Remy St. Coeur, John Doiron, Tina Hillier, Greg LeBlanc, and Denise Holliday.
November 2008

Chef’s Corner

November is the month in which we traditionally honour our veterans. Growing up in Moncton in the 1980’s, I was an Air Cadet and marched in many a parade and stood at attention in the cold, and too often pouring rain, to listen to old soldiers, sailors and airmen go through their rituals of prayers, calling the roll, laying of wreaths, and saluting the old empire. I always had a healthy respect for the past and understood how it can and does affect our future. Well, here we are some 25 years later, and once again young Canadian men and women are halfway around the world “defending our way of life.” No matter your opinions on this latest conflict, many of us know someone, in or out of uniform, who has served, or is presently serving in Afghanistan, and we all watch each repatriation ceremony with emotion, wondering when and how it will all end. My friends who have recently returned from duty always talk about what they missed most while over there, and after their loved ones and their own bed, it’s usually a nice home cooked meal that tops the list. So, as my mark of respect for our troops, I am offering a great home style pot roast recipe. Nothing says loving like a home cooked meal. Too all our veterans old or young, thank you.

Next month, something special for the holiday season.

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.

Ramblings from the Sanctuary Gardens

On Love and Community

By Bethana Sullivan

“Still point of the turning world from which all life comes, let me not be afraid of all I know I cannot be.” (“The Celtic Wheel of the Year,” Tess Ward, 2007)

What a loving, evocative line from my morning prayer that speaks to me of how my relationship and Blessing Ceremony have changed me. I almost wrote “afflicted me,” but that is too soft a phrase. I have actually been deeply changed by the many years of relationship that preceded our Blessing Ceremony.

I moved to Nova Scotia from Ontario as a single woman yearning for change, for a spiritual home, and the journey to partnership began. I cannot do this by myself anymore.

It was in this journey from one-person to relationship that I began to experience that awakening of heart that is so necessary for working for a greater vision of peace and unity. In his book, “Made for Happiness,” Vanier describes the faith that Helen Prejean has in Matthew Poncelet—faith in his capacity for relationship, such that her companionship in the “depths of his darkness shows him who he really is in his innermost being.” It is in its acts of faith and love for each other that we create the potential to be all that we can be. Loving each other privately and publicly enables us to sustain strength and well-being, even when we know that sometimes we are not always as loving, accepting and respectful as others need us to be. It is in loving one another that we may grow in responsibility for each other, that we find balance between freedom and belonging and, ultimately greater trust in our “human family.”

I have been delightfully surprised and moved by how much our Blessing Ceremony has deepened my connection to my partner and my community. I wrote “…We human beings are made to be people of joy, of fun and of celebration.”

Our Blessing Ceremony was the culmination and a strengthening of the journey towards a greater integration of self and other, of being part of that which is more than we are as individuals. We had fun, we celebrated who we are in our relationship, with all its hurts and gifts; we were joyfully recognized by our friends, family and community.


Women’s Pool Night at Lucas Bar

Spring Garden & Queen in Halifax

(above Rogue’s Roast, entrance is on Doyle)

Looking for a chance to meet other women? Here’s your chance to relax, mingle, and enjoy!

Come as you are. We meet the second and last Tuesday of every month.

To play is a flat fee of $5/per person for the night.

womenspoolnight@gmail.com – “Women’s Pool Night” on Facebook

Do you work in Alberta?

Are you from Newfoundland & Labrador?

We are recruiting participants to be part of a study about lifestyle factors that may contribute to the transmission of HIV/AIDS or other STD’s. If you are 19 years of age or over, have left NL in the past year to work in the oil industry in Northern AB and have returned home at least once during this time, we are interested in talking to you. Participation is voluntary and confidential, and will include up to two, roughly hour long interviews. Please contact Sarah at the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador - 1-709-579-8656 ext. #27 or sarah@acnl.net.
**Amherst**

Second Monday
8:30 pm at UNB in Amherst one month, Sackville the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@unb.ca. Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 132 La Flamme Street.

First and Third Wednesdays
Amherst and Area, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group Meeting. 7-9pm. Anyone who is GLBT or questioning their sexuality in the Amherst, Oxford, Springhill, 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. lgbtyouthproject.ca or go to www.warshothespe.ca

Bridgewater
Third Saturday of each month (except July)
Willelde Dance: Smoke free. Door prizes. Cash bar. Must be 19. For more details call 506-5986 or email info@bridgewatergwigestrip.com or go to www.warshothespe.ca

**Annapolis Valley**

Every Thursday and First Saturday of each month
The Annapolis Valley Gay Men’s Coffee House meets every Thursday Evening from 7-9pm. Also, each month, Sackville the next. 506-536-4245 email: gerard.vellond@unb.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst and Area, Lesbian, Bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Saturday of each month from 2-4pm. Contact information: Gerard Vellond at 506-649-5004 or E-mail: gerard.vellond@unb.ca.

Charlottetown
see Prince Edward Island

**Fredericton**

Every Tuesday
Sundays and STUs’ social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, etc. students. As a group, we are aiming to be a safe and supportive space for those who are questioning or discovering 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. 7p. Top of Surf of 203 (in the Sensuality Centre, across from the Ballroom). Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at queerspace@unb.ca.

Every Wednesday
UNB/STU Women’s Collective, at the University of New Brunswick: 118 Robie St., Fredericton, NB. Phone: 506-453-2685. Email: unbstuwc@unb.ca

Cape Breton
Last Saturday of the Month
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.

**Halifax**

**Every Sunday**

**Directions and Info to the following:** 902-765-over 19 gay/lesbian dance from 9pm-1am. There are various venues. Call 902-765-3870 for details.

7p Top of Surf of 203 (in the Sensuality Centre, across from the Ballroom). Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at queerspace@unb.ca

**Employment Opportunity Calendar of Events Editor**

Waves is searching for a person who wants to know it all -

**All the events!**
**All the parties!**
**All the bars!**
**All the meetings!**
**All the support groups!**

**Duties include organizing and maintaining our Calendar of Events feature.**

Access to a computer, the skill to use it, and a telephone are required. The position pays an honorarium with increases based on the growth of the feature. Direct telephone expenses will be paid. The successful candidate will be expected to aggressively track event information and develop contacts with the Atlantic LGBT Community for Waves. Open to residents of Atlantic Canada. E-mail applications to submissions@waves.ca

**Halifax: a Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community.**

While our membership is primarily composed of UNB and STU students, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. 7p. Top of Surf of 203 (in the Sensuality Centre, across from the Ballroom). Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at queerspace@unb.ca.

**LGB Youth Project**

18 and under Support Groups. Second and Fourth Tuesdays
Community House for the Youth of the Niagara Region. The discussions focus on whatever topic is being discussed, 7-9pm at 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.nova.ca, www.youthproject.pts.org

**PFLAG Amherst/Sackville**

in Amherst one month, Sackville the next. 506-536-4245 email: gerard.vellond@unb.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst and Area, Lesbian, Bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Saturday of each month from 2-4pm. Contact information: Gerard Vellond at 506-649-5004 or E-mail: gerard.vellond@unb.ca.

**Events >>**

**Flamboyant Calvinist Discussion Group**

19-20 yrs. of age and older.

**LGB Youth Project**

18-25 and under. Starting at 7pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.nova.ca, www.youthproject.pts.org

**Second and Fourth Fridays**

LGB Youth Project ages 18-25 Support meetings. This is a structured environment, where 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. 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.nova.ca, www.youthproject.pts.org

**Second and Fourth Wednesdays**

Social support for Lesbians, 7:30-9:30. 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. For info about the place of the next meeting call 459-2649 and leave name and number. Personal e-mail: confidentiality assured.

**July 31, Aug 14, Sept 11, 25, Oct 9, 23**


**Aug 3, 17, 31, Sept 14, 28, Oct 12, 26 November 9, 23**

AIDS Community. This is a bi-weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 7-9pm at 2281 Brunswick Street. (Except winter semester include sexuality awareness week, 3 Requests Specials. On beer and spirits Cover: $4.50 after 12 Sundays 8-cl Music: Main stream big city/ High energy

**Halifax Youth Project Calendar**

Support, education and social activities for youth 12-25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site. Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events. Website: www.youthproject.ca Phone: 902-429-5429 Email: youthproject@youthproject.ca, www. youthproject.ca

**Halifax LGBT Youth Project**

18 and Support Under 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 direction 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. A place to talk about issues and make new friends 7-9p at 2281 Brunswick St.
Tuesday – Discussion Group (ages 18 and under) A structured forum present to discuss on topics, while at the same time helping to lead to discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussion focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitator lecturing about whatever topics you request to discuss. 6-8, 2281 Brunswick St.

Wednesday – Discussion Group (ages 18-25) A structured environment with facilitator to discuss on topics, while at the same time helping to lead to discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussion focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitator lecturing about whatever topics you request to discuss. 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Week 2 – Social Drop-In Nights (ages 25 and under) A is a facilitated hot less structured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Wednesday – Social Drop-In at Thrones (ages 25 and under) A is a facilitated hot less structured event with a fun & exciting theme. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6:30pm-7:30pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Wednesday – Guest Speaker & Discussion night (ages 25 & under) A new speaker every week to educate & spark discussion. This is a structured environment. 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Wednesday – Activity night (ages 25 & under) A chance to have fun and perhaps learn something new. Activities will be on the night lasting two and a half hours. Fridays are every 3rd IMPROMPTU classes. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Friday – DJ Special: Spinning the latest tunes and the hottest remixes. No cover. Cheap drinks all night long. 10pm.

Saturday – Third Monday of each month at三角形s 3rd street (8pm-3am) A youth movie night! 1st Prize $50 2nd Prize $20. 2281 Brunswick St.

Saturday – No cover before 10pm (87 after 8pm) Happy Hour from 9pm till 9:30pm $2 SHOOTERS all night long.

Sunday – Happy Hour till 9pm! An Evening of Great Entertainment! The Chicklet Drag Show 7pm (approx 2 hours) $5 Cover. 2281 Brunswick St.

Monday – Mary you DJ Hostess! NO COVER. Cheap drinks and the hottest remixes. 5pm-2am, 7 days a week.

Tuesday – Social Drop-in Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event with a fun & exciting theme. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6:30pm-7:30pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

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Monday – Mary you DJ Hostess! NO COVER. Cheap drinks and the hottest remixes. 5pm-2am, 7 days a week.
New Minister for Halifax UUC

Reverend Julie Danny-Hughes arrived in Halifax at the beginning of September, after leaving her post at her last church in Palatine, Illinois. When she, the Halifax UUs, met her at the noisy and busy welcoming pot-luck last Friday she seemed to be a very committed person, while at the UU Church nothing seemed to happen last Sunday she even tried to speak some French.

As a minister Reverend Julie is very warm, tall and comfortable. She has already introduced a minuscule but humble bit of ritual in us usual well-run service-format, and her handling of that part of the service which we call “Joys and Sorrows” was particularly impressive. Instead of being embarrassed or giving a pre-written response, she managed to allude to each spoken concern, sorrow or joy in a warm, personalised and heart-felt manner.

“The ministry task group heard her deliver a sermon on facing your fears and found it powerful,” wrote Allyn Clarke. He continued, “When it comes to social justice issues, she walks the talk. To protest the state’s refusal to register homosexual marriages, she refused to register heterosexual marriages.” At the UU Church we are constantly becoming very excited with how this year will develop. On September 14, Reverend Julie will give a message on risk, theology, meteorology, fear and hope, on September 21 our old friend, Sylvia Keet, will speak about peace, and on September 28 Reverend Julie will honour the high holy days of Judaism with a message of forgiveness and atonement—in short, a message of universal love.

“I am a Universalist at Heart!” she wrote in her first Minister’s Message in our September newsletter.

Her com’d from p. 3

Dan is quick to respond: “I have a big stack of projects always on the back burner, waiting for just the right enthusiastic person to come along.”

“But if I were to drop everything else right now and concentrate on one thing, I would focus on getting older queers in Halifax to tell their stories. Not to put TOO fine a point on it, but many won’t be able to do for very much longer. Five years from now, ten years fifteen, those stories won’t be there anymore and for the most part they weren’t written down. For example, what was the beginning of GAE like, back in 1972, 1973? A dozen or so people knew? I don’t. We need to sit down with these people, tape recorder in hand, and just let them tell their stories.”

Dan finds that “the edges of things are always very interesting,” which accounts for his varied and wide-ranging personal and professional interests. Despite his frenetic pace (he seems to be scaling back somewhat on his involvement, he continues to be a full-throttle source of energy and inspiration to multiple generations of the queer community.

“I think that such awards [like NSRAP’s Community Heroes] give us an opportunity to examine what’s important, both to ourselves and others, and I think they’re useful tools to help us think about what’s important,” he concludes. “I think that everybody should be involved in their community in some way. If someone is spurred into their own action by the recognition award, then that’s good. This raises the profile of volunteerism.”

Reviews

Comin’At Ya: The Homoerotic 3-D Photographs of Denny Denfield

by David L. Chapman and Thomas Waugh

Arsenal Pulp Press

Review by Ralph Higgins

What we know of gay life in the pre-Stonewall years is spotty and incomplete. Because homosexuality was illegal and considered a mental defect, most gay men were more concerned with hiding rather than displaying their interest in other men. Photographic images from the 50’s and 60’s are especially rare which makes this collection of images by Denny Denfield so important.

Nowadays when one can easily buy a copy of magazines like Inches, Honcho or even Playgirl it is difficult to remember that there was a time when even possessing photographs of male nudes, let alone sexually explicit images could lead to arrest, fines and even prison. Photographers such as Denfield’s friend, Bob Mizer, who was the subject of Thom Fitzgerald’s film, Beefcake, had many of his photos confiscated and destroyed when he was prosecuted. Denny Denfield’s position was even more precarious since he worked as an accountant with the US Army. Had his hobby of taking erotic pictures of nude men ever come to light he would surely have faced prosecution, possibly prison and the loss of his job, friends and reputation. However, unlike Mizer and others, Denfield was not interested in publishing or distributing any of the photos. His was purely a private collection, one that he shared with only a select few.

Denfield was intensely possessive of his hobby of taking erotic pictures for his camera, singly or in groups. He became a confirmed naturist and often removed his own clothing while capturing the youthful physical beauty of his models. Given the fact that both he and his subjects were also steadily imbibing alcohol during their time they were amazingly tame and old-fashioned. Yet, for a book of this nature it is logical to assume that all the photos are vivid, clear and sharply-focused.

In comparison with the erotic images so readily available today the Denfield photos may appear tame and old-fashioned. Yet, for their time they were amazingly bold and they still retain an air of titillation, the excitement of the forbidden. Comin’At Ya gather together a series of colourful visual artefacts from our past.

R U Invited

Ariztical Entertainment www.ariztical.com

Review by Ralph Higgins

Five young men are invited to a sex party. All of them each has to do is send a male pic—so the uglier can be weeded out—to get the details on the location of the party. Sounds like fun, right? Just a group of horny guys getting together for some no-strings involvement. What we have here is a disparity of friends exploring circumstances. The strong ensemble characters begin to chafe against each other. As time passes they also must ask themselves, what will happen if one of them is not accepted?

We can’t be sure whether the director Isreal Luna has written a realistic script that he shared with only a select few. He finds that “the edges of things are always very interesting,” which accounts for his varied and wide-ranging personal and professional interests. Despite his frenetic pace (he seems to be scaling back somewhat on his involvement, he continues to be a full-throttle source of energy and inspiration to multiple generations of the queer community.

“I think that such awards [like NSRAP’s Community Heroes] give us an opportunity to examine what’s important, both to ourselves and others, and I think they’re useful tools to help us think about what’s important,” he concludes. “I think that everybody should be involved in their community in some way. If someone is spurred into their own action by the recognition award, then that’s good. This raises the profile of volunteerism.”

DO THIS SURVEY!

Improve safe access to your healthcare!

PrideHealth is conducting its second annual health survey! Join those who gave their opinions during Halifax Pride! Please go to our new website & click on the link to go to our online survey.

And stay tuned. PrideHealth will be hosting a logo design contest in the fall. Keep checking our website for further information...

www.pride-health.com

If you need assistance with this survey or if you are seeking safe health care call us: 902-220-0634 or e-mail anita.ieee@cdha.nshc.health.ca
The Last Word

Vote Counts

By Randall Perry

Mind if I vent? Today is October 14 and I’m about to cast my vote. Well, actually, I’ll do so on October 25, after I’ve observed a week of campaigning—my fear is that I’ll have work early and take two buses to an out-of-the-way polling station which somehow serves the downtown Halifax area, where I will no doubt stand in more line-ups to re-register to vote on the same slate of candidates. Oh, thank you, democracy, you who got your start right here in Nova Scotia!

Like many Canadians, I’m suffering from election fatigue. We’ve been living with the soap opera that’s been going on south of the border for the past eighteen months or so, so we understand, I’m sure, the atmosphere is second to none. But in Halifax we do not have our interests.

And at the risk of sounding (politically) incorrect, I’m also going to say this: I really don’t care what the outcome is. I understand, of course, that I shouldn’t say this before I stop, but first, don’t think there’s anyone really fit to govern this country, and second, after the tally, things will probably be right back where they were before. Things may be different by the time Wayves goes to press, but all the predictions point toward another Conservative minority. The only thing that has been accomplished during this election campaign is that the country is a lot more annoyed than it was five weeks ago. The Conservatives have managed to pass off a lot of artists; the Liberals have pipped off the electorate with their nebulous “carbon tax”; the other three major parties have been nipping at their ankles and promising the moon. Stephanie Dion’s command of English was most effectively ridiculed by CTV and Elizabeth May tried to make both the debates and the five of them squabbling around the table. Add to that the spiralling down of the stock markets and the rapid devaluing of the dollar. For the first time ever, I switched off the television.

Very cynical, yes, and far too simplistic. Mea culpa. My line as an out gay man is more than likely not going to change after this election. I’ll still get up in the morning, work my day job, come home, write and edit, and head to bed. Luther, roar, repeat.

The only thing that would change things is if the polls are wrong and Stephen Harper becomes king in a majority Conservative rule. You know that creeping, chilly feeling you get in the pit of your stomach when you know something bad is about to happen? That’s what I’m getting right now, just thinking about Harper’s benevolent face smiling down at me from his banners adorning the walls of the Republic of Gilead. (Too much? Maybe. But fascism always begins by silencing the artists…) By the time Wayves goes to press the election will be over, and Parliament will either be composed of the same stuff or it will be mapped in a different colour. I very much hope that everyone voted in this election, regardless of how they felt or how they chose to destroy the effort. The aphorism, “everyone’s vote counts,” is trite-sounding and easily dismissed. However, just as each of us has a place at the table and a part to play in the running of our country, a watched pot never boils, we don’t notice the change from cold to hot until it’s right there, bubbling away right on top of us. We as Canadians have a right not shared by a frightfully high number of the citizens of the earth; mess with that right and we may find ourselves without it. Even when I say I don’t care, deep down I really do—just I’m pissed off because of having to go somewhat out of my way to get to a polling station. I can’t imagine being in a position where I’m not allowed to vote, or the only way I can vote is at gunpoint for someone who hates the fact that I exist.

Once the election’s over, it’s up to each and every one of us to hold our politicians accountable to their promises and platforms. No matter what sexual orientation or gender definition, each of us has a place at the table and a part to play in the running of our country. Same-sex marriage, non-discrimination clause in the Charter of Rights, partner benefits and more… we did that. These rights and freedoms are our legacy, our gift to future generations. They are not nothing to scoff at, especially when these enlightened social advances are the envy of even the last so-called world superpower. I’m done waiting, and now I feel better. Thanks for listening. I’m off to my new polling station, ready to have my vote where it will do some good. See you on the other side...

Transgender Remembrance Day

By Denise Holliday

Every year on November 11 I remember a man who took my place in Northern Ireland and died while doing so. I place a poppy while others watch in disapproval. Some of these people, unlike me, never served in the forces, police force and often not even at a place of employment, to ensure service capacity. They feel they are superior just because they are and I am not.

On November 20 I remember and even though the same people are not aware it that this is another day of remembrance, a day I spend thinking of remembering just because I am and they are not.

I am the friend of a friend who died by her own hand after three attempts because the idea of being tanned and feathered again by her Canadian community members was unbearable. I remember the man who sat quietly in his car as the fumes from the engine snuffed out the last vestige of a life he could not bring upon his family. I remember... all these people suffered from the effects of social transphobia, a mental disorder not on the DSM but something so powerful that people who suffer from it drive members of the trans community to seek to destroy themselves. I remember the 10-year-old boy who faced being tormented daily at school and chose to hang himself from his bedroom window with his belt so that the teasing would finally stop. I remember the 12-year-old boy who took a gun to school and shot a 15-year-old classmate in the head. So many to remember. I also remember Gwen, Brandon, Matthew, Marsh, Amanda, and Roman, only a few of the names many people will not remember and many more whose names we never knew. I am a transwoman and all these people suffered from the effects of social transphobia, a mental disorder not on the DSM but something so powerful that people who suffer from it drive members of the trans community to seek to destroy themselves six times more often than the general public.

Eighty-five percent of transsexuals think about suicide, fifty-one percent attempt it—and the success rate is anywhere from nine to fifteen percent. People treat us as mentally ill from as early as two years old and deny us the rites of passage needed to lead a fulfilling life and feed our families. Yes. We have families...

Yet despite all of that, we do live, love, succeed, and even find the strength to help others. We serve in the armed forces, police and fire departments, government offices and social organizations. Canada’s Barbara Amesbury (formerly William) created music while Prince Edward Island’s late Erica Rutherford, an artist, actor, filmmaker, farmer, and teacher became a valued member of the Canadian art scene. Sara Davis Buechner is a world-renowned classical pianist teaching at UBC. Kristen Worley and Michelle Dunaresq are Canadian professional cyclists. Nina Anaismat is the self-proclaimed most famous Canadian transsexual actor and ex-sex worker. Enza Anderson is a Canadian superhero; Dana Baiot and Michelle Yosef are musicians; Mervyn Cardell and Lucea Silvera are singers. Jamie Lee Hamilton is an activist and educator. Jonna Elena Kisa is a lingua-franca. Craig Russell was a female impersonator. Ruth Branham works in the construction industry. Because we are transmen and transwomen, we will remember those that have died either by their own or someone else’s hand in the name of hate and social transphobia. I invite you to remember with us on November the 20, International Transgender Remembrance Day.

Eat, Drink and be Mary

by Al McNutt

I really feel that members of the GLBT community should consider supporting local gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses in the various communities in Atlantic Canada.

In eastern Canada we do not have the advantages of living in classic, established gay communities like Church Street in Toronto and Davie Village in Vancouver. (I have had the opportunity of living in both these cities. They are extremely large and it is sometimes easy to take for granted the plenitude of services.) What we do have is a sense of community and several great restaurants and shops that are very supportive of our interests.

My partner and I have had the pleasure to dine at the Elephant’s Eye Bistro, located at 1727 Barrington Street in Halifax. This restaurant has a great menu, the food is absolutely delicious, the staff is extra friendly and the atmosphere is second to none. Catering small business func-
“I use Cruiseline when I want a hook-up buddy.”

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50% off with our new member special. Call customer support for more info: 1.877.882.2005

Wayves
November 2008

Moncton’s River Of Pride
M.A.C. Leather X
Charlottetown & Saint John AIDS Walks
NSRAP’s "Hero" Award