

# WAYVES



## Nova Scotia Recognizes International Transgender Remembrance Day

Thursday, November 20th, 2008

MR. LEONARD PREYRA: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act recognize the rights of all to be free from discrimination; and

Whereas Nova Scotia is a society open to everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and

Whereas in Nova Scotia, people who are gender variant are often perceived as different by much of society, leading to some of the highest rates of violence, intimidation, social discrimination and marginalization experienced by any group;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly recognize November 20th as the International Transgender Remembrance Day and commend Denise Holliday and her radio show - Over the Rainbow - the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual Youth Project, Metro Community Church Safe Harbour, Pride, Health, and other community groups for their hard work in attempting to educate society about and eliminate transphobia.

## Halifax Pride 2009 Board

The membership of Halifax Pride held its Annual General Meeting recently to hear reports from the Chair and Treasurer of Pride 2008 and to elect the Board for 2009. The bylaws of the society were amended to have Directors serving for two-year terms; Directors who'd been on the Board since Pride 07 sought reelection if they wished to continue on the Board. At a subsequent meeting, Directors elected Officers and the current Board is made up of Hugo Dann,

Chair; Liz McQuaid, Vice Chair; Michael Davies-Cole, Treasurer; Don Goss, Secretary; Tanya Bloomfield, Member-at-Large. The remaining Directors are Angela Crofts, Patrick Daigle, Kris Figueroa, Maggie Hayward, William McDuff Gillis, Maria Mac Intosh, Rosemary Porter, Ed Savage, Trent Slaunwhite, and Ramona Westgate. Daniel MacKay was reaffirmed as Member-for-Life.

In my Chair's report to the membership, I jokingly referred to this past year as "the best of Prides, the worst of Prides." There were a number of striking successes, most notably the new parade route on Barrington Street; Parade Coordinator, Ed Savage, received a much deserved round of applause for his work in negotiating with HRM to make that possible. The new location for the post-parade gathering at Garrison Grounds was also deemed a success, and thinking of ways to improve both the layout and the nature of that event for next year. Halifax Pride worked hard on community outreach last year. We arranged for the venue and helped to plan last year's Town Hall and we also helped the Youth Project organize the May 17 International Day Against Homophobia activities in HRM. For the past two years we've laid a wreath at Remembrance Day ceremonies in Grand Parade, to honour Canada's LGBTQ service personnel. This year

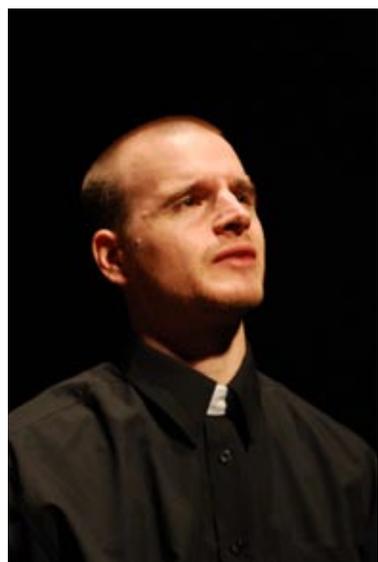
we had a float in the Holiday Parade of Lights, and the response from the crowd was fantastic! Over the summer, Pride Directors attended Cumberland Pride, Charlottetown Pride, Moncton Pride and Cape Breton Pride.

We enjoyed an unprecedented degree of media support, due in part to new Media Partners, Metro New and 101.3 The Bounce. However, there was increased interest from the mainstream media as well. The Chronicle Herald gave us extensive (and thoughtful) coverage throughout the year, while CBC Radio's afternoon program, Mainstreets, tackled a different aspect of LGBTQ life in Nova Scotia every day of Pride Week. There's not space enough to thank everyone, but NSRAP also put together a great lecture series and it was gratifying to see a big jump in attendance to that event. Ryan MacGrath must be singled out for producing both our fundraiser, Rockin' the Gaybourhood 2 and our first songwriters' Circle, Under the Big Top; superb events!

On the down side, we lost some good Board members to personal and professional pressures. The challenge remains to achieve our full po-

tential, both in improving the quality of our events and in maximizing our revenue. The new parade route tripled our costs and has left us with a deficit of just over \$15,000. Yet it seemed to a majority of the Board to be a risk worth taking. There's no question that greater visibility increases our potential for sponsorship revenues. It was great to see the number of retailers along Barrington and Spring Garden who chose to decorate their windows with a pride theme for the entire week.

We have a strong new team and we're moving fast out of the gate! We're confident that we can eliminate the deficit and leave Pride on even stronger financial ground. There are great new fundraising events already in the works. In January, we'll be releasing a new quarterly Newsletter full of information about our new plans. If you would like to be on our mailing list or receive email updates, please contact us at [info@halifaxpride.ca](mailto:info@halifaxpride.ca) or call the Pride Office: (902) 431-1194.



*Dal Theatre production of The Laramie Project. Review on page 3, photos by Patrick Casey*



*World AIDS Day in Saint John: Mayor Ivan Court, Julie Dingwell (ED, AIDS Saint John), Leslie Jeffrey (Chair), Judith Meinert (Volunteer), Margaret Rose Nickerson (Support Worker) and Cathy Penny (Board member).*

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# Time for Reflection: Halifax Candlelight Vigil

The concept of a World AIDS Day began in 1988 when a meeting of health ministers from around the world agreed it offered an opportunity for everybody to come together to express the importance of HIV/AIDS and show solidarity for the cause. "Twenty-five years of retrospection... from fear, the fight, to courage and acceptance," Mike Sangster, Chair of the Board of Directors, ACNS, reflected on two and a half decades.

On December 1, 2008, as part of the 25th anniversary of World AIDS Day commemorations, a modest crowd of approximately 80 held a candlelight vigil, in Halifax, to remember those who have lost their lives to this disease. Moreover this evening reminded me of how far we have come in the last two decades. How education, compassion and consideration for those caring for persons or living with HIV has grown. How recent advances in treatments have considerably changed the face of how many people affected with HIV can look forward to long and healthy lives.

The vigil began with welcoming remarks, a prayer and a brief retrospective of living with HIV/AIDS in Nova Scotia, followed by remarks from guest speakers who were invited to address the crowd. The result was heartfelt commentary from people affected in one way or another by HIV/AIDS.

The first speaker spoke from all three points in time: a look at the past, a glance at the present and finally an outlook for the future. I was most impressed and stirred by the words from a young mother, with her infant child, who spoke of losing her father to AIDS: "I was left behind for a reason. I received strength from his strength, love from his love...I am my father's daughter," she said. The prejudice and tribulations that she and her family experienced are issues that regrettably still prevail and obviously need to be addressed. My heart goes out to her



Mike Sangster, Buffy & Noel Carney

*I was left behind for a reason. I received strength from his strength, bravery from his bravery, love from his love*

and many like her for their passion.

Amongst songs provided by the Angel Hall Singers and a performance by Tactifashion of Universal Soul the attendees lit candles prior to calling out the names of all those who lost their lives to AIDS over the last 25 years. These moments, a few in silence, were truly poignant.

The evening came to a close with a parting prayer and the opportunity

for all those in attendance to socialize over coffee and treats provided by our hosts.

The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia would like to extend a special thank you to those individuals, organizations, churches and businesses whose kind support has helped to make this year's Vigil possible:

Fred Connors and Joel Flewelling (FRED), Neville MacKay (My Mother's Bloomers), Safe Harbor Metropolitan Church, The Names Project, Manna for Health Food Bank and the 2008 AIDS Vigil Planning Committee.

## Truro Newslets

The Rainbow Proud Nova Scotia group has a up-to-date website: [www.rainbowproudnovascotia.ca](http://www.rainbowproudnovascotia.ca).

The group has a full slate of events, dances and meetings planned for the New Year. Please check out our website for full details, we are also on facebook as Rainbowproud Nova Scotia.

Truro also has a Women's Resource Centre that is a Safe Place for Rainbow women.

Central Nova Women's Resource Centre is open weekdays and has FREE supportive/crisis counselling. There are also on-going programs and workshops. The phone number is (902) 895-4295 and the centre is located at 535 Prince Street in Truro.

### Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca), and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have 2007 back issues on line now and will be adding 2006 soon. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca)!

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# Theatre Review: The Laramie Project

By J.C. Aucoin

On October 7, 1998, gay university student Matthew Shepard was kidnapped, brutally beaten, tied to a fence and left to die on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. He succumbed to his injuries in hospital five days later, never having regained consciousness.

From the initial media circus that descended on a small railroad and ranching town, to the three movies, numerous articles and books, and approximately twenty songs recorded by the likes of Melissa Etheridge, Ron Sexsmith, Tori Amos and Elton John, few other events in modern queer history have garnered the same level of media attention, or cultural exploration, as the death of Matthew Shepard. The play, *The Laramie Project*, was the first major contribution to that cultural exploration.

The *Laramie Project* began as a series of in-person interviews with the residents of Laramie a month after Shepard's death. Moisés Kaufman and his company members from the Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie a total of six times over the next two years, interviewing over two hundred residents. From those interviews more than sixty characters

emerged to tell the story through the voices of Laramie's real-life citizens as they struggle to uncover the crime's roots in their community, and to make sense of Shepard's death and the impact on every person of the area. The play is often moving, sometimes funny, always riveting, and ultimately affirming.

This DalTheatre production is an ensemble piece constructed of interviews simply told: a bare stage, assorted wooden chairs that are moved and reorganized as needed, stark lighting and minimal sound effects, sixteen actors dressed in mostly plain clothing, some TV screens, a few props. The simplicity of the telling belies the complexity, power, and even harsh beauty of the story that unfolds.

The cast is consistently strong. Composed entirely of fourth-year Dalhousie University acting students, they each portray multiple characters over the course of the play. Dressed casually and simply, they add or remove a hat, scarf or coat to visually differentiate one character from the next, but they also make great use of body language, accent, and their minimal props. The transitions are smooth, and while a limited few

characters border on caricatures, the vast majority are very well realized and brought to life immediately by the actors. Among this solid ensemble cast two actors in particular stand out. Stephanie Folkins as Officer Reggie Fluty brings out the complexity and humanity of her character's situation with only the very few short scenes afforded her. And Charles Mancini fully inhabits acting student Jedediah Schultz and brings each of his four other characters to life with the same aplomb. In addition to a collection of great performances the pacing of the entire production is spot on. When a two and one half hour play that's "all talk" keeps you transfixed for the duration, you know director Christian Barry has done justice to the script and earned his keep.

While the presentation of this actor-driven play is simple from the viewpoint of the audience, the design and technical framework that supports it is far from simple. This play is made up of hundreds of mini-scenes that require an even greater number of lighting and other technical cues. Likewise elements like the onstage live video broadcast of certain scenes, and the rainy section also requires considerable technical finesse to



pull off effectively. Throughout this production all the costume, lighting, sound and other design and technical choices made here served the show very well by staying understated, yet still amply contributing to the overall vision, and they were all handled with great skill.

I only have a couple of minor complaints. An unintentionally noisy lighting fixture exit will hopefully be

corrected, and the final lighting display might have benefited from having a blackout curtain behind it, but these are very minor quibbles from an otherwise solid production.

Dalhousie Theatre's *The Laramie Project* is a great production of one of the most powerful English-language theatre scripts of the past decade. Don't miss it. Four stars out of five.

## Stepping Stone: Support for Former and Current Sex Workers

By J. Rene Ross, Executive Director  
Stepping Stone is pleased to announce the completion and launch of our website, which can be found at [www.steppingstonens.ca](http://www.steppingstonens.ca).

Stepping Stone is a user-directed non-profit organization based in Halifax that provides supportive programs and services to former and current sex workers that contribute to their health, safety and well-being. 2009 will mark our twentieth year of operation.

In addition to providing information on our programs and services, our new website brings forward the voices and point of view of sex workers on topics crucial issues such as dispelling myths, the negative impacts of criminalization, and the fundamental right to choice, health, safety and livelihood.

Thank you to the many sex workers, volunteers, partners and colleagues who provided crucial input throughout the development of this

site.

In addition, please note our new mailing address: 2151 Gottingen Street, P.O. Box 47032, Halifax, NS, B3K 5Y2. Our physical location remains the same.



## New Schedule for Halifax Guyz Group

The Guyz Group is a social group for gay and bisexual men. The purpose of the group is to provide a safe space for men to come together to develop social networks and talk about their experiences. This group now meets the third Thursday of each month in The Library at Menz Bar, 2182 Gottingen Street, Halifax between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Gabe Saulnier will

continue to facilitate the meetings but the Guyz Group will be shaped and defined by its membership. Please come join us. If you have any questions please contact Chris Aucoin, the Gay Men's Health Coordinator at the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, 902-425-4882, ext. 222, or email [gmlc@acns.ns.ca](mailto:gmlc@acns.ns.ca).

### Important WAYVES Dates!

**Issue Content Deadlines:** Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1, Jun 5; that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) any time!

**Production Meetings (Halifax):** *Mondays* Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 8. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

**Magazine Layout (Halifax):** Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 13, May 10, Jun 14. Help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. **On the stands, in the mail, and online the fourth Friday of every month.**

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### wayves

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

**wayves** is an independent publication, published every month - except January - by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to **wayves** is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. **wayves** reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in **wayves** are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the calendar of the Community Events page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and might be edited for length. Submissions should be e-mailed - in plain text - to the address noted below. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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# A Happy and Healthy 2009 to All!

By Angus Campbell  
Every year Safe Harbour MCC holds a Christmas dinner for members and friends of our community. It started about 16 years ago to ensure that people with HIV and/or members of the GLBT community had a good supper and holiday celebration. On December 13 I joined almost 200 others at St. John's United Church Hall for fabulous food, a terrific time and a phenomenal demonstration of what "community" really means. Appropriately, in honour of the passing

of a pillar in the Halifax community, the event has been renamed to The Reverend Darlene M. Young Memorial Christmas Dinner. God bless you Darlene. We all miss you.

In other news, prideHealth, sponsored by Capital Health and the IWK, has recently launched their confidential primary health care services with nurse Anita Keeping. I met with Anita to discuss this exciting new program. Currently they are only providing counselling and referral services, and it's working well. A gay man who is

new to HRM contacted me looking for a gay-friendly and knowledgeable doctor. I referred him to Anita who was able to find a good fit for him. She's been busy assembling a database of available physicians in HRM, amongst other things.

Some of you may remember Anita when she was the HIV nurse at the Halifax Sexual Health Centre. She has been an ally of our community for many years, so if you have any questions or want to talk, contact her at 220-0643 or Anita.Keeping@cdha.

nshealth.ca.  
Speaking of HSHC, there's a wonderful new HIV nurse at the clinic named Emma Rose. She's a new arrival to the province and you're gonna love her. Emma comes to us from Toronto Public Health where she worked at a sexual health clinic. Are you due for an HIV test? Why not take this opportunity to call Emma at 455-5696, welcome her to Nova Scotia and have some blood work done. Start off the new year with current knowledge about your health.

My apologies to those outside of HRM for being so Halifax-centric this month. It's a really busy season for me too. As I complete my first year of this column I'd like to thank everyone for all the feedback and support. I'm looking forward to bringing you more good information in 2009. As always, if you have questions, comments or suggestions, feel free to contact me in confidence at AngCam59@yahoo.ca. Share the love!

## New Brunswick Increases Support For Needle Distribution Programs

Funding will be more than doubled for needle distribution programs throughout New Brunswick, Health Minister Michael Murphy announced at the end of November.

"Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day 2008, an occasion that highlights the importance of protecting public health so that New Brunswickers can be well, be self-reliant and be involved in our province's efforts to be self-sufficient

by 2026," Murphy said. "Our government is investing more in needle distribution programs because public health experts have affirmed they are an effective way to prevent the spread of AIDS and the viruses that cause hepatitis B and hepatitis C."

Three organizations—AIDS New Brunswick, AIDS Saint John and SIDA/AIDS Moncton— deliver needle distribution programs in the

province through community partnerships and volunteers.

This year, the Department of Health is contributing more than \$100,000 for the purchase of needles, syringes and related supplies. Murphy said another \$150,000 will be provided—\$50,000 to each organization—so they may hire staff dedicated for distribution programs.

The funding will begin this year

and will be provided annually under the terms of a three-year agreement between the department and the three organizations.

"AIDS New Brunswick, AIDS Saint John and SIDA/AIDS Moncton are finding it increasingly difficult to deliver these programs solely through volunteer support," Murphy said. "This investment will help these organizations to meet the demand for

these programs."  
The number of needles being distributed is expected to rise to 620,000 this fiscal year from 120,000 in 2004-05.

Murphy said the additional funding is in keeping with the objective of the provincial health plan to improve services for people who struggle with addictions.

## Neville Bangs Gavel At Youth Project Auction

Going once, going twice, sold! This was a common phrase heard at the fourth Annual Brunch and Auction, hosted by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Youth Project on Sunday, November 25, 2008. Over 200 guests crowded their way into the main ballroom at the Prince George Hotel in downtown Halifax and enjoyed a beautifully prepared brunch.

"We should take great pride in the fact that our community has pulled together not only for the Youth Project, but also to build a sense of 'family' across a wide cross section of our population in HRM and beyond," says Mike Williams, event chair. "We're so thankful to everyone who graciously donated items for the auction, to the volunteers for rolling up their sleeves and helping out, and to all of the members of the community who came out and showed their ongoing support."

Some of the hot items this year included artwork by various community artists, a chair from Statement Design, and at-home catering by both Dykes Do Dinner! Three-D Catering and Just Dressed Catering. The most buzz was around the E-Bike donated by Green P Limited. In total, there were over 85 items donated by local businesses within the community.

Kris Figueroa, Kite Patrick McAtamney, and Devin Donegani all gave moving speeches about their involvement with the Youth Project. "The impact that the Youth Project has had on my life is significant. The staff goes above and beyond to meet the needs of our diverse community," says Figueroa.

Neville McKay, local celebrity and owner of My Mother's Bloomer's, was this year's auctioneer for the event. The crowd immediately fell in love with his sense of humour, and ability to engage the audience. When all was said and done, the auction raised over \$20,000 in support of the many programs and services offered by the Youth Project.

The auction coat-tailed the Youth Project's fifteenth anniversary celebration, celebrated the week before. The Youth Project provides support and services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth, 25 and under, across Nova Scotia. The Project has been running since 1993 and provides

a safe, supportive, youth directed environment where youth can access information, peers, support, and social activities. The Youth Project provides support, education and information to youth, their friends and families, school, social services, organizations and the community.

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## Desirability vs. Risky Behaviour

Gay men who are not considered sexually desirable are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour according to new research out of the University of Toronto. They may also develop psychological problems as a consequence of feeling undesirable.

Adam Isaiah Green, Assistant Professor of Sociology at U of T, interviewed dozens of gay men in Toronto to determine what qualities

made some men more sexually desirable than others, and what the consequences of being undesirable might be on mental and physical health.

"I found that young, white, middle-class men are considered much more sexually desirable than men who are racial minorities, over 40 and poor," says Green. "I also learned that for gay men, being considered sexually undesirable can have serious

health consequences ranging from psychological issues to risky sexual behaviour."

The study—among the first to examine the link between sex and mental health—found that undesirable gay men face stigmatization, avoidance and outright rejection, which can lead to depression, anxiety and alcohol abuse. It also highlighted cases whereby undesirable gay men

will forego safe-sex discussion and, in some cases, condom use, in the context of sex with a more attractive partner.

"We tend to devalue sexual life as something that is extracurricular and frivolous, but this research shows a significant link between sexual desirability and health," says Green. "Men with low levels of 'erotic capital' are systematically marginalized, which

can take a real toll both physically and psychologically."

For more information on the study, published in the current edition of the Journal of Health and Social Behaviour, please contact:

Adam Isaiah Green, Assistant Professor of Sociology: 416-978-8261 or AdamIsaiah.Green@utoronto.ca.

## ACNS: New Gay Men's Health Coordinator

ACNS (Aids Coalition of Nova Scotia) has named Chris Aucoin as the new Gay Men's Health Coordinator.

His primary responsibilities will involve HIV prevention and related programs for gay and bisexual men, including awareness campaigns, skills building workshops, and ongoing development and collaboration with community partners.

Aucoin has a background in psychology and education, and has

been involved in grass roots community development and advocacy work regarding GLBT, HIV/AIDS, and anti-poverty issues stretching back more than fifteen years.

If you have any questions about the work of the Gay Men's Health project, or about sexual health or HIV/AIDS issues more generally, please feel free to call (902) 425-4882 ext. 222 to speak to Chris, or send an email to gmhc@acns.ns.ca.

## Butt Out! (Alive)

By Angus Campbell

It's that time of year again when most of us make New Year's resolutions, or at least think about making them. If you're considering giving up smoking, then you may want to attend "The Last Drag," an information session offered by OUT! Alive, a GLBT volunteer organization sponsored by Capital Health's Addiction Prevention and Treatment Services.

Out Alive! and APTS have held "The Last Drag" information session

in HRM twice before. They keep growing in popularity! And in order to bring emphasis that smoking cessation is for everyone, this session is open to all ages.

Come down to The Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick Street on Thursday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. to find out how you can get healthier and get access to counselling and support services—not to mention free nicotine patches and gum. Call 424-2025 for more information.

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*Oscar Wilde*

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## Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom

Happy New Year old chum—or as they say in your neck of the woods: Gelukkig Nieuwjaar and Bonne Année. Just making it to the beginning of another year feels like an accomplishment, doesn't it? January, while rather bleak in terms of weather and carrying a bit of an emotional letdown after the manic festivities of December, symbolizes renewal and hope. As I was putting up my new Naughty Daddies calendar, a brand spanking New Year of possibilities rose up in my imagination.

This month Obama will be sworn in at the White House while here in Canada there is a strong possibility we will have a new Prime Minister. Harper's most effective action so far has been to bring together all the other parties—against him. Perhaps not the kind of national unity he was striving for. His political style has been described as a throwback to an earlier time—certainly that helmet haircut is out of date. If this were an episode of Star Trek TNG, we would discover that his appearance in our world was caused by a rupture in the space/time continuum and by the end of the show he would be returned to his alternate universe where he could coexist with Jesus and dinosaurs and Sarah Palin.

On the other hand, Ignatieff is still an unknown quantity. He is certainly intelligent but where does he stand on queer and other social issues? Time will tell I suppose and, at this point, almost any change will be welcome. Occasionally I feel the need to play Barbra singing "Happy Days Are Here Again" over and over just to keep my spirits up.

An active social life is essential during the dreary cold months. I was much occupied over the holidays with the usual, but much appreciated, dinners, gifts, cards—including a delightfully suggestive one from Mr. Enticer in South Carolina. Now, some of my friends find other ways to while away the winter hours. Nicola and the Dodger, for example, are in the midst of completely renovating their kitchen. (This is what happens when you give a lesbian a tool belt for Christmas.)

A spate of birthdays recently at the Anthill and Fisherman's Freud household kept me busy and entertained. One evening, having overindulged just a bit, I stayed the night in their spare room. I was surprised to wake up in the morning in bed with a monkey. (Oh, how I wish I could tell you that was the first time I've ever said THAT sentence.) It was only a plush toy, a souvenir from the play Wicked, but rather startling all the same to roll over and see his green face next to mine on the pillow.

Another evening I had an interesting conversation with FF when he told me that he knew a man who

might like to meet me and, in the same breath, asked me how I felt about team games. My eyes lit up until I realized he meant sports. However, as I told FF, I am a multi-faceted 21st century gay man; it isn't all disco balls and martinis with me. I often watch sports on television. (Yes, Tom, I do mean besides figure skating... and it is too a sport. It's in the Olympics, along with men's gymnastics, diving and Greco-roman wrestling!) It's true that the only professional sports I watch are soccer and rugby, and mostly with the sound off but that's just to increase the visual impact. Have you seen Australian rules football? All the men wear these tight, very skimpy shorts and always seem to be falling down and getting wet and muddy. Ah, mes dieux du stade, as the French say.

As for Mr. X, I haven't met him yet so I'm still available for a suitable sugar (or Belgian chocolate) daddy. Not that I'm willing to settle for just anyone, Tom. Like Jean Brodie, I am in my prime! Gay life is a bit like the seasons. A young twink is like spring—lots of sap rising, rather green and characterized by bouncing energy and a randy spirit. I, on the other hand, am firmly in midsummer—more mature, plenty of heat and lots of experience but without being jaded. I take time to smell the roses but I don't feel the need to pluck every flower I see.

Yes, January is a reflective time of year. I don't make resolutions—it just sets up a way to measure failure and we already have Dr. Phil for that. What I do get a kick out of is the weird predictions made by psychics, financial advisors, newscasters and other kooks. There should be a gay Jeanne Dixon giving us headlines like:

"Anita Bryant caught squeezing another woman's oranges."

"Seven day rainbow makes Halifax, Nova Scotia, the gay centre of the world. Meteorologists puzzled."

"Rev. Fred Phelps badly mauled by German Shepherd named Matthew."

"Crawford Hastie discovered in celebrity love triangle with Shemar Moore and Jamie Foxx."

Okay maybe that last one is a bit of wishful thinking but a gay man can dream, can't he?

Love ya!



## A Rural Point Of View

By Paula Arsenault

On a frosty evening in Pictou County, eighteen lesbians gather. Not exactly cutting edge news—but this is a slice of the rainbow dirt road life. Once summer guests stop visiting and the harvest is safely "put down," the wintertime gatherings begin. In the next two months we have rainbow events to attend every weekend and some are even double-booked.

When I commented on this at the last event the comment was, "well we look forward to this time of year to catch up with each other." Believe me: we're not just about potlucks! One of the newest reasons to get together is sharing the new season of the L Word. The women who choose not to watch the lives and loves of the LA lesbians, they competitively face each other over a game of Sequence. Of course there is food, and chatter and laughter.

As good Maritimers we even do a round of, "Who's your mother, who's is your father?" and we find that indeed we are only 6 degrees of separation. As good lesbians, we also have a go at, "Who's your ex?" One of the conversations was around our ages, a small handful of young women were above 40 but under 50, and the rest were between 50 and 65. Some of the older women laughingly commented, "We'll be 70 before you are 50." The conversation on age was interesting as reminiscing began on a variety of past times. These included: past women we have known, protests we attended and road trips taken.

One woman told us a story about how her partner got depressed when she turned 30. She thought she would have to start wearing granny panties and polyester pants with elastic waists. "What am I going to wear when I get old? I only wear jeans!" I start thinking about what will we wear when we get old and perhaps have to live in a nursing home. On the drive home

that evening my spouse and I began a conversation about quality of life and how we want to be treated. The next step is getting it written down. Next potluck topic at our house: On dying!

Life in rural areas is different than the urban life. I take advantage of my pseudo-reporter status and ask what issues are facing this group of middle aged, middle income lesbians. The biggest concerns are the eroding infrastructures. The loss of the only bank machine in the area is of concern. The state of the roads. The price of gas. The fight to keep the local hospitals open. The consensus on the main problems is the fact that all of these fundamentals to keeping a community vibrant are being managed by people who operate from an amalgamated position in a larger urban area. In the past there were locally managed banks, grocery stores, gas stations, and hospitals.

We discuss the political situation and the potential threats to the resources we hold dear. In the not-so-distant past we rallied together to protest the cuts to women's programs. The women of this area have always had a strong voice for the individual and the collective. As a young woman in the 1980's I would be in awe of the Pictou County women who would venture into the city to join in protest marches. Now 20 years later I am honoured to be included in activities with my role model mothers and lesbian foremothers.

In the coming months we will be cozy and warm on our rainbow dirt road. There will be more potlucks, gatherings and conversations in the months to come. A hint for those watching CBC in the winter season you may be surprised to meet a rainbow family in an up-coming reality show. I can only hint as I am under the cone of silence!

*As good lesbians,  
we also have a go at,  
"Who's your ex?"*

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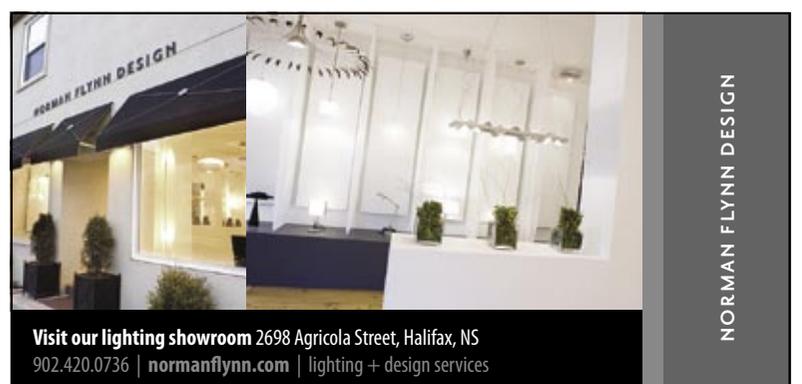
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# Laser Hair Removal

By Ellie Dexter

My tongue traced a line around her beautiful pussy. I didn't realize how much I would enjoy the softness of her skin now that there was no hair. I don't mean shaving. I'm talking laser, baby!

I never thought I would have considered laser hair removal. In fact I went the opposite way. I refused to buy into heterosexual notions of beauty and protested by tossing my pretty pink razors and embracing fur. I had furry pits with all the new aromas, scary hairy legs, and enough fur down there to keep a small Chihuahua warm. Move over Paris Hilton, my pocket pet is furrrier than yours and I don't carry it around in a purse. She's tucked away and brought out on special occasions, like the Shedog's bathroom.

I was declaring my new dykedom, or so I thought. In trying to define myself as a queer woman I bought into the stereotypical lesbian identity. I soon got bored of scratchy, prickly pubic hair, and shortly after was introduced to the concept of neat and tidy. A trim here and there was on the menu during weekly shaving, bathing and playtime. I was so aroused by this play that I found myself fantasizing about shaving my pussy and setting her free.

What would my partner think if I told her I wanted all the hair gone? Poised over me, armed with the razor she would ask, "So what would you like?" Each time I would ask for more hair to be removed until one time she declared, "There's really not much left. Do you want me to take it all off?"

I could feel my heart beating faster and faster and finally I answered, "Yes!" When she was done, I reached down and indulged in the smooth and silky feeling of my touch, as it sent electric messages to my sweaty, contracting cunt. "Wow. That feels nice."

I got out of the tub and approached the mirror with apprehension. In reality, when I was in the

closet I felt I had betrayed my pussy and couldn't face her. In my imprisoned identity I wrapped myself in pounds so that no one could see me. As a result of the excessive weight I couldn't even see my pussy when I looked down. It never even occurred to me to do the "Fried Green Tomatoes" thing; I cried with Kathy Bates as she told Jessica Tandy, "I can't even

*Move over Paris Hilton, my pocket pet is furrrier than yours and I don't carry it around in a purse.*

look at my vagina!"

But now I was tired of being invisible. I had not seen my pussy in thirty years. I knew she would look different... but what if she was old and wrinkly? What if I didn't like her? I held my breath and braced myself as I approached the mirror. And then I saw her for the first time in a long time. She was beautiful and full. She was sexy and confident. I was in love again and missed my old friend.

The labels I hated—femme, dyke—just didn't cut it anymore. I started taking pride in my appearance again. I tossed my clippers, razors and baseball caps. My partner and I went on romantic dates: we would wear evening gowns, go out to Mollyz for dinner, then go to the Neptune for a play. I realized I liked feeling and looking beautiful and didn't feel at all guilty that I was straying from the

queer community's idea of what a lesbian was or should be. I decided to integrate the masculine and the feminine and accept me for me.

I soon found myself researching laser hair removal, realizing it was surprisingly affordable and accessible. I made a list of possible places that were safe and clean, looking for a place that would accept my new-found gayness. After all, the technician would have her face between my legs, a privilege I have granted to only two other women: my family doctor and my partner. I was relieved when I found someone who was

a nurse, like me, who understood professionalism, confidentiality and the importance of education related to the use of lasers. I found she also had a great sense of humour during my second visit when I reported casually that my partner had performed quality control and came up fully satisfied.

My partner was so impressed that she signed up to get her bikini line done. The thought of never having to shave again just doesn't sink in until one day you realise you haven't shaved in months and your pocket pet has moved on.

As an out, queer woman I now embrace my hairlessness and don't care what people think. After all, queer magazines celebrate hot men with their shiny, ripped, hairless pecs! I'm reclaiming all the years I lost hiding in the closet. I realize I deserve to

be pampered and I now celebrate my spirit as a beautiful, confident queer woman. As I age—gracefully, I might add—and live the life I hid from I look forward to taking advantage of the multitude of treatment options

available to me.

A new definition of the queer woman is emerging. She can now toss her razor along with her clippers as she heads off into the sunset on her Harley.



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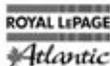
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# Ramblings From The Sanctuary Gardens

## An Advent/Solstice Prayer

By Bethana Sullivan

"The conclusion is always the same; love is the most powerful and still the most unknown energy in the world." Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), Jesuit, Theologian, Palaeontologist, Philosopher, Poet, Biologist

December 8 marks the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Despite many years of non-participation in the Catholic Church I find my memory still filled with the rituals of my childhood. Over time I have found that the roots of memory send up a new shoot periodically and repeatedly to call me to attention. But I resist the call, for good reason in my eyes, because calls like this generally are about something that I don't want to attend to. I prefer to keep my head in the sand, my back to wall and my feet in concrete—you choose the metaphor that works for you in your own life. Taken together the images mean I am stuck and in survival mode.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is about how Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived in a state of grace. Grace is the last thing I want to know about as I stand with my back to the wall about so many things—the continual embedded hate expressed in the Catholic belief about homosexuality; the lack of balance between economic and environmental needs; the continual thrust towards hard fact in accountability in so many fields; the drive for certainty expressed in the phrase, "We need to make sure this (some painful reality) never happens again." And

with Christmas/Winter Solstice come the deep and painful memory of my mother's death on Christmas Day and how I wasn't there because of some position I was holding onto, clouding my vision against seeing what was actually happening.

My back-to-the-wall stance tells me I am holding on to something because it is familiar, a sense of being wronged, of being misunderstood, of being painted as "the other," of being

*We wait in pause time  
with anticipation,  
with hope, with grace,  
fearful that there  
may not be another  
chance; there may be  
no more possibilities.*

demonized or of demonizing. The call I hear today is the strongest of the many I have heard during the last months since our ceremony, and because several family members didn't come, I have been angry and hurt, and I have been unable to engage in any way with them since. Herein lies the root of my angst-filled stance against the wall.

Stepping away from the wall may mean I am stepping forward towards you, to who you are: your beliefs, feelings, hopes and worries. It means letting go of an important value of our culture, the "I-you" of individualism, of separation and protectiveness,

towards the "I-Thou" of connectedness. Here we walk together, we talk together, we cry together and we change through power—with not power-over. We actively seek to foster the best in each other, living the belief that we are all responsible for the common good, for each other and for the earth.

The call of the Immaculate Conception, the meaning of which is rooted in past history, whose meaning has been broadened and deepened through an evolutionary process de Chardin describes as, "the consciousness of each of us... looking at itself and reflecting upon itself," is to remember the state of grace at the core of being, the place from which we can be reborn into a different kind of relationship.

These weeks of moving towards winter are a time of deepening darkness, of preparing for the harsh, stark beauty of winter, a time when the heat and light of the sun is felt less and less. A time of waiting... waiting... waiting... hoping the light will return. But first is that moment of the sun seemingly standing still at its point of farthest distance from us, the winter solstice. Will light return? Will the fires of life spark again? These metaphoric reflect what we ask ourselves when things have gone wrong, when we are in an "I-you" mode. This waiting time is crucial for reflection, for remembering, for listening for and to the voice of light and grace within the darkness. We wait in pause time with anticipation, with hope, with grace, fearful that there may not be another chance; there may be no more possibilities. We may panic in pause time yet still wait for the time to take right action.

In terms of my family members, I feel a teensy, tiny opening to a possibility of a different relationship with them, one that acknowledges their difficulty and my pain; it is just a beginning, my version of finding that spark of light, of grace that may help me to listen and love.

May the light and the darkness be celebrated in all our lives this special time of the year.

# Reviews

## Wrangler: Anatomy of an Icon

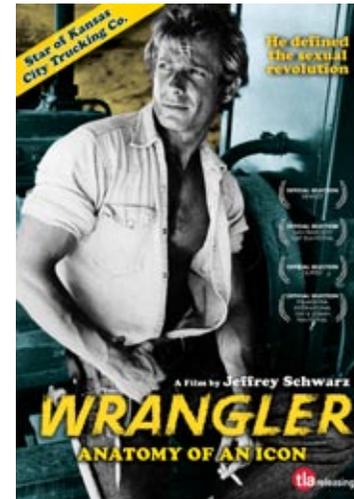
TLA Releasing

Review by Ralph Higgins

Most of us remember vividly the first time we saw Jack Wrangler, the image burned into our memories. He was a handsome, well built man but it was much more than his obvious physical attributes which held our attention; it was his presence, his self-assurance, an almost swaggering arrogance and erotic boldness that kept us glued to our seats, unable to believe our eyes or take them off him.

In *Wrangler, Anatomy of an Icon*, filmmaker Jeffrey Schwarz examines the phenomenon that was Jack Wrangler. Through interviews and film clips, we revisit those heady days of the '70's and early '80's when Gay Liberation became a social force and Jack Wrangler rode a tidal wave of popularity. His name alone ensured box office success. Wrangler was the antithesis of the limp-wristed, lispng weakling that had been the stereotype of the gay man for decades previously. He was completely unashamed of being homosexual. As one colleague says, "He wasn't concerned about being gay. He was only concerned about getting laid."

Yet, there was much more behind this public persona. Wrangler himself tells his own story—his childhood as the son of a successful Hollywood film producer, his early attempts at a career in the legitimate theatre, and finally his entry into the burgeoning world of gay male erotica and films. Wrangler has lost none of his charm and is as amusing and forthright as ever about the absurdities and strange twists of his life. In spite of his assertion, for example, that he is now



and always was gay, "not bisexual, not confused but gay!" Wrangler left his flourishing gay film career and entered into the world of straight pornography where he was equally successful until the beginning of the AIDS epidemic made being an openly gay man a liability in the industry. Around the same time, Wrangler fell in love with and married Margaret Whiting, the well-known singer and a woman twenty years his senior. He offers no explanation of why or how this happened; instead he accepts it as one of the many happy mysteries of his life.

The DVD offers many clips of his early films and even through the muddy production values and ludicrous scenarios of those days, the Wrangler magic shines. Though the DVD is marked unrated, the images shown are more R than XXX. Wrangler, *Anatomy of an Icon* gives us a vivid, fascinating portrait of both the man and the icon.

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# Reviews Continued

## Got 'til it's Gone

by Larry Duplechan

Arsenal Pulp Press

Review by Ralph Higgins

Johnny Ray Rousseau is a gay black man who is about to turn 48. As he explains to friends, once a gay man turns 50 he has three choices. First up, "the Troll," who has given up on his appearance and doesn't care if he has sprouting nose hair and sagging boobs lying on his fat belly. Second, "the Auntie," the older queen, fond of Hawaiian shirts and gold chains and able to quote classic films and Broadway librettos by heart. Finally, there is—and this is Johnny Ray's fervent goal—"the Daddy," silver-haired but muscled, fit, sexual and very beddable. Living alone and rather content with his life but still hoping to find love, Johnny Ray continues his search for someone to share his life with. He is eager but not desperate. The illness of several friends has made mortality a constant presence in his thoughts but when he gets some bad news about his mother's health, he recognizes that as his idol, Joni Mitchell, wrote, "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." Johnny Ray tries to find a balance between living a full life while dealing with death.

Got 'til it's Gone is a novel which positively bristles with wit and intelligence. Yet underneath the glittering surface of bon mots and camp humour is a solid core of heart and compassion. Johnny Ray is the kind of character that you will only reluctantly, and with regret, accept to be fictional. He is the man we want to be and the kind of man we want to find.

Larry Duplechan is an author who writes with keen understanding of the effect of middle age for gay men and his observations about the joys and absurdities of queer life ring with truth. I was drawn into the life of this novel from the very first sentence and as I approached the end I read with increasing slowness, unwilling to let



it go. Got 'til it's Gone is a book to enjoy more than once.



Chew on these Chicklits at Menz Bar, on the last Sunday of every month. Photo: Michael J. Goodwin

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# Chef's Corner



To ring in the New Year and my fifth anniversary writing for Wayves, I have decided to offer up a delicious and effective way to get all of your New Year's Eve guests into a pleasantly festive mood. All you will need is a martini shaker, a strainer, crushed ice, chilled martini glasses, a well stocked bar, and a few good friends, (or someone you are hoping will become a good friend...)

A warning, though! This cocktail has been known to cause an extreme sense of well-being and occasional outbursts of uncontrollable laughter. Happy New Year and remember to plan ahead to ensure all of your party guests get home safe and sound.

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](http://www.chives.ca).

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1/4 Cointreau Liqueur	1 tsp pomegranate seeds
1-oz Cranberry & Pomegranate juice cocktail	
2-oz dry Champagne	

### Method

1. Pour the vodka, liqueurs and juice over a shaker one-half full of ice.
2. Shake vigorously and strain into a chilled martini glass.
3. Top up with the Champagne and garnish with orange twist and pomegranate seed.
4. And repeat, if necessary!

## Letter

Dear Wayves,

I wish to acknowledge the tremendous amount of community co-operation that took place last month for the International Transgender Remembrance Day Vigils around the country, particularly in the Maritimes. Our local GLBT groups did an awesome job of showing more support overall in the public arena than has possibly ever been seen, especially here in the Maritimes.

The coalition of the Youth Project, Safe Harbour and Pride Health was one of the most positive Trans community events to take place in Halifax. The support from allies like NSRAP, BLT, Trans Families and Wayves cannot be overlooked. This has led to a community awareness of each others presence that is truly outstanding. A special encouragement to me was the event in Wolfville at Horton High School, where a candlelight vigil was held on Thursday, November 20, commemorating those who have died in the past year.

Mr. Leonard Preyra, NDP MLA, started our day out with a reading of recognition of the special day that was overwhelmingly supported by the members of the Legislature. MP Bill Siksay read a similar statement in Parliament later the same day.

Thank you to these groups for their efforts and all the special work that each person did.

Regards,  
Denise Holliday



We got six responses to last month's question, "If you could do just one thing in 2009 to improve your community, what would it be?"

"To come out" was posted twice. I say, any time is a great time to come out, so 2009 is a whole 365 days!

"More GLBT-friendly functions and hang-outs in P.E.I." Having spent 19 years in Charlottetown, I couldn't agree more!

"Stop all the back biting—be friendlier towards each other. The younger ones have to learn that not all mature men are out to 'bed' them. They can be great friends." Again, I couldn't agree more. Personally, I think men only start getting REALLY hot after 40!

Someone posted a rant. I agree with the sentiment, but I wonder about the vitriol:

"Open a WOMEN-ONLY bar: I am tired of breeder-central Reflections. I am sick of being relegated to Dyke-Night in cum-filled corners of Menz Bar and Seadog's. I am bored of waiting for Dyke Dances three times a year at some out-of-the-way straight establishment bought special for us little old lezzers. Is no one else sick of this? There is nothing to do in this godforsaken city—queer Hali needs to recognize that lezzies are half of the queer equation and if you want us to keep participating in the community, fighting for Q-rights and our general support, then our right to entertainment and a safe public space needs to be filled. Of course, I shouldn't be shocked—women are traditionally denied access to public space by men, why would I have thought gay men would be any different?"

Cum-filled corners? Did Doug discard his mops? I say to this, put your money where your mouth is and do something about it.

Finally, my favourite response:

"I would like to do something to inspire the young people, so that they would believe that there's hope for a happy life and future. I would like to inspire them to believe that they are the ones in charge of their destiny. They, and only they, are in control."

Amen, and write for Wayves, too!

### This Month's Question

On February 14, will you celebrate as Saint Valentine's Day or as Pink Triangle Day?

You tell us at: [wayves.ca](http://wayves.ca)!

## UN Declaration for Decriminalization

On December 18, at the United Nations in New York, Louis-Georges Tin led a contingent from France that presented a declaration to the UN General Assembly urging the decriminalization of homosexuality worldwide. It is the first time that the General Assembly has ever considered the issue of human rights as they concern lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

To date, 66 countries have signed the declaration, or one-third of UN member states. If some 95 countries sign, the declaration will pave the way for a UN resolution for the same, which will have profound ramifications for those states in which homosexuality is still illegal and, in the worst cases, punishable by death.

The Vatican and the Organization of Islamic States have already expressed their opposition to the UN resolution.

At the press conference that followed, Louis-Georges Tin was accompanied by Maxime Vergahen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and Rama Yade, Secretary of State for International Affairs and Human Rights of France. In appreciation for her support, Louis-Georges presented Maxime with a copy of his book *The Dictionary of Homophobia*.



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MPI1382 (11/2007)



## 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](mailto:sarah@acnl.net).

**Women's Pool Night at Locas Bar**  
Spring Garden & Queen in Halifax  
(above Rogue's Roost, 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.

[womanspoolnight@gmail.com](mailto:womanspoolnight@gmail.com) - "Women's Pool Night" on Facebook

# WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

## Atlantic Canada

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

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces. email: AtlanticCanadianLesbians@groups.msn.com web: groups.msn.com/AtlanticCanadianLesbians

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

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

GaySpaces, Fredericton: Free postings of GLBT-friendly places to live in Canada. email: info@gayspaces.org web: www.gayspaces.org

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: gender\_expressions@hotmail.com web: www.geocities.com/gender\_expressions/ (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Healing Our Nations, Dartmouth: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: director@accesswave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Healing Our Nations staff meet once on a weekly basis. Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project, Upper Musquodoboit: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. (902)568-2935 email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

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

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

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

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

Propitiation, Toronto: A fellowship of gay and lesbian Anglicans and their friends. 416-977-4359 email: propitiation@hotmail.com (We meet on a Saturday or Sunday Evening once every other month for Evening Prayer Discussion, refreshments and fellowship. Contact for meeting location) at members homes. We prefer our heritage, worship, and Spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer. We are troubled by such right wing organizations as the prayer book society and Essentials.

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Editorial meeting one Monday night a month; layout one Sunday a month; email us to be notified of meetings & deadlines!)

## New Brunswick (506)

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church, Saint John: invites you to worship!. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS Moncton, Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick, Fredericton: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. 459-7518 email: sidaids@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.aidsnb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

AIDS Saint John, Saint John: improve quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV, reduce the spread through education 652-2437 email: aidssj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aidsaintjohn.com

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton: Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG), Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area): A bilingual volunteer association serving gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of northern New Brunswick. email: info@gngnb.ca web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

Integrity, Fredericton and area: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: davidstaples@rogers.com web: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity/Integrity.htm, meets 3rd Sunday (Group gayhers for a Service on the third Sunday of each month at 4 pm in ChristChurch Cathedral, Fredericton)

Moncton Line Dancing, Moncton: LINE DANCING for all levels from beginner to advanced. No partner required. No dress code. , meets every Wednesday (8:30pm sharp) at Triangles Bar, corner of St. George and Archibald.

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

PFLAG Canada - Fredericton, Fredericton: all welcome. (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-list-e.asp?RegionNo=6&ProvAbbr=NB, meets 2nd monday (Phone or e-mail for meeting location and details.) at Sackville:112 Main Street or Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst, Sackville NB/Amherst NS: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

PFLAG Canada - Saint John NB, Saint John: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (506)648-9700 or 648-9227 email: saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn, meets 1st Friday (1st Friday of each month September - June from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. No meeting in July & August. ) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

Port City Rainbow Pride, Saint John: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: events@portcityrainbowpride.com web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

River Of Pride, Moncton: Organizes, promotes and produces Moncton's Pride events!. email: monctonriverofpride2008@gmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca, meets 1st Sunday, and 3rd Sunday (contact ilaisha@nbnet.nb.ca for further meeting and event dates) at Triangles bar 234 St. George St. Moncton NB

Safe Spaces Fundy Region, Saint John: Committed to ending discrimination around issues of sexual orientation in youth. email: safespaces@gmail.com web: www.safespacesfundy.com (See our webpage for schedule of meetings and socials etc @ www.safespacesfundy.com)

Safe Spaces Moncton Region, Moncton: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049 email: info@safespaces.ca web: www.safespaces.ca

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library, Saint John: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com (open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noon.) at the office of Centenary Queen Square United Church at 215 Wentworth Street.

Spectrum, Fredericton: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum, meets every Tuesday (See webpage for schedule.)

The UNBSJ Q-Collective, Saint John: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News".

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton, Moncton: Vise à éduquer, à sensibiliser et à offrir des ressources dans la langue française. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/ (Visitez le site Web ou envoyez un courriel pour en apprendre davantage au sujet du travail que nous accomplissons. )

UNB/STU Women's Collective, Fredericton: Women of all ages and orientations. , meets every Monday at 5pm at the University Women's Centre at the SUB

Woodstock GLBT Youth Advocate and Family OutReach, Woodstock: Books, movies, advice, directions, contacts, and support etc. for the family. 328-4868 email: richardb@nbnet.nb.ca

## Newfoundland & Lab (709)

AIDS Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador, St. John's: HIV/AIDS education and support for male/female/transgendered, all ages, Newfoundland and Labrador 579-8656 email: info@acnl.net web: www.acnl.net

Gay Urban Youth Zone Project, St John's: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness 579-8656 (ext. 28) email: chris@acnl.net web: www.acnl.net at Tommy Sexton Centre 47 Janeway Place Pleasantville, across from the old Janeway Hospital AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador

LBGT-MUN Resource Centre, St John's: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers!. 737-7619 email: lbgt@munsu.ca (Open Monday-Friday 9-4. Biweekly meetings for members and volunteers. ) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved!

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gemmamhickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's Pride, St. John's: St. John's Official Pride Organization. 709-746-6564

## Nova Scotia (902)

Acadia Pride, Wolfville: Acadia Student Union's LGBT2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre, Wolfville: 585-2140 email: 057996c@acadiau.ca web: axe.acadiau.ca/womencentre (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony )

Affirm United, Halifax Metro: GLBT & Friends support, action and worshipping community within the United Church. 461-4528 email: alstew@eastlink.ca

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Sydney: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@accb.ns.ca, christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates. ) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Halifax: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)425-4882 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous, Halifax: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: courage449@yahoo.com web: www.rationalunlucacy.com/cout, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews United Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, Halifax: 455-9656

Bedford United Church, HRM/Bedford: An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. Call to confirm worship times as occasionally we have a 10 am combined service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

BLT-Womyn of Halifax, Halifax: Bi Sexuels, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Dis-

cussion Group. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynof-halifax/ (Every second Sunday evening 6pm - 7:30pm) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Bluenose Bears (BnB), Halifax: BnB is a private men's membership based social group for Bears and their admirers. Membership Fees are \$5 for a year. Event Fees are \$1 for Members and \$2 for Guests. Email for more info!. email: BluenoseBears2008@yahoo.ca (Social Gatherings are generally held once a month, on a Tuesday evening. ) at Menz Bar (often) but venues vary. Sorry, no 'drop ins'. Members and their Guests only!!

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre, Sydney: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbusu.com (M-F 9-4pm. Call or drop by for event listings, Ally Training, and Anti-Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshops!) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

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

DalOUT, Halifax: LGBTQ Society at Dalhousie. 494-2190 email: dalout@dal.ca web: societies.dsu.ca/dalout, meets every Thursday (During the academic year we meet at about 7pm each Thursday night.) at Dalhousie University, check OUT our website or contact us for details

Frontrunners Halifax, Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/halifax/, meets every Saturday, and every Tuesday, and every Thursday (Sat: 9:30am, Tue: 6:00 pm, Thu: 6:00pm) at Main gates of the Halifax Public Gardens, corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL YOUTH GROUP AT Q.E.H.: Jeanie Buffet, Counsellor, at 421-6797

Get Out, Halifax!, Halifax: Recreation activities (team activities, cycling, running, rowing - you name it) for metro & beyond! web: www.getouthalifax.ca at Visit and get on the email list for more info.

Girl-ish Productions, Halifax: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. email: girlishproductions@yahoo.ca web: www.girlish.ca

GLB CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE (SUNS): 494-6654 at c/o the Students' Union of NS

Group Harrison Society, Cape Breton: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. (902)270-6969 email: groupharrisonsociety@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/groupharrisonsociety, meets last Saturday (of every month Admission \$6.50 - \$5.50 for members- Best light and sound show around! Restricted 19 yrs and over) at Steel Workers Hall, Sydney

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

Halifax Sexual Health Centre, Halifax: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 455-9656 web: www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society, Halifax: Fundraising. 902-449-7612 web: www.imperialcourtns.com, meets 1st Sunday, and 2nd Sunday (Executive Meetings Are Currently Held Every Second Sunday) at Meeting Locations Vary

Manna For Health, Halifax: A special needs referral food bank for those living with life threatening illness. 429-7670

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

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, Halifax: fostering change through networking, education, outreach & community education. 902-444-7887 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrap.ca at TBA

Outlaw, Halifax: GLBTQ & Allies Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School. email: chad.skinner@dal.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2416842853 (Meetings vary. Please email for further information or check out our Facebook group.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG Canada - Middleton, Middleton: Information and support for GLBT community and their friends and families. 902-825-0548 email: middletonns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/middleton.html (Check online for meeting times and locations- or phone 825-0548)

PFLAG Canada - Sydney, Sydney: PFLAG Sydney provides support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month at 7:30pm. No meetings for July and August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

PFLAG Truro: 662.3774

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health, New Glasgow: 695-3366 email: youth.access@ns.sympatico.ca

Positive Connections: Teleconferenced support groups for people living with AIDS. email: connections@acns.ns.ca, meets every Monday (evening 7:00pm - 8:00pm) at by phone. No long distance charges. For more info call 425-4882 ext 228 or 1-800-566-2437 ext 228 or e-mail.

Pride Cape Breton Society, Sydney: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: info@pridecapebreton.com web: www.pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

Pride Guide Publishing: publisher of community focused maps, directories, event programs and more. 902-423-6999 email: prideguide@eastlink.ca

Pride of Pictou County, New Glasgow: All GBLT in Pictou County. email: chair@prideofpictoucounty.ca web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

Pride Week, Halifax: Producers of Atlantic Canada's largest LGBTQ cultural festival. 431-1194 email: info@halifaxpride.ca web: www.halifaxpride.ca (July 19 - 26, 2009)

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

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

Rainbow Playtime, Halifax: Food & social meetings for same sex families with tots or couples considering parenthood. 461-9414

Red Door, The, Kentville: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 web: thereddoor.ca (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 150 Park Street

RESPECT, Truro: Students Making Healthy Decisions. 893-6300 email: respect@nsac.ca at P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment), Truro: Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 893-6300 email: lyoung@nsac.ns.ca (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

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

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society: Second Story Women's Centre, Lunenburg: We offer a meeting space for women, support counselling, programs, and referrals. (902)640-3044 email: secstory@eastlink.ca web: www.secstory.com at Second Story Women's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

Sexual Health Centre Cumberland County, Amherst: Open and inclusive services: information, education, workshops, free condoms. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.ailiantzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.cfs.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive. Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms.

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County, Bridgewater: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.LunCo.cfs.info (Hours vary. Open by

# Events >>

## Amherst

### Second Monday

PFLAG Amherst/Sackville - in Amherst one month, Sackville the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche 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. lgby\_pamherst@hotmail.com, all emails confidential.

### Third Sunday of each month

The Cumberland Pride Society: Social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Sunday of each month from 2-4pm. Contact information: Gerard Veldhoven at 902-660-5004 or E-mail: [gaylords.1975@hotmail.com](mailto:gaylords.1975@hotmail.com)

## 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 on the first Saturday of each month we host an over 19 gay/lesbian dance from 9pm-1am. There are various themes for dances so call or e-mail for directions and info to the following: 902-765-2821 or [menembracingmen@hotmail.com](mailto:menembracingmen@hotmail.com) or yahoo.ca.

### Every Sunday

Valley Girls is a social group for lesbians in the Annapolis Valley. Coffee Group on Sundays. For more information e-mail the group at [Valley\\_Girls@yahoo.com](mailto:Valley_Girls@yahoo.com).

## Bridgewater

### Third Saturday of each month (except July)

Wileville Dance. Smoke free. Door prizes. Cash bar. Must be 19. For more details call 530-5986 or email [info@southshorepride.ca](mailto:info@southshorepride.ca) or go to [www.southshorepride.ca](http://www.southshorepride.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.

### Every Saturday

The Group Harrison Society dances 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. at the Elks Club (Upstairs), 101 Bentinck Street, Sydney. Admission for members with cards - \$5.00 Admission for non-members - \$6.50 19 & over. ID requested. Security Guards on site. Bar on Site. DJ plays a good mixture of current chart toppers & classic dance hits with the odd slow song. Please come out to enjoy yourself & show your support so these weekly dances can continue!

## Charlottetown

...see Prince Edward Island

## Fredericton

### Every Tuesday

Spectrum, UNB and STU's social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, etc. students. As a group, our aim is to create 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. 7 pm, Top floor of SUB 203 (in the Sexuality Centre, across from the Ballroom) Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at [spectrum@unb.ca](mailto:spectrum@unb.ca)

### Every Wednesday

UNB/STU Women's Collective, at the University Women's Centre in the SUB, 5pm. Contact Lyndsey Gallant at [gvnkr@stu.ca](mailto:gvnkr@stu.ca) or call 450-3870.

### Third Sunday of each month

GLB ANGLICANS AND FRIENDS Integrity is a nonprofit organization of Gay and Lesbian Anglicans and Friends. Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation. Integrity Fredericton was formed in October 2004 and supports and encourages Gay Men and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. A Eucharist followed by a coffee hour discussion is held at 4:00 PM on the third Sunday of each month at St. John's, 58 Broad Road, Oromocto. For more details check out website: [www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity](http://www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity)

### Fourth Wednesday of each month

PFLAG Fredericton meets at 7 PM at the Unitarian Fellowship, 874 York Street. Everyone welcome. Discussion, guest speakers, support and special events. For more information email [pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca](mailto:pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca). Confidentiality assured.

## Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

### BOOM! NIGHTCLUB

Fredericton Nb, 474 Queen St. 463-boom (2666) [www.boomnightclub.ca](http://www.boomnightclub.ca) Thursdays: 3 Sum Thursday's 8-cl Music: 3 Recent, 3 Retro, 3 Requests Specials: On beer and spirits Cover: None Fridays: NEW HOT NIGHT "CIRCUS" 8-cl Music: Indietronic/ Dancers/ Special events Cover: \$4 Deal: Be here before 12, pay \$4 and receive \$10 CIRCUS cash Saturdays: POWER 8-cl Music: Main stream big city/ High energy Cover: \$4 after 11, \$4.50 after 12 Sundays double header: 4-7 Sunday Social Music: Laid back inviting social atmosphere Cover: None 10-cl Sunday Open Turntables Music: Live dj's spinning at crowd level Specials: On beer and spirits Cover: \$2

### Halifax Every Sunday

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

### Every Sunday

Bedford United Church. 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an Affirming Congregation and welcome everyone. Services at 9 am (Casual & Contemporary) and 11 am (Quieter & More Reverent in tone) Starting June 24-Sept. 9, one 10 am service. For more info, call 835-8497.

### Every Sunday

East Coast Rainbow Softball Association Schedule: July 6, 13 @ 3pm & 4:20pm, St. Francis Field; July 20 @ 1pm - DYKES vs DIVAS! The Commons Field #9 (Canada Games Diamond) plus two other games TBA; July 27 @ 3pm & 4:20pm, St. Francis Field. (see most up-to-date Schedule at [www.ecrsa.ca](http://www.ecrsa.ca))

### Second Sunday of each month

Play Group for Queer Families! 3-5pm Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week. For info, call 422-8780 or email [lynnmacdonald@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:lynnmacdonald@hfx.eastlink.ca)

### First and Third Tuesdays

Formerly known as the Queer/Straight Alliance, Mount Pride in the GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. We are an active and online group that meets bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 12 noon in the diversity center in Roseria on campus, and online at [mountpride@yahoo.com](mailto:mountpride@yahoo.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 anyone who would like to join.

### First and Third Tuesdays

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](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca), [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca)

### Second and Fourth Tuesdays

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](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca), [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca)

### First and Third Sundays

BLT-WOMYN OF HALIFAX DISCUSSION GROUP! This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered womyn's Only! -Free Group, NO Dues, NO Fees- MEETINGS are every second SUNDAY. @6pm - 7:30pm (Please remember when applying to this group, send full name and a contact number or call sue at 499-0335, everything is kept PRIVATE!) LOCATION: DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S CENTRE 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) HOW TO JOIN THIS GROUP: Come to a discussion night or send us your e-mail address or call a moderator (Sue @ 499-0335). If you have any questions. A discussion group for Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered women, who will meet to have open discussions, in a positive environment. To discuss topics concerning ourselves and our community. This is a bi-weekly meeting on Sundays. <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/> or [sueandrews1964@hotmail.com](mailto:sueandrews1964@hotmail.com)

### First and Third Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project Movie Night, 25 and under, starting at 7pm. 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, [youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca), [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca)

### Second and Fourth Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project ages 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, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, [youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca), [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca)

### Second Wednesday of each month

Spirituality for Lesbians, 7:30-9PM. 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 mailbox: confidentiality assured.

### July 31, Aug 14, 28, Sept 11, 25, Oct 9, 23

Anonymous HIV Testing, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia 1657 Barrington St, Suite 321, 5-8pm. 425-4882 for an appointment.

Aug 3, 17, 31, Sept 14, 28, Oct 12, 26 Koinonia Ecumenical Church - Meaning 'community'. Services bi-weekly at 12:30pm at Halifax Feast downtown. Pastor Elaine, 876-8771 or [koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca)

### Aug 9th

Night Magic Fashions Presents A Charity event in support of Bryony House Location: Bubbles Mansion. 5287 Prince Street, Halifax 8pm-10:30pm 5287 Prince Street in Halifax. Doors will open at 7pm with tickets available to be purchased for \$7 each at the door.

### September 28

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life 2008. Contact Robin Levy at 425-4882 @ Ext 228 or email [walk@acns.ns.ca](mailto:walk@acns.ns.ca) to register! Don't miss out on this chance to support people living with HIV/AIDS in Nova Scotia.

## Halifax Youth Project Calendar

Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site in Halifax. Please refer to our website for details

and schedule of upcoming events. Website: [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca) Phone: 902-429-5429 Email: [youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca)

### 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 discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what trans youth have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. A place to talk about trans issues and make new friends! 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Tuesday - Discussion Group (ages 18 and under) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Wednesday - Discussion Group (ages 18-25) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

### Week 2

Tuesday - Social Drop-in Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick Street

Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

### Week 3

Tuesday - 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 Street

Wednesday - Activity night (ages 25 & under) A chance to have fun and perhaps learn something new. Activities will be on this night lasting two and a half months. First activity class IMPROV classes. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Thursday - Social Drop-in Themed 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. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick Street

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**SEADOG'S**  
SAUNA & SPA

Mon - Thu: 4pm - Midnight  
Fri: 4pm - Sun: Midnight (24 hour weekend)

2199 Gottingen St., Halifax / [www.SeaDogs.ca](http://www.SeaDogs.ca)  
1-888-837-1388 / 902-444-DOGS

**BOXING DAYS**  
from December 20 to January 11, 2009

save  
upto  
**50%**  
on selected items, quantities limited

Shop online: [PRIAPE.COM](http://PRIAPE.COM)

# ← Events

December 28, 2008---The 8th Annual Studio X. Lenoir Community Achievement Awards---9pm New Year's Eve @ Blue Moon 9pm-Close, \$6.00 cover, Special Guest DJ's Midnight Toast, Nibbles and Drink Specials all night long Visit us for more details @ Friends of BlueMoon on Facebook or [www.imperialcourtns.com](http://www.imperialcourtns.com)

## MENZ BAR

2182 Göttingen St, Level II  
www.MenzBar.ca (902) 446-6969  
FREE WI-FI, Pool Table, VLT's, Private Party Roomz  
ATM, Visa, M/C, Debit  
FREE Meeting Rooms available to ALL Community Groups, Organizations, Associations

NEW YEARS EVE - OPEN 3PM -3:30AM  
NEW YEARS' DAY - OPEN 3PM - 2AM  
Mondayz 2 for \$5 Night (Two 20oz Draught or Two Domestic Beer or any Two Well Shoots) for only \$5 BUCKS! \$2 SHOOTERS all night.  
Tuesdayz - Community Night - Book your Fundraiser Now!

TOONIE Tuesdayz Buy any Beer, Draught, Well Shoot or Liquor at the regular price and get a 2nd for only \$2 BUCKS! \$2 SHOOTERS all night.

Wednesdayz Karaoke with Bear777 from 9:30pm till 1:30am. Door Prizes, Drink Specials, Week End Bar Passes up for grabs, Toonie Tune Jack Pot \$360 and GROWING! Mystery Song is \$300, 1st Prize \$25, 2nd Prize \$50. \$2 SHOOTERS all night!

Thursdayz Dance with DJ Bear from 10pm till 2am (NO COVER!) Door Prizes, 60oz Pitcher of Draught ONLY \$10, \$2 Shooters all night long!

Fridayz Dance Party with house DJ Needles & DJ Bear. Free Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! \$2 SHOOTERS all night.

Saturdayz Dance Party with house DJ Needles or DJ Bear. Free Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! \$2 SHOOTERS all night.

Saturday December 13th  
Award Winning DJ Sunny D "Sonny D is the most prolific and sought after DJ on Canada's East Coast": Tony Hage of Massive Productions. 10pm till 2am No Cover before 10pm (\$7 after 10pm) Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! \$2 SHOOTERS all Night Long.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18TH!  
DaPoPo CAFE CHRISTMAS SHOW!  
Presented by DaPoPo Theatre 7:30pm Start Time Followed by DJ Bear till 2am 60oz Pitcher of Draught ONLY \$10, \$2 Shooters all night long!

Wednesday December 31st:  
NEW YEARS' EVE 9pm till 3:30am Advanced Tickets \$20 (@ the door \$25 if available)  
Includes: Midnight Champagne Toast, Light Buffet, Coat Check & Party Favors!

## REFLECTIONS

5184 Sackville Street  
(902) 422-2957, toll free (877)422-2957  
Fax (902) 422-2970  
mail@reflectionscajaret.com  
www.reflectionscajaret.com  
Open 7 days a week, Mon-Sat 1pm to 4am, Sun 4pm to 4am. Manager: Stephen Filek

## SEADOG'S SAUNA & SPA

2199 Göttingen Street, Look for 3 Black Anchors on Door. Online shopping at: <http://seadogs.ca/supplyshop/index.html> Poppers - Toys - Lube Cruiseline Sold Here Debit, VISA, M/C (902) 444-3647 \* Fully Licensed Bar, Cum for the Men, Stay for the BEER  
NEW YEARS' EVE, Open @ 4pm  
Light Buffet with Champagne Toast

## Regular Hours:

24 Hours on all Long Week End! Mon - Thur 4pm - Midnight Friday Open at 4pm Sat. 24 Hours, Sun. 24 Hours, Closing at Midnight  
Mondays Students Night FREE LOCKER with valid I.D. \*BEER BUST\* All Domestic Beer \$3 TOONIE Tuesdayz \$2 OFF Lockers \*BEER BUST\* All Domestic Beer \$3  
Wednesdays - Hump Night (Get 1/2 pass for your next visit) \*LIQUOR BUST\* - All Bottled Liquor \$4.50 Thursdayz - Naked Night (Towels Optional) \*LIQUOR BUST\* - All Bottled Liquor \$4.50 FOREPLAY Fridayz - Orgy in the Maze... \*HAPPY HOUR\* 4PM TILL 9PM Saturdayz Early Bird Special (6AM TILL NOON - lockers \$8.50 - Rooms \$15) \*HAPPY HOUR\* 4PM TILL 9PM Sundayz Early Bird Special (6AM TILL NOON - lockers \$8.50 - Rooms \$15) \*HAPPY HOUR\* 4PM TILL 9PM - Free 30 minutes Cruiseline card after 4pm!

## SheDog's Bathhouse for Women and Trans Folks

Wednesday, February 11th, 7pm - 12pm, SeaDogs Sauna & Spa, 2199 Göttingen Street  
It's a party. It's an experiment. It's a crazy little idea about loving our bodies, and maybe loving other people's bodies too. It's a space for us to get together that is respectful, where we can make our own rules and stretch our imaginations. Sensuality and sexuality are welcomed and celebrated. Come to indulge and enjoy, in any way that feels good to you. Come and enjoy the reading room, sexy games, hot tub, sauna and lots of fun things to see and join in on! Advance tickets available January 15th at Venus Envy \$15/\$20 at the door  
For more info visit [www.shedogs.ca](http://www.shedogs.ca)

## Girl-ish Productions V-day party:

The Heart-On!! A chocolate-covered night of great music, local performers, and lots of sloooow-dances... with DJ Motlette and DJ Ro and other special guests. Saturday, February 14 9pm - 2am Coconut Grove Advance tickets \$6 at Venus Envy (available Feb. 1) \$9 at the door

## Moncton

### Every Thursday

LGBT AND FRIENDS VOLLEY BALL! École carrefour de l'acadie gym. No experience required. Info: Roger 383-1410 or Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00 / player includes refreshments.

### Tous les jeudis

VOLLEY BALL POUR LGBT et AMI-E-S. École carrefour de l'acadie. Aucune expérience requise. Infos: Roger 383-1410 ou Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00 / joueur (rafraîchissements inclus)

### Third Monday of each month

PFLAG Moncton has monthly support meeting from 7:30-9:30 in room 302 of the Adrien-J.-Cormier bldg at U de M campus. Everyone is welcome at our meetings.

### Last Saturday

Moncton Leather Chapter Leather Nights at Triangles! With the interest and number of people that have started wearing Leather in Moncton, it only seems natural to have a monthly Leather Night so that any man or woman can wear their Leather and know that they will not be alone in doing so when they go to Triangles.

## Moncton Bar & Business Calendar

### TRIANGLES

234 St George Street  
Moncton NB E1C 5B1  
(506)857-8779

Wednesday - Free pool with happy hour all night. Learn to line dance FREE with Jean-Marc - starts at 8:30, followed by Karaoke at 11:00. The Wednesday card club still meets at 8:30 also.

Thursday - House Party with DJ's Sonny D and Just Jack at 11:00. \$4.00 cover. Student's get staff prices all night with student card.

Friday - it's request night. Dance to all your favourite tunes all night long. Cover \$5.00

Saturday - Best dance music in town with DJ daBoss. No cover till 10:00. Happy hour till 11:00. Admission \$6.00.

Sunday - Free pool and happy hour all night.

Monday & Tuesday - Closed.

Check out our monthly event page at [www.trianglesbar.com](http://www.trianglesbar.com) and keep up to the Pride events - [www.fiertemonctonpride.ca](http://www.fiertemonctonpride.ca)

## Sackville

### Second Monday

PFLAG Sackville / Amherst - in Sackville one month, Amherst the next. 506-536-4245 email: [jhammock@mta.ca](mailto:jhammock@mta.ca), Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street.

## Saint John

### Third Saturday

Gay Men's Supper Club, 220 Germain St. <http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com/> for more information.

## Saint John Bar & Business Calendar

### CLUB MONTREAL

Wednesdays: No cover, free pool  
Thursdays: No cover, karaoke with prizes  
Fridayz: No cover, open turntables  
Saturdayz: \$5 cover after 10 PM  
Sundayz: No cover, free pool  
Your birthday: no cover, one free drink, just show your ID!

## St. John's - LGBT-MUN

### Every Friday

Coffee House: Every Friday, 12-2 (LBGT Office, 6th Floor UC, 6002) Every Friday we invite anyone and everyone to come to LBGT and enjoy a cup of Coffee or Tea (regular or herbal) with us (members, non-members, etc). It's a great chance to vent, meet some new people, etc. Our office is located in UC-6022.

### Every Second Friday

General Meeting every second week. They take

place at UC-6022 at 11:00am.

## St. John's Bar & Business Calendar

### Zone 216

216 Water St, 754-2492  
<http://www.hello.to/zone216>  
Winter Hours  
Open Fri&Sat Nights 10pm-late  
No cover before 12 Friday  
No Cover before 11 Saturday

## Sydney

...see Cape Breton

## Truro

### First Sunday of each month

Rainbow Proud: We are the LGBT community of Truro and surrounding areas. We are an organizational group that meets to plan activities ie: parades, outings, dances and such. We meet the first Sunday of each month. (Taking a break during summer months) We could always use some more help, so if you are interested in joining our group or if you are looking for information about the LGBT community contact us by email: [rainbowproud@hotmail.com](mailto:rainbowproud@hotmail.com). Our website is in the works so send an email and to be kept up to date.

## WAYVES DATES!

Check out the front of the magazine for Wayves deadlines and meeting dates -- all are welcome!

## Wileville

...see Bridgewater

# Groups Cont'd

appointment or by chance. Please call ahead. ) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

South Shore Pride Social Club, Bridgewater: for 19 & older. 530-5986 email: [info@southshorepride.ca](mailto:info@southshorepride.ca) web: [www.southshorepride.ca](http://www.southshorepride.ca), meets 3rd Saturday (-- dances -- 9:00PM to 1:00AM) at Call or email for location.

Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche: We are an affirming centre, welcoming all gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. 1.800.218.2220 email: [tatacent@tatacentre.ca](mailto:tatacent@tatacentre.ca) web: [www.tatacentre.ca](http://www.tatacentre.ca)

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

The Cumberland Pride Society, Amherst & Area: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: [cumberlandpride@hotmail.com](mailto:cumberlandpride@hotmail.com) web: [cumberland-pride.sytes.net](http://cumberland-pride.sytes.net), meets 3rd Sunday (2-4pm)

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society, (Cape Breton/Halifax/Annapolis Valley): email: [tpineo@hotmail.com](mailto:tpineo@hotmail.com) web: To be released

The Youth Project, Halifax: Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site. 429-5429 email: [youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca) web: [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca) (Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events.) at 2281 Brunswick Street.

Truro Pride, Truro: A group supporting GLBT individuals in the Colchester County. 895-0931 email: [truropride@hotmail.com](mailto:truropride@hotmail.com), meets every Wednesday (6:30 p.m.) at FairTrade Cafe on Prince Street, between Commercial and Dominion Streets.

Universalist Unitarian Church, Halifax: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500 email: [uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca) web: [chebucto.ca/religion/UUCH](http://chebucto.ca/religion/UUCH), meets every Sunday (10:30) at 5500 Inglis St

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House, Kingston: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 765-2821 email: [menembracingmen@yahoo.ca](mailto:menembracingmen@yahoo.ca) web: [faceitwithpride.tripod.com](http://faceitwithpride.tripod.com) (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception of in November. There is two dances held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

Venus Envy Bursary Society: An annual award open to all women studying in NS. web: [www.venusenvy.ca/halifax](http://www.venusenvy.ca/halifax)

WomynZone, Halifax: Social activities for womyn who love womyn in the Halifax region. email: [womynzone@eastlink.ca](mailto:womynzone@eastlink.ca) web: [www.geocities.com/womynzone](http://www.geocities.com/womynzone)

X-Pride, Antigonish: social & support group at X. 867-5007 web: [www.stfx.ca/people/xpride](http://www.stfx.ca/people/xpride)

## Prince Edward Island (902)

Abegweit Rainbow Collective, Charlottetown: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and

families. 894-5776 email: [info@arcpei.ca](mailto:info@arcpei.ca) web: [www.arcpei.ca](http://www.arcpei.ca), meets 2nd Tuesday (7:30 PM) at 144 Prince Street

AIDS PEI, Charlottetown: AIDS PEI creates a supportive environment for PHA's to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: [info@aidspei.com](mailto:info@aidspei.com) web: [www.aidspei.com](http://www.aidspei.com) at 144 Prince Street Charlottetown, PE C1A 2R6

Gay PEI Mailing List, province-wide: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: [gay-pei-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:gay-pei-owner@yahoo.com) web: [groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei) (It's an electronic list, there aren't meetings. You can join and start posting at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei> at any time. All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list.)

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

PEI Pride, Charlottetown: Organizing The Island Pride Festival. (902) 388-0969 email: [pridepei@isn.net](mailto:pridepei@isn.net) web: [www.peipride.com](http://www.peipride.com) (See webpage for meetings [www.peipride.com](http://www.peipride.com)) at 286 Fitzroy Street

PFLAG Canada - PEI, Island wide: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: [pflagpei@eastlink.ca](mailto:pflagpei@eastlink.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://www.pflagcanada.ca), meets 3rd Tuesday at Ferry Road Centre, 24 Ferry Road, Cornwall, PE or Stratford City Hall check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.

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# The Last Word O Playgirl, Where Art Thou?

By Randall Pery

The final print issue of Playgirl magazine recently hit the stands and in a moment of nostalgia I picked it up. Playgirl and I are old friends, having met over 25 years ago when I first stood in front of the "adult" rack in the magazine shop and glanced through my first copy.

It was the summer of 1983, the year I turned 16. I tagged along with my mother on a shopping trip to Summerside, P.E.I., the closest urban-like area to where I grew up in rural P.E.I., about an hour's drive away. I roamed the mall, spending some quality time with the quarter-munchers in the video arcade, eventually ending up at the magazine shop. The top row of one wall shelf indicated "Adults Only." I had walked by it a number of times in the past but as I swept my tongue over the smallish, lopsided moustache I had been growing for a few months I felt a rush of new confidence I can only describe as, "Now."

The Playgirl magazine sat next to the other adult fare: Playboy, Penthouse, Hustler, Gallery, and the like. I glanced at the titles and my legs felt the tiniest bit weak as I picked up a copy of the National Enquirer with one hand and a copy of Playgirl with the other. I hid the glossy inside the newspaper and looked inside: smiling back at me from the centerfold were the "Benson twins," a pair of furry 20-somethings with identical moustaches, swirling and tufting body hair, and the most delicious-looking dicks I had ever seen. (I had seen very few naked men to that point, so John and Joe Benson could have had a face like a cat's ass and I would have forgiven them.)

I also picked up a copy of the new Spider-Man comic and on shaky legs brought all three magazines to the cashier, a woman who could well have been my mother, or one of her friends. I stood there, fearful of being chided for what I was doing, but no, the cashier slipped everything into one of those magazine-sized paper sleeves and completed the transaction. Somehow I maintained my composure through the drive home,

although my mother wondered aloud why I put the bag under the seat of the car. Years later, I'm pretty sure she knew something was up (figuratively and literally!), but chose not to say anything in such a confined space.

Thus began my friendship with Playgirl. In the beginning we spent all kinds of secret time together. I bought the odd copy now and then until I started university, at which time I started buying it faithfully every month for a number of years. It was a comfortable friendship, based on mutual attraction and some well-placed denials. After all, Playgirl billed itself as "entertainment for women," while gay men (the editors would finally admit, albeit only recently) made up at least half its readership.

But just as some friendships thrive and grow with time, others tend to drift. As I gravitated more toward the internet and its convenient, digital goodness my interest in Playgirl waned. I would still pick one up now and then, but mostly I would just browse through it at the store before putting it back and moving on. Cyberspace had so much more to offer, and by then I was more

interested in naked men interacting with each other than just posing, dicks in hand. Playgirl and me, we were drifting apart.

To be honest, I don't remember the last time I bought an issue of the magazine, except for a couple of weeks ago when the January/February 2009 issue hit the stands. I slipped it out of the sealed plastic after I got home; my reaction as I flipped through its glossy pages was, at best, "meh." As the company put more of its resources into its online presence, the printed Playgirl suffered and it showed in the final issue, which in no way approached the quality of the magazine's past. The writing was uninspired and forced. The photo layouts appeared stale. Even the models seemed to be tired, holding their hard cocks, unsmiling, looking off into the distance. The effect was less than rousing. Call it death by a thousand (paper) cuts.

Perhaps this is a friendship best left to memory. Playgirl played a big part in my development as a young gay man. Growing up in a small community with no positive gay role models, I hoarded whatever erotic imagery I



could find: the then-provocative Sears underwear catalogue layouts, Jim Palmer's Jockey ad pages in Sports Illustrated, those excellent issues of Playgirl from the magazine's heydays. I went from furtive glances at the newsstand to buying it openly

without shame, and the confidence I gained was put to good use elsewhere in my life. Playgirl may be gone, but it will not be forgotten.

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