

Wayves

Marsha Clark Profile of a Visual Artist

By Eugene Campbell

Coming out of the closet at the age of 30 and announcing to the world she was gay did not have the negative effects one usually associates with the move, for at least one local person. When well-known visual artist Marsha Clark made the daring move it had the exact opposite effects.

Clark, who is currently the featured artist at a solo exhibition being staged at the Annex Gallery, located in the Playhouse in downtown Fredericton, said, "Once I got over the hurdle of self-doubt and self-confidence issues, I said, 'What the hell with it! I'm going to be who I am.'"

"I struggled with the self-esteem issue for a long time. I'm not very close to my family, anyway. I sort of thought, it doesn't matter—I'll get around to it," she said when speaking of leading up to her decision to come out. "It takes a lot of energy to keep a secret. It was just one I wasn't all that interested in keeping anymore." She said she decided to come out in

February past. "I decided to come out at that time to the world at large. I had a lot of close friends who knew—for many, it was no revelation."

She said she has had doubts, however. As the mother of a young daughter, she said, "Can I really call myself gay? Is that allowed where I have had an affair with a man and have a child?"

As an artist, she said of the move, "I think it has enhanced my work. It has helped all those things I incorporate in my art, such as photography, drawing and writing. It involves all those things." She said that her being a gay artist has opened up a whole new audience, adding that this has happened "in a community where we (gays) are poorly represented."

As an artist, "I've been doing it all my life. Art chose me. I didn't choose it. It's just something I do. Everyone has their thing. I've been doing it all my life, but formally, I really started a few years ago." Her



Marsha Clark
Photo: Eugene Campbell

background training has taken her to such well-known venues as Ryerson in Toronto, and Sheridan in Oakville, for various periods of time. "In Oakville, I was there about six years. I received training in furniture making. I tried to make a future in the trade, but that didn't work out. I came back to Fredericton and took some time off, had a baby, and got involved in cabinet making. I liked the work, not the atmosphere, not the sexual harassment."

As a visual artist she makes collages. "They are primarily made up of my own photography, drawing and painting. I also use found objects. I am really interested in architecture. In my art, I isolate different architectural elements, cut them out, put them back together and rebuild houses. I build new homes. The house is the common metaphor for life. The houses I build are built through

different stages of life."

She said, "Since first coming out, my work has been really self-reflective. I work out a lot of issues I have about myself. I think a lot of artists go through that. The work is out there, it applies to everybody."

Clark works full-time at historic St. Paul's United Church as a caretaker. "I love it. It's just butch enough that I like it, but not enough that I can't handle it. In my time, I take care of my daughter. I like biking and reading. I read a lot, and have coffee with my friends."

If you would like to learn more about Marsha's work, or maybe add one of her pieces to your own collection, or perhaps arrange for a showing in another Maritime community, or perhaps you would like to just get together with her over a coffee—believe me, it's worth the time—then she can be reached anytime at marsha.m.clark@gmail.com, or by phoning (506) 472-5806.

Community Hero: Eric Smith

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) is pleased to announce that the 2010 Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award was awarded to activist and HIV/AIDS educator Eric Smith. Smith was unwittingly thrust on the national and international stage in 1987, when he was a teacher at Cape Sable Island Elementary School. When his HIV-positive status became known in the community, the local school board tried to remove him from a teaching position, and tried to ban all homosexuals from classroom teaching. His case was one of the first to shed

light on the discrimination faced by those living with HIV and AIDS.

Smith became active in advocating for the rights of LGBT Nova Scotians and Nova Scotians affected by HIV and AIDS. More than twenty years since his name first became associated with equality rights; he continues to speak out, most recently against the ban preventing gay men from donating blood. Smith was pleased to accept the award, presented as part of NSRAP's annual gala fundraiser, which took place on October 23 at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront hotel.

"We are so fortunate to have the

chance to honour Eric in this way," said Matt Numer, chair of NSRAP. "His commitment to equality is long-standing and runs deep. His case—and the work he's done since—has had a tremendous impact within Nova Scotia."

NSRAP created the award in 2008 as a means of recognizing those who have made significant contributions in Nova Scotia. It is named for the late Rev. Darlene Young, a former NSRAP board member and pastor of the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church.

This year's NSRAP gala theme was "Trailblazers." The keynote speaker

was Michelle Douglas, the person responsible for ending the ban on LGBT people serving openly in the Canadian Armed Forces. Entertainment was provided by celebrity emcee Candy Palmater and singer/songwriter Wade Carroll.

For 15 years NSRAP has been the leading voice in the struggle for equality for LGBT Nova Scotians. This annual dinner and silent auction is our most important fundraiser, and we are profoundly gratified that so many in the community came forward to support our efforts.



Eric Smith
Photo by Anita Martinez

New Website For Halifax Sexual Health Centre



The Halifax Sexual Health Centre is pleased to announce their new website. With the assistance of three Capital Health Community Health Boards (Halifax, Chebucto West, and South-eastern) HSHC was able to develop and launch the site. Various community partners, stakeholders, students, volunteers and other

health professionals attended the launch at the Hotel Atlantica on September 29. Afterwards, people had a chance to tour the clinic which is right across the street. This will allow

them to explain to their clients, many of whom are youth, where we are located, services offered and what to expect.

The website houses quite a bit of information, but there is always room for improvement. If you find something isn't working while you

browse, or that it lacks some information, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Director Angus Campbell at ED@HSHC.ca.

World AIDS Day

On December 1 we'll mark World AIDS Day. Let us get the word out. Tell us what events will be happening in your community in Atlantic Canada. Write to submissions@wayves.ca.

Regular Columns

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**December Deadline: Friday, Dec. 3 (first Friday of every month!)
submissions@wayves.ca.**



**Wayves Online: www.wayves.ca
Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine**

Atlantic News

TG Workshop in St. John's

The Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health Care (CPATH) will present a workshop on Gender Variant and Transgender Health Care, to be held Saturday, November 13. The workshop will take place in Theatre B of the Health Science Complex (Prince Philip Drive, St. John's, NL) beginning at 8:15 a.m., and running through the day to 5:30 p.m.

Among other topics, participants will learn appropriate preventive health care and management of common chronic conditions for gender variant and transgender patients; how to perform a medical assessment for initiating transgender hormone therapy and its risks, effects and management. The workshop will also touch on transgender youth and participants will learn about social and psychological issues faced by gender variant and transgender adolescents and young adults and strategies to work with them.

Guest speakers include Dr. Jamie Feldman M.D., PhD; Dr. Joan Quinn BScN, BSW, M.D., FRCPC; and Nancy Wright BSW, MSW(R).

Registration is \$150.00 and the deadline is November 5. Space is limited, so for further information contact Dr. Joan Quinn at (709) 945-5800, e-mail quinnjoan@nl.rogers.com, or register by mail by sending a cheque or money order to Dr. Joan

Quinn, 86 High St. S., Carbonear General Hospital, Carbonear NL, A1Y 1A4. Include your name, mailing address, phone number, and your profession.

South West Nova Pride News

By Dianne O'Dea

The summer is quickly winding down for South West Nova Pride in Yarmouth. We had a very busy summer, with picnics at the beach, bowling nights, lots of pot-luck suppers, visits to places like Shelburne for the Whirligig festival, Clare for

about 52 members, although not all members participate in every event. We are always trying to encourage other GLBTs to come and see what we are all about. They will find we have a lot of fun and meet some really nice people. We have also found that the communities in Southwest Nova Scotia have welcomed us with open arms, especially when we marched in the Yarmouth Seafest Parade, where we were awarded a plaque for best presentation of color and were mentioned in the local newspaper, along with pictures.

We are now looking forward to the winter season and plan on being just as busy. We have organized a games and pizza night once a month; our first games night was held October 5 at the Beacon United Church in

community. We will continue to have our bowling, pool and brunch events and, of course, our annual Christmas party, along with potlucks and anything else that our members would like to host.

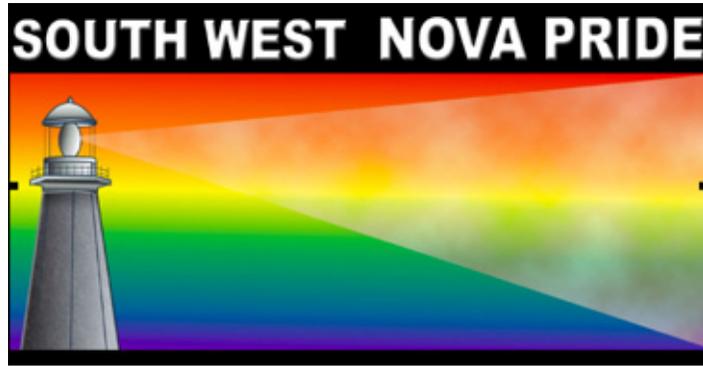
Northwood Diversity Program

Halifax — The largest, non-profit, independent living, long-term care, homecare and community outreach centre in Atlantic Canada celebrated diversity by entering a float in the 2010 Halifax Pride Parade.

"We are seeing more diversity in culture, religion and lifestyle," says Rick Kelly, CEO of Northwood. "These changes are a reflection of our society and we need to recognize and celebrate our differences by providing a safe, positive and nurturing environment."

Northwood already has an active diversity committee that understands every individual is unique and deserving of respect. This was the first time Northwood participated in the Pride Parade, by entering the Northwood Bus with residents, staff, family and friends walking behind—proudly carrying the Northwood banner.

Northwood was built on a foundation of innovation and leadership that had at its roots a commitment to bring about a social change in our attitude towards the elderly and people at risk in our community. Today, Northwood is not a set of buildings with four walls; it is a vibrant community based on quality and excellence, and enriched by the people served and the people who serve.



bowling, Halifax for the Pride Parade, Middleton for a night of dancing, as well as a few Sunday brunches at local restaurants.

With our first year under our belts as an organized group, I must say we have done very well, much better than any of us expected. To date, we have

Yarmouth at 6:30 p.m. If anyone wishes to attend future events please contact Dianne at (diannefcc@yar.eastlink.ca). We are also in the process of scheduling a monthly social that would include a pot-luck supper, music, and dancing. On occasion we hope to have special guests to entertain and educate our GLBT

The Sex Festival at Plutonium

Last spring, Plutonium Playhouse, a new theatre company on Hunter Street in Halifax, presented a successful debut season of plays featuring the premiere productions of three local and original plays like "A Rescue Demonstration" by Stewart Legere and Katie Swift, as well as "Splinters" by Lee-Anne Poole. Plutonium's first production, "Cloudburst" by Thom Fitzgerald, has now been made into a feature film starring Oscar winning actresses Brenda Fricker and Olympia Dukakis.

Now the Playhouse has announced The Sex Festival, which features three plays, readings, visual art and educational workshops all looking at sex, sexuality, more.

Continued to Plutonium, next page



Matt At The Sex Festival

BlackOUT!

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Race in Nova Scotia Now.

November 30, 2010. 8pm.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Week 2010
 Presented by the NS Advisory Commission on HIV/AIDS, Dalhousie School of Health & Human Performance, Black Student Advising Council, & NSRAP
 For more information visit www.gov.ns.ca/aids or www.nsrp.ca

NSRAP Report

Prostitution is a Queer Rights Issue

by Kevin Kindred

Atlantic Canadian queers have a lot to applaud about the September 28 court decision overturning parts of Canada's prostitution laws. And perhaps a little to fear, if we're not careful.

As you have probably learned by now, adult prostitution has long been legal in Canada. But almost every act associated with prostitution—communicating about it, doing it in your home, hiring someone to help with the business—has been illegal. Canadian law doesn't really have a consistent, thoughtful approach to prostitution—pro or con. It just has a mishmash of rules put in place by politicians who wanted to feel like they did something about prostitution, but didn't really want to tackle a controversial social issue.

So the recent ruling is a step towards sanity in the law—it clears away some of the rules that made the sex trade dangerous for sex workers, while leaving in place laws that protect children from being exploited, or adults from being forced into prostitution. Still a mishmash, and the government needs to reform the law in an intelligent way. But a good start.

So, what does it mean to us queers

here on the East Coast?

Well, in a way, nothing. An Ontario court can only affect the way the law works in Ontario (even though it's the same law across Canada.) Halifax police, for example, have said it's business as usual until they hear otherwise.

But that answer's too simple. We will be impacted by this ruling, either because the federal government will reform the law, or because the Supreme Court of Canada will weigh in. And moreover, the debate that's been sparked about prostitution is already happening at Maritime dinner tables, coffee klatches and watering holes. I think this is mostly good news, and here's why.

First, while the sex trade obviously crosses all subcultures, ours has a special relationship to it. Queer folks in the closet, or who are otherwise socially isolated, don't have the same outlets available as straight folks. For some, paying for sex might be the only realistic way of finding the gratification almost all humans

seek. Moreover, the sex trade can be an important source of income to those marginalized from the mainstream workforce, particularly in the LGBT community. That might not be a pleasant reality, but it is a reality nonetheless, and surely a safer, saner sex trade is better than one that puts

This country has never really lived up to Trudeau's unfulfilled promise—“There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.”

its participants at risk.

Moreover, a liberalized attitude toward prostitution says good things about the role the government has in our sex lives. This country has never really lived up to Trudeau's unfulfilled promise—“There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.” We have a shocking number of laws telling us how we're allowed to gratify our sex drives. Not until you're 16. Not anally until you're 18. Not in a threesome if there's anal sex involved. Not in isolated cruising areas. Not in bathhouses. Not for profit.

When we let the state police what we do with our bodies, queers suffer most. The enforcers of the law don't care all that much about the sex practices of empowered white straight guys. They go after those of us whose sex lives challenge the norms and make “right-thinking people” uncomfortable. So when we really get the state out of the bedrooms of the nation, queers are the ones who enjoy the freedom the most.

You'll recall from my intro, though, that I also think there's a little bit to fear from this ruling as well. Here's why.

Just opening up a debate about prostitution, about the role of the state in the bedrooms of the nation, doesn't determine the outcome of that debate. It's just as possible that the debate turns the other way, and we end up with worse laws than we started with.

The government is going to have to reform the prostitution laws one way or another. We currently have a federal government that wants to scare Canadians into endorsing a supposed “tough-on-crime” agenda. We

also have a government that's looking for wedge issues to attract Canadians with a slightly-conservative bent into their camp. The smart money says they'll be doing everything in their power to come up with a more repressive, more invasive law that's worse for sex trade workers.

And that means widening the bedroom door to let the state in further. That hurts queers who have no connection to the sex trade at all, because it reinforces the notion that it's right and good for the government to tell us how to run our sex lives. We've seen where that takes us, and we need to swing the bedroom door in the other direction.

That's why I say prostitution law reform is a queer rights issue. We need to take up this battle, and pressure for laws that protect sex trade workers without inviting government intervention in our private lives. Let's be true to that Trudeauan dream.

If you want to let the federal Justice Minister know how you feel about the government's intention to appeal the Ontario ruling, write to the Hon. Rob Nicholson, 105 East Block, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Plutonium, Cont'd

“Fat Pig,” by Neil LaBute (November 15 – 21 at 8:00 p.m.) “Cow,” “Slob,” “Pig.” How many insults can you hear before you have to stand up and defend the woman you love? Tom faces just that question when he falls for Helen, a bright, funny, sexy young woman who happens to be plus-sized—and then some.

“The Obedients,” by Lee-Anne Poole (November 25 – 28 at 8:00 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday 3:00 p.m. matinees.) A BDSM spin on Jean Genet's “The Maids.” This French drawing room classic is reinvented in an S&M sex club by director Lee-Anne Poole (author of “Splinters”). Submissives Solange and Claire plot revenge on their torturous Madame.

“The Asshole Monologues,” by Jane Kansas (November 30 – December 5 at 8:00 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees.) The Asshole Monologues do for the anus what The Vagina Monologues did for the vajayjay (but with more cheek!). Take a tour up the tunnel of love in all

its glory. Colonoscopies, anal sex, pinching a big brown loaf—it's all fun and games.

Each play will run for one week (much shorter than Plutonium's regular runs). So make sure you grab your tickets for these productions early.

The Sex Festival is rounded out with sex-themed events at Plutonium Playhouse, the Emotion Picture Gallery and FRED. Take in a figure photography exhibit by Shaun Simpson, or a sex-themed reading by BLOWHARD. You can hear your personal fantasies come to life at a night of live readings of Filthy E-Mails from locally produced website filthyemails.org (where you can share your dirtiest thoughts anonymously!) And you can learn something at educational workshops on anal sex and BDSM hosted by Venus Envy and more. There's a reason for everyone to come to The Sex Festival.

To see the full Sex Festival Schedule go to plutoniumplayhouse.com

Our Cover

Eric Smith,
Photo by Anita Martinez
Design by Cam MacLeod

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: Dec 3, Jan 7, Mar 4, Apr 1: that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax):

Mondays: Dec 6, Jan 10, Mar 7, Apr 4: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Dec 12, Jan 16, Mar 13, Apr 10: help build the paper – no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

We're on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month!

Wayves On Line!

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

Wayves

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

Wayves is an independent publication, published every month except February by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to Wayves is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. Wayves reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in Wayves are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the *Important Wayves Dates* section of this page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and may be edited for length. Submissions should be emailed in plain text to the address below. Articles and letters may be published with pseudonyms or anonymously, but Wayves must have contact information for the author. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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

Lesbian Soap Box Diaries

Tattoo

by L. Connors

No matter what you say about love I keep coming back for more. Keep my hand in the fire. Sooner or later I get what I'm asking for.

I joke with friends that there is no better time to go cold turkey with women than while recovering from a hysterectomy. I tell them that it is sort of like going to fat camp to kick start your diet. "You can't even have sex with yourself if you wanted to. Believe me, I've tried, and that shit hurts!" Getting over the two great loves of my life simultaneously while recovering from being cut hip bone to hip bone is really no laughing matter. Believe me, I'm living it, and this shit hurts.

Grieving these two lost loves

at the same time is something like having a heart attack in the bathtub, flailing around to try to get out and drowning in the process; Unbearable chest pain while gasping for air and fighting for your will to survive. All while crying out to the universe "What is the lesson in this?"

They say a lesson is repeated until learned and this lesson is so big that even I can't miss it. For the last decade of my life I have been in love with one or both of these women. It is hard for me to remember a time when I didn't believe that I would marry and spend the rest of my life with one of them. The last six months in particular, I have spent desperately trying to figure

out which one. But each of us in turn has slammed the door on the situation, if only to draw back the blinds to let in a ray of hope. Like Hansel and Gretel, going out to explore the

I, apparently, am the girl that I have been waiting for to care enough to show up when I need her most.

world, but still leaving a trail of bread crumbs just in case. I am so tired of crumbs. I have no doubt that they both are as well.

No need to worry about everything I've done. Live every second like

you was my last one. Don't look back. Got a new direction.

Last month I challenged my fear of heights by taking my boys to TreeGo. It's a good thing that I went

with them because my maternal instinct to stay with them and make sure they were okay was ever so slightly stronger than the urge to cling to the tree tops crying like a baby to get down. The obstacle courses were not too bad. The physical demands of them

were just enough of a distraction to keep my mind from the fear of plummeting to my death. Oh but the zip lines, they were too much for me to bear. Each time I reached one, my mind would race: "This is the craziest

fucking thing that I have ever done. I just took a fifteen minute course to learn how to hock myself up to this line. There is not even a guide here to check and see if I've done it properly. I can't even see my destination; it's so far away. I CAN'T DO THIS!" But with a line-up behind me there was no time to hesitate and there was no alternative way down anyway.

Standing on that platform is a lot like my current situation. If nothing else, I'll always have my boys to push forward for. There is no one here to guide me. I've figured out that I, apparently, am the girl that I have been waiting for to care enough to show up when I need her most. I can't see my destination, but I have no alternative but to finally just let go.

"Choose" to Transition?

By Josie

If being transgendered is simply a choice then, by that same logic, I am also choosing to breathe oxygen, drink water, and wake up to go to work. I don't know where this "choice" rumour started but I am most certain it was not by a trans person. If you ever hear anyone refer to the process of transitioning as a "choice," they truly are not using the word the same as choosing white bread or whole wheat. They are using the term because there are so few words in the English language to describe the feeling: compulsion,

need, desire, and yearning to live the life they know was meant to be. In all, the choice to transition is quite often about life or death. Is that really just a choice, then?

After seeing many therapists for depression and suicide for more than twenty years, I found drugs and alcohol did the best job of quieting the inner demons. I also had a secret passion to dress like a woman (that I always felt ashamed about) that enticed my boozing and drug habits. By 2008 I began to realize I was not the simple cross-dresser that I had always thought I was. After talking

online to many others, I realized that my passion for dressing (which I had had since a toddler) was very different. It came from a different place inside that didn't match the cross-dresser norms of my e-friends. When I looked in the mirror at my female

I realized that my passion for dressing (which I had had since a toddler)... came from a different place inside that didn't match the cross-dresser norms of my e-friends.

face, it was not arousal that hit me, it was sheer joy. I finally could look at myself and not hate the sight of me. That's how I knew I was on the right track. After 10 minutes of reading about trans women on the web, I was certain I had found my answers that no one bothered to think of these past decades.

Although I was having a breakthrough in finding the answers to so many of my life long questions, at that exact same time my outside life started to crumble around me. I lost my wife of eight years as she could not deal with me being trans when

I told her about it. As I researched more I began to fear the loss of my job, my family and friends, and in some cases I feared for my life. I knew I needed help and not being one to shy away from a therapist, I called the most liberal-minded one I could remember.

So just to be clear, let's do a count of emotions going on with me at this "coming out" stage of my life—the point where I needed help the most. For starters I had sadness and self-hate my whole life thus far. Add fear and terror of anyone finding out about me being transgendered, plus the heartache of losing my wife and the pain of separation, loss of my dreams and our lives together, and my incomprehensible need to continue to become female. Side that with a huge helping of depression for all of these things that I just don't understand. Top it off with more alcohol, unhealthy food, cigarette and drug addictions to help me cope. You can understand how difficult it was to simply tell someone

what I was feeling.

Imagine how I felt when the therapist replied, "There's nothing I can do for you, I am not sure where to get help. Have you tried the Internet?" I have never felt so alone in my life. It was as if she brought a sip of water to my raging inferno of an emotional state. Did therapists know how often trans patients take their own lives as they feel no one can help? These questions haunt me every day.

I couldn't help but wonder what other trans people had done before this. Was this where they packed up and moved? Not all of them did, and I am proof of that, as there are a few others in this area. But really, the story about getting the help I needed is not what I want to talk about here. Simply put, I did find the help I needed and I am transitioning here in the Moncton area.

(To be continued...)



TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Welcoming all who are affected by gender diversity: individuals who are trans-identified, their partners, parents, friends and families.

Adrien-J.-Cormier Building, Room 302, Université de Moncton
Facilitator: Eldon Hay (506) 536-0599, eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca
3rd Sunday of the month: 1:30 – 3:30pm except December, (2nd Sunday)




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I Am What I Amherst

Gay-la, Walk For Life, Bowling

by Gerard Veldhoven

The fall colours are vanishing from sight for another year and no doubt various activities are being planned for the upcoming holiday season. The Amherst area is no exception as the Cumberland Pride Society is hosting a Holiday Gay-la at the Wandlyn Motor Inn in Amherst on December 4.

Ticket prices are not yet established but can be obtained shortly by calling (902) 660-5143, the society website at cumberland-pride.sytes.net or via email at cumberlandpride@hotmail.com. For those who need accommodations, the Wandlyn is offering rooms at \$40 for persons attending the celebration.

The Cumberland Pride Society was founded four years ago in September by Norman Carter and yours truly. It has been a wonderful journey thus far, especially as we notice an increase in membership and the many activities that have taken place.

In July 2008 we celebrated our first

Pride Week. I remember it well as 50 people showed up at the flag raising ceremony at Amherst Town Hall. At that point I was informed by town staff that it was the best attended flag raising ceremony ever in this town. I also recall that Mayor Jerry Hallee asked Norman to read the Proclamation. It was a proud moment for us both. We had no idea the Town of Amherst would be so supportive. Of course, last year one hundred people attended and this July around eighty folks joined us.

Sadly, Norman passed and he would have been very pleased with all the activities that took place this year. Society Chair, Sue Reid, also commented on how far we have come in the past four years. There are still many ideas floating around including a few changes in the by-laws and how we may be able to connect more with other groups and services in Amherst.

On September 19 the annual Scotia Bank AIDS Walk for Life took

place in Amherst. Pledges were down for this year and that was due to a few reasons and one was thought to be a downturn in the economy. However, pledges in this area amounted to over \$1,000.00. The Northern AIDS Connection Society believes that as

"I wish more queers would come out. It's really nice out here."

— Elton John

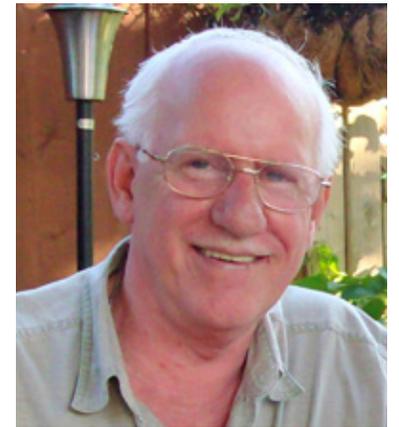
the economy improves, so will the pledges.

One activity that seems to be popular is the monthly bowling night, which takes place the first Thursday of the month at the King Pin Bowling on Gerrard Avenue. Cumberland Pride activities will be announced as soon as they are complete. A big Hallowe'en Party took place at Sherri Briand's home. Cumberland Pride

Mascot Fred, his mom, the queers and their guests had a great time with lots to eat and drink. Unfortunately the Society's other Mascot Ben, could not make it!

We think of all the great stuff we do on a regular basis, but we must keep in mind what goes on in the rest of the world. Even in Canada we still have lots to worry about; such as, the need to go to court because a prospective landlord refuses to rent an apartment to a queer couple, which recently happened in Vancouver. The couple won and the landlord was fined. This is just one incident; others happen daily without much fuss being created by the parties affected by discrimination.

Another concern is the case in Ontario where the provincial government refused to budget for blood donations from gay men. This continuing saga about blood donations has been in the news for a number of years and yet a solution is not im-



minent. It seems that proper testing is not done thoroughly. HIV/AIDS is on the rise with the highest percentage being young teens and the elderly. Government obviously feels that it remains a "gay disease."

Thus far we are experiencing a rather quiet time here in blueberry country. However, don't let that fool you, as plenty of news will be forthcoming with the holidays approaching. I leave you with a quote from Elton John: "I wish more queers would come out. It's really nice out here."

Prostitution Laws Reform? It's About Time

An opinion by Bill McKinnon

Prostitution in Atlantic Canada, whether cloaked as legal or not, affects people of most sexuality classifications: straight, bisexual, lesbian, gay and transgendered. Even if we are not sex-trade workers or their clients, prostitution and how it is treated in our statutes is a topic of concern to the LGBT community as a whole. Sex-trade encounters occur frequently all over Atlantic Canada and specifically in Halifax they are readily available on "strolls," on the Hill, in both gay and mainstream bars, etc.

US west coast AA guru Clancy I. has observed that society sees sex as dirty and disgusting and we should save it for someone we love. Well that's about the way Canada's laws portray prostitution; so it is refreshing that Ontario Superior Court Justice Susan Himel has ruled our hypocritical and discriminatory laws to be unconstitutional, i.e. they "are not in accord with the principles of fundamental justice, contributing to the danger faced by sex-trade workers." Of course, prostitution is not itself illegal. It's keeping a common bawdy house, communicating for the purpose of prostitution and living on the avails of the trade that are illegal, and to that doubletalk Homer Simpson's comment would likely be, "D'oh!"

Maybe we can now reform our laws and catch up with some of the more enlightened governments such as those of the Nevada, Holland, Germany and New Zealand. Of course the Catholic Civil Rights League sees otherwise but that group might better be named the Catholic Civil Wrongs League, and the Catholic Church would be well-advised to

stop covering up sexual misconduct by priests and allow its clergy to marry instead of damning prostitutes. All Christians might also heed what Jesus said about adulterers, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her."

The Harper government has argued that prostitution is inherently dangerous and Canada could become a sex tourism destination were prostitution-related activities decriminalized. Be that as it may, our laws discriminate against the poor. High class hookers, call girls and call boys including some massage therapists practice their trade in safety as do mistresses of the rich and kept boys who only remain in place because they are paid. That's sex for money—not love. Similarly, if you have the bucks, you can trade in your wife or live-in boyfriend or girlfriend whom you financially support for sex and that is legal. However, if you are a poor whore, hustler or a poor john, you are deemed a criminal. It's all about money and society's hypocrisy which provides one rule for the rich and another for the poor. Let's get real.

Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson is considering an appeal against the Ontario Supreme Court ruling and the lily-livered Ontario McGuinty government will follow suit. Mr. Nicholson claims the government wants to protect prostitutes but it did nothing for Robert Pickton's and other sadists' victims, nor does it protect gay men who are beaten up and/or robbed by male hustlers. Mr. Nicholson needs to know that johns abuse and sometimes murder hundreds of sex-trade workers in Canada every year; hundreds of

gays are abused and sometimes killed by hustlers; and the mistreatment of prostitutes by police is a national shame, as is the spread of sexually transmitted diseases in sometimes furtive sex-trade activities.

I'm for decriminalization of prostitution and the protection of both sex-trade workers and their clients regardless of their sexual orientation. That's my view. What's yours? Write to Wayves and say what you think.

For more information, see my article, "Sex Work 101: Understanding and Supporting Sex Workers" on page 14 of the September 2009 issue of Wayves (Site: wayves.ca, Wayves Online.)

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hi Tom,
I had stomach flu last week so I spent several days huddled on the sofa, feeling sorry for myself and watching hours and hours of daytime television. I think my nausea was probably prolonged by the programming but my options were rather limited. And the commercials! I adore Betty White but if I have to see that Snickers ad one more time ... I have increasing sympathy for Elvis when he took a shotgun to his TV. Worse than the constant repetition of the same commercials, is the absolute idiocy of many of them. Case in point, the red and purple bears who talk about toilet paper. These poor bears are apparently plagued by the problem of having tiny bits of paper stuck to their behinds. I find this puzzling since the bears apparently have no ass crack or exit chute—if you know what I mean—so why do they even need toilet paper? Besides, Tom, have you ever had a problem with toilet paper sticking to your ass cheeks? Me either! So the whole ad campaign is designed to solve a problem that never existed! And they don't even call it toilet paper anymore; now it is bath tissue. Bath tissue! How genteel we are becoming. Let's pretend we don't even know what toilet paper is used for. Bath tissue! It makes it seem like you would just fill the tub with lovely rolls of soft bath tissue and then roll around naked enjoying the softness, secure in the knowledge that when you emerge there will be no embarrassing tiny pieces stuck to your derriere.

And teeth whitening! Who decided that human teeth should be the colour of freshly fallen snow? There is a commercial about a young woman who is devastated by the idea that her teeth will not be as white as her wedding gown. How lucky that there's a product that can help her achieve the unnatural dental brilliance that she desires. Once again resolving a problem that exists only in the minds of the advertising executives. I'm quite happy to have chompers that will effectively get me through dinner, you know, biting, chewing and swallowing. Furthermore, I have never once in my life met someone and thought, Oh too bad his teeth aren't whiter. I'm not saying that teeth that look like the picket fence of an abandoned house are a turn on for me, but neither am I impressed with a snowy grin that requires me to reach for my sunglasses. Isn't life complicated enough without falling prey to some advertising executive's design to give you something more to obsess about? For me the quality of a smile is measured by its sincerity and whether it's reflected in the eyes; it's about humour and personality and character, not about how its brilliance compares to someone's preconceived notion of sparkling whiteness.

Fortunately, for my peace of mind and blood pressure, there were also positive things during my time of illness. There was a steady stream of chick flicks

on the W channel and when I had had enough of the romantic weepies, I could switch to HGTV and watch endless amounts of home decorating, renovating shows. Have you ever noticed how all—and I mean all—of the contractors, carpenters and workmen on those shows are very, very hunky? They're all tight jeans and polo shirts that let us glimpse just a bit of tattoo on a firm bicep. Oddly enough, it didn't occur to me to remark on the relative whiteness of their teeth nor search for signs of tiny pieces of toilet paper falling down their pant legs.

My recuperation period also gave me a chance to catch up on past episodes of True Blood on HBO. (No commercials, thank you Jesus!) Like the home decor shows, True Blood is replete with sexy men, many of whom, because of their "unnatural" states of being, are required—conveniently for the viewer—to be naked much of the time. Vampires, shape shifters, werewolves and other creatures who defy classification, exist on the borderline of life and death, lust for blood and conquest and domination of the human race. It makes you rethink the whole bottom or top issue, Tom. I mean if one of these men were to appear at my door, glowing in the light of a full moon I might be quite willing to bare an artery for him or run with the pack in the forest howling my desire and longing into the glittering, starry sky. Does that make me shallow, Tom? A man who can put aside all thoughts of intimacy and human closeness for the possibility of bestial, temporary, overwhelming sensual and sexual pleasure? You're right, it probably does mean just that.

The other big bonus of watching TV from my sick bed was that I discovered a channel which shows reruns of Golden Girls every day! Almost all the ladies are gone now, sadly, but their brilliant comedic work lives on.

Gotta go, Tom. This is the episode where Rose plays Henny Penny in an elementary school play as a tribute to the chicken community.

Love ya!



Criminal Queers

By Daniel MacKay
On July 6, twenty-five people packed into the second floor multi-purpose room at Roberts Street Social Centre (which can comfortably hold twelve) for a workshop by two members of the Prisoner Correspondence Project, a Montreal based organization pairing incarcerated gay and trans communities with gay and trans communities outside of prison.

There were three main discussion topics: "Tough on Crime," "Sex Panic" and "HIV Criminalization."

During the first section, "Tough on Crime," we discussed how queer populations, as well as aboriginal, black, and poor people, are presumed to be criminal and are over-represented there. Historically, high crime areas have been associated with cruising areas, washrooms; not so historically we have Truro's Victoria Park, and "bawdy house" laws which are still on the books. In the so-called "War on Drugs" Canada followed the US in giving more search and seizure rights; LGBT communities have a higher use of drugs and thus a higher level of policing; one quarter of transfolk

go through some kind of institution, from foster homes to prison.

The hosts described "Sex Panic" as a moral crusade which required a crackdown on minority sexuality and scapegoated communities, queer public sex cultures, and street sex work, extending from books about prostitution being banned from prison libraries, to "no touch" policies in elementary schools and woefully inadequate sexual education in rural high schools; in Ottawa, cruising parks got automatic motion-activated announcements warning people to move on.

"HIV Criminalization" has resulted in the prioritization of people willingly infecting, resulting in some severe distortions in testing—that is, doctors encouraging patients to NOT get tested, because if they do not know their HIV status, they can't be held criminally responsible for transmitting the virus, or for failing to disclose their status to a potential partner.

For more information, visit www.prisoner Correspondence Project.com.

Trans Teens On CBC Radio

By Bill McKinnon
Recently CBC Radio One's Mainstreet's Nina Corfu talked to people about what it's like to be a transsexual teenager in Nova Scotia in a series called "He Said She Said." The five-episode archive is available from Mainstreet's website at www.cbc.ca/mainstreetns/archives/audio.html.

The segments, which are each a little over 10 minutes long, are about two transsexual teenagers. One is transitioning from male to female and the other from female to male. In episode one, we learn that a mother finds out that her son wants to be a daughter instead of a son. In episode two, this same transsexual teenager explains how hormone therapy is changing her body. In episode three, we meet a young man who used to be a woman and still dresses like a woman on

weekends. Episode four explains how the second person recovered from a self-doubting phase of cutting and burning himself to becoming a more positive individual who now eats healthily, exercises, and loves his body.

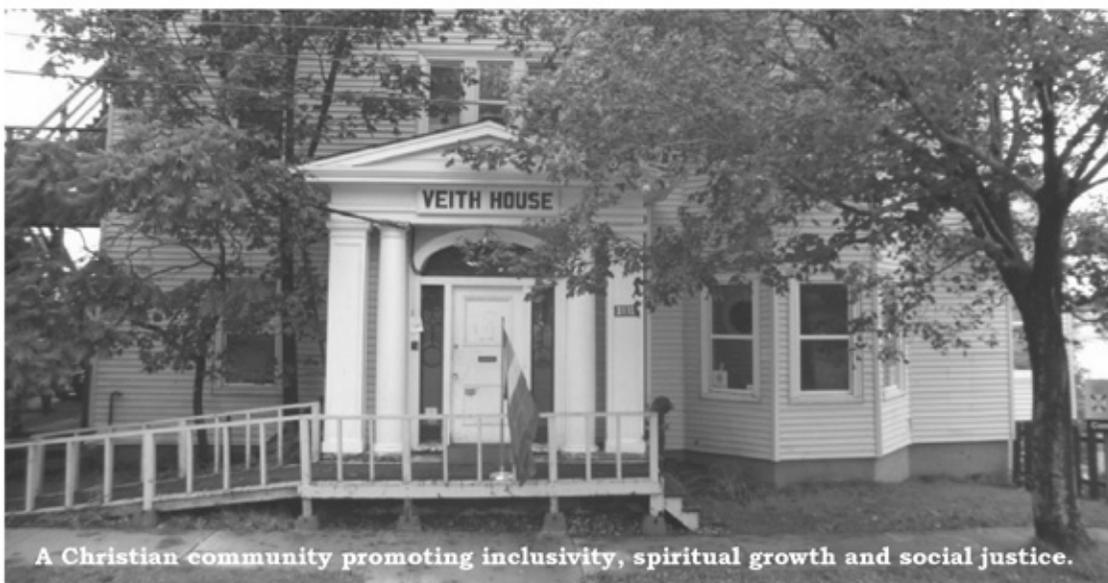
Gender identity disorder can be a distressing predicament. Trans

Sex is about what's between the legs... Gender is what's between the ears.

people say that a person's sex is about what's between the legs and a person's gender is about

what's between the ears. When sex and gender do not seem to match, the result may be an unhappy disorder. These four broadcasts are just a primer, just a start in understanding what transsexuals are all about, but they may be of particular interest to young people who may have a gender identity situation and to their parents. Listen to them and you may be amazed.

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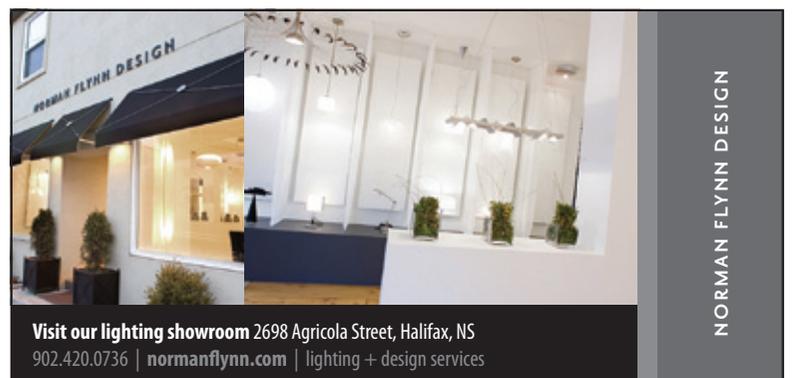
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Possible Selves

An Exploration of Identity



Clark's Piece, "Air Quality Poor"

Solo Exhibit by Fredericton Collage Artist Marsha Clark

The Annex Gallery – The Playhouse until November 15, 2010

Review by Elliot J. Moore

First it's the colors that grab you: bold reds, oranges and blues. Then it's the juxtaposition of images—a seemingly sturdy turn of the century home appears off-kilter in one image and teetering on the edge of darkness in another. And fire—almost everywhere is fire.

Fredericton collage artist Marsha Clark has chosen her first solo exhibit to powerfully chronicle the development of her life. In a show called "Possible Selves" Clark explores the question of identity and how it's formed by mixing other mediums, such as photography, painting and drawing, to bring her experiences to life.

There are six pieces on display representing six stages of Clark's life so far: childhood, adolescence, art school, her daughter's birth, a conversion to Christianity and, finally, present day, living as an openly gay woman.

The home image is a metaphor that runs throughout each collage, symbolizing a life. Its architectural elements of being built up and torn down represent the growth of individual personality. In the background of each piece is the setting, reflecting the environment Clark was in at the time. Judging by the raw feel of the works, Clark's life so far has had its turbulent moments.

In the collage "Adolescence: Way Way Down" the house is off sideways and hovering over a dark crack in its foundation. Fire is coming out the sides, while a black sky dominates in the background. The piece represents the struggle Clark experienced growing up with an artistic temperament in an otherwise conventional family

in small town Minto, New Brunswick.

By far the most powerful piece in the series reflects Clark's Christianity. Entitled "Conversion: My Father the Architect" the home merges and expands with architectural images of the church, its pillars and spires soar gloriously across the canvas, while fiery clouds represent passion for Christ.

But it all comes crashing down in the final piece, "Present Day: I Will Walk Down This Road," a dark representation of her life after being rejected by her church for being gay. Sombre blues and greys make up a winding street to an unknown destination, the home is obscured by other austere and cold looking buildings, and images of God and the church are nowhere to be found. There is a feeling of being lost. It is haunting.

Clark is off to a good start in this first solo exhibit. Her edgy yet personal style draws you in with its intensity and honesty. My only criticism? More and bigger.

Anita's Photo



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Photo by Anita L. Martinez (902) 423 0703

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 JEUNESSES
MUSICALES
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30th Atlantic Film Festival: That's

Undertow



Review by: Randall Perry
Photo credit: Héctor Álvarez
Miguel loves Santiago. Santiago loves Miguel. It should be simple enough in this day. But in a small fishing village in Peru, nothing is that simple. Miguel is married and has a child on the way with wife, Mariela. Santiago is an artist, a photographer, gay and an outsider, frequently gossiped about by the village women and avoided by the men. He doesn't care, but Miguel does. So they love each other under the cover of darkness and outside the boundaries of the village, away from prying eyes. It's enough for Miguel, but "Tiago wants more, needs more. But when a tragic turn of events sweeps Santiago out to sea, his ghost returns to haunt Miguel, who cannot bear to let him go and turns the situation to his advantage. But it can't last.

Javier Fuentes-León's "Undertow" ("Contracorriente") is a classic study of small-town prejudice and closeness and how a single forbidden transgression can affect a person for all time. Handsome actors Cristian Mercado (Miguel) and Manolo Cardona (Santiago) exhibit wonderful on-screen chemistry against the stunning backdrop of Cabo Blanco, Peru. The story is solid and moving without descending into melodrama. It's been said before, so allow me to repeat the analogy: "Brokeback Mountain" meets "Ghost" (in Spanish with subtitles).

"Undertow" is at once a story of how tradition binds us, but it also tells of how we can free ourselves of those bonds. Miguel finds that being a man sometimes means revealing his most secret self, and through that nakedness comes personal redemption.

Bear Nation



Review by: Randall Perry
Toronto filmmaker Malcolm Ingram recently turned his cameras toward the queer beard set and the result, the documentary "Bear Nation," explores the question, "What is a bear?"

The film can be neatly summed up as a kind of Bear 101—it's an introduction to the bear subculture made up of hairy (sometimes smooth), butch (sometimes fey), all-embracing (sometimes excluding), Rubanesque (or not) gay men who don't (or don't want to) fit in with the stereotypical plastic, glammy, bitchy, Glee-loving contemporary queer mainstream.

Ingram begins in Toronto with a series of casual interviews with various bear-type men including—a nice surprise, I think—musician Bob Mould (of Hüsker Dü and Sugar

fame), who still rocks at a woofy 50. He then moves us to Chicago for a high-level look at Bear Pride, one of the premiere, although not the largest, bear events in the United States, before hopping the pond to the UK to check out the subculture there. Some time is spent with comedian Kevin Smith (executive producer and friend of Ingram) for a different (read: straight) perspective before heading back to the original group of bears for a wrap-up.

It's a tidy package, casual and uncomplicated by analysis of deep expository about balancing individual differences and tastes while maintaining a sense of community—albeit a community subject to its own complications and fragmentations. The bear interviewees are wonderfully candid, baring their insecurities and some of their own prejudices while extolling their sense of belonging. Ingram shows us a gay male subculture very much in its formative years, still exciting and fresh with a sense of discovery.

Enjoyable and recommended (even though Smith's "fat guys getting laid" schtick got old after the fifth permutation).

Stonewall Uprising



Review by: Daniel MacKay
Photo credit: firstrunfeatures.com
On September 24, the Park Lane cinema was three-quarters full of queer historians and their friends waiting to see Stonewall Uprising. I was skeptical of the ability of the filmmakers to make a feature-length documentary about an event which was, depending on what you count, two or three nights, with very little visual source material and almost no video footage. However, David Carter and David Heilbroner did it. What I wasn't expecting was for the movie to paint the backdrop of the event in such lush and comprehensive detail.

The background material is told partly by interviews with a half-dozen people who were active in the burgeoning queer community at the time, and was supported by several truly horrific newsreels—the 16mm film kind that in the fifties and sixties were shown to high school kids assembled in darkened gyms, the kind that surely must have driven even more young queers to suicide than any bullying does today. "If we catch you with a homosexual, the rest of your life will be a living hell. And you will be caught;

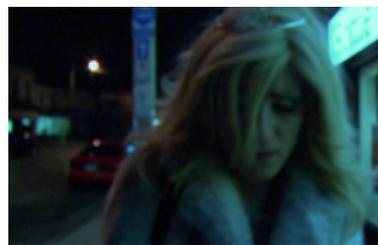
don't think that you won't be caught," asserts one. Another shows in detail exactly how the homosexual male pervert entraps and converts the unsuspecting and innocent blond teen jock (hint: he has cards with dirty pictures on them.)

In another surprise piece of background, the physical geography of Greenwich Village was illustrated, both as still maps, and as amusing animated ones showing masses of marks, representing angry queers, rushing around the tiny Manhattan blocks to come up on the backside of the police, until the latter had no idea of where their attackers would be next.

The original, period video and photographic snippets are deftly woven into the recreated ones, also shot in black and white, with very little repetition. Contemporary interviews are shown in colour; often a story will be recreated in black and white with brief flashes in colour to the interviewee, forty years older than he or she would have been at the time. The most unexpected one is an interview with one of the cops who was there, and for a time, barricaded in the Stonewall Tavern while the militant homosexuals raged outside. That policeman gets the last shot in the film, and it's a poignant one.

The movie puts the beginning of the gay rights movement in perspective; it's an interesting, important story told without hysteria or hyperbole. Every queer should see this once.

Angel



Review by Owen Johnstone
Halifax director Dennis Envoldsen's film, "Angel," takes us beyond the gay scene and backstage into the life of a drag queen. It's dark, it's dirty, and it's exciting. Punching up the Atlantic Film Festival with some queer content, this short film starred Halifax's most talented drag queen, Farrah Moan, as the beautiful Angel. The film brought us into Angel's life but left some of us wanting more. With questions left unanswered, the ending is up to the viewer to determine: what happens next? What's the real story behind the person she's looking for?

Starting out in a generic gay club filled with glitter and lights, Angel

takes to the streets on a mission. It's when she leaves the bar that we really get to delve into the life of drag and out of everyday gay culture. The array of reactions she so handsomely ignores from strangers as she walks the streets in her makeup, wig and heels is so genuine. Discarding the mask of a diva, we see her as her true human self through her feelings and her struggles, and not just a person of novelty. We feel for her and we fear for her.

This film stood out as a highlight, not only for its content matter, but for its overall artistic and professional quality.

A special shout out and thank you to all the volunteer reviewers who helped cover the excellent line up of films in the 2010 Atlantic Film Festival's That's So Gay programme.

Wayves Magazine was proud to partner with this year's film festival.

Gayby



Review by: Justin-Barry Mahoney
Photo credit: Image Shack.com
You're in your late thirties, hopelessly single and celibate, and you want to have a baby, but the idea of in vitro fertilization makes your wallet cringe and bureaucratic adoption procedures make you feel drowsy. What's a girl to do? Here's an awkward and yet simple solution: send a quick e-mail to your gay best friend from college asking him to father your baby and hope that he responds with a "Yeah, sure, no problem. I'll be right over" and that in nine months from then the whole situation will

The Four Fa



Review by: Justin Barry Mahoney
We all do questionable things in our twenties. It's how we test our limits without fear of being reprimanded by our parents whom we left in their empty nest. We are adults, after all, ready to pompously conquer the world one tequila shooter at a time. As twenty-somethings, we question our moral sensibilities while defending our half-baked notions about absolutely everything while quoting forgotten passages of Wilde's Dorian Gray, all in an effort to sound smart and in control of our own destiny. But in reality, all it takes is a quick call from Mom to remind ourselves of how vulnerable we really are. "The Four-Faced Liar," directed by Jacob Chase, shows us that coming to terms with our twenties comes at the price of security, friendship and making out with a hot lesbian in a dirty pub's washroom.

"The Four-Faced Liar" tells the story of Molly, an English literature student, who moves in with her boyfriend Greg, a trust fund kid with business aspirations. Both lived in a comfortable suburb of New Jersey until one day Molly decided she wanted to live in the big city. Greg feels as though New York doesn't look like Hollywood's romantic portrayals. Molly, on the other hand, loves every gritty moment of it. She wants to feel alive and connected. At a pub, Molly meets nonchalant Bridget and her roommate Tripp, a playboy in the making. A drinking

So Gay Programme Film Reviews

The Secret Diaries of Anne Lister

help solidify your relationship for years to come. This is the story of Jenn and Matt in Jonathan Lisecki's witty short, "Gayby."

Matt knocks at the door. Jenn nervously answers. Awkward hugs are given. Awkward glances are strained. Lisecki dives us directly into a conversation where diapers and pabulum feedings are the main point of focus. There is no conversational foreplay in this haphazard anti-romantic comedy, and it's refreshingly hilarious. The camera focus is shaky and tightly frames the main characters, making us feel as though we are part of the conversation or that we should have our say. Nervous laughter ensues from our part as we empathise with Jenn's dilemma.

It doesn't take long for Jenn to explain to her gay friend that she wants to have his baby "the old fashioned way." Rather than be taken aback from the baby proposal, after long pauses and conversational side glances Matt warms up to the idea of helping his friend to fill her emotional void. Perhaps the idea of seeing a little person made in his image is what gets him under the covers with Jenn.

Cut to the bed where our view is set firmly over the gay-straight couple's heads staring blankly at the ceiling as they discuss in staccato the best ways of getting sexually aroused in order to "perform." Matt elegantly proposes to "just stick it in while I'm about to come." No foreplay and no passion here; just funny talk and a deep need to be a parent. Just close your eyes, wait until it's over and hope the little soldiers find their way home.

As in most after sex moments, if you stick around long enough for it that is, your real feelings and aspirations may come out in conversation. In Jenn and Matt's case, sitting on the rooftop on a cold winter day has a sobering effect on them. Self-reflection and confidences ensue. The nervous laughter slowly melts away. As the credits roll, we are left reflecting on our own life choices... and our possible offspring.



Review by: Dawn Archambault

The Secret Diaries of Anne Lister is the sensual life story of a privileged lesbian writer born in 1791. Her story takes place in Halifax, West Yorkshire in the UK. This film provides a valuable account of the lives and struggles of not just women during this patriarchal time but more specifi-

cally lesbians.

Conspicuously absent from most historical accounts are the struggles lesbians faced when women in general were considered commodities by their fathers and then chattel by their husbands.

While this film provides compelling script, sumptuous eroticism and

poetic scenery, it lacks in unpacking the layers of meaning and undertones. "Gentleman Jack," as Anne was nicknamed by the angry, misogynistic homophobes of the day, was an educated, articulate, wealthy woman. Her privilege and supportive family allowed her to live her life as she chose and she did so with abandon. She was a strong feminist, who worked hard to retain her individualism at a time when individualism was not only frowned upon but also thought improper for any woman.

Historical accounts of the lives of any woman, especially lesbians are without a doubt highly valuable contributions to fill the holes in our history books. However one cannot help but wonder how vastly different were the experiences of lesbians who did not come from privilege and who did not have the freedoms that Anne's life allowed.

anced Liar



game of "never have I ever" reveals that Bridget prefers the company of women, preferably a different one for every day of the week. Molly is captivated by Bridget's candour and ability to seduce every woman she desires. It doesn't take long for Molly to wonder what Bridget's sweet lips would feel like pressed up against hers. Is Molly becoming a lesbian? Is it normal to experiment with other women at this age? What does the disorganised and uncombed Bridget have that manicured and well pressed Greg doesn't that makes Molly swoon for the hot lesbian? These are the thoughts that lead Molly to experiment with her sexual attraction for Bridget (after a drunken make out session in the pub's questionable washroom) while keeping Greg on the side.

It is never explained why Molly does the things she does. She loves Greg and doesn't want to hurt his feelings. She also loves Bridget but would rather keep their passionate affair hidden from their friends. Molly says she "just wants to be pushed up against the wall" when making love. This may be the best way to describe Molly; she is in search of what makes her feel real—at any emotional cost. Unfortunately, emotions are ephemeral and hold no logic. We are left with a Y-generationer that would rather hide her true feelings behind a thin social veil of drinking games rather than confronting them.

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Chef's Corner



What to do with all that leftover Halloween pumpkin?

In my "restaurant chef world" you cook them all down to a purée, vac-pack and freeze. Recognizing that this is a time consuming process doesn't really fit most anyone's life style—unless you are independently wealthy and have a Martha Stuart fetish—I have chosen a recipe that is inspired by the great fall harvest, yet will not take too much of your time away from the Mall.

Chef Darren is Chef de Cuisine and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, Halifax, N.S. Top 100 restaurants – "Where to Eat in Canada" Best Fine Dinning – "The Coast" Member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs" world gastronomic society. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, or online at www.chives.ca.

This recipe calls for canned pumpkin purée and a bag of dried cranberries, which can be picked up while you are at the mall (heh heh!). This is a great seasonal dessert that has been featured at Chives over the years and has always drawn great reviews. It's quite simple and quick to prepare which makes it even more attractive. Give it a try and let me know what you think.

Pumpkin Sun-dried Cranberry Bread Pudding

(serves 8)

Ingredients

4 egg yolks
2 whole eggs
1 cup whipping cream
1 cup milk

1 cup brown sugar
1 cup pumpkin purée
2 tbsp pumpkin pie spice (sold as such in most grocery stores)

1½ cups dried cranberries
1 lb day old brioche or sweet yeast bread (also works well with leftover pound cake) cut in small dice pieces

Method

1. Combine eggs, cream, milk, sugar pumpkin and spices with a whisk.
2. Pour the mixture over the bread or cake and dried cranberries. Mix gently and let soak overnight, or at least 2 hours.
3. Place in a greased and wax paper lined 9 inch spring form pan.
4. Wrap the outside of the pan in foil to make a water proof seal.
5. Bake at 325°F in a hot water bath (2-inch baking pan with hot water to 2/3 up on the side the cake pan) for approximately 1 hour, or until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the center of the cake.

Serving suggestions

I like to serve this pudding warm with caramel sauce, chopped pecans and lots of fresh whipped cream. Yum!

Review

Expressway

by Sina Queyras

Toronto: Coach House Books (2009)
Reviewed by Mary Kathryn Arnold
"There's a lot of pussy in this book. Even when it seems to be about something else, just think pussy," Sina Queyras has jokingly said of

her latest book of poetry, "Expressway." Her previous book, the excellent Lambda Award-winning "Lemon Hound," was a book-length conversation with Virginia Woolf. "Expressway" may be implicitly lesbian, but it is explicitly about nature and technology, just as highways are carved out of rocks and forests.

"Expressway" proclaims its lineage as a collection of Romantic poems with the titles it borrows from William Blake (the recurring refrain "A Memorable Fancy" and the book's final section "Proverbs of Hell"), yearning for connection in a world where technology isolates us and diminishes our natural resources. But Queyras's fourth book of poems also comes out of another tradition, that of Western Canadian women writing nature poems (think Jan Zwicky and P.K. Page). The Montreal-based Queyras, who was raised in British Columbia and wrote Expressway in Alberta, is closer still in style to Western Canadian feminist poets Phyllis Webb and Erin Mouré: spare, cerebral, avant-garde, and questioning.

From the opening poem, "Solitary," with its unrhymed triplets of

iambic pentameter, Queyras sets up her interest in form, narrative, and ideas—the clash of the old and the new that is post-modernity. A woman walks on a patch of green along the I-95, the highway that wends its way down the Eastern Coast of the United States, a "cellphone at her ear." She is the Romantic wanderer in a post-Romantic world, walking past condos thinking about "the idea of / River" as much as of the river itself, about Auschwitz and Darfur and the way we continue to hope despite countless horrors. It's too late to romanticize nature as she carries her father's ashes, for "Nature, / One concludes, is nostalgia."

Then, in the book's second section, "This Is Not My Beautiful Poem," Queyras comes out as a feminist, resisting the heterosexist expectation that as a woman, she will make beautiful art (think Marina Abramović's 1975 Art Must Be Beautiful, Artist Must Be Beautiful), defending her decision to include texting and cellphones over loons and redwoods in her contemporary consideration of nature, now looking out from Toronto's Gardiner Expressway. Here Queyras comes closest to lesbian love poetry: "Fleeting, fleeting, the backs of your heels, the salt on my/ tongue."

Section 3, "Because Every Road Is Made With Dynamite," reveals the heroine to be a woman of vim and vigour: "Where her uterus/ Was the

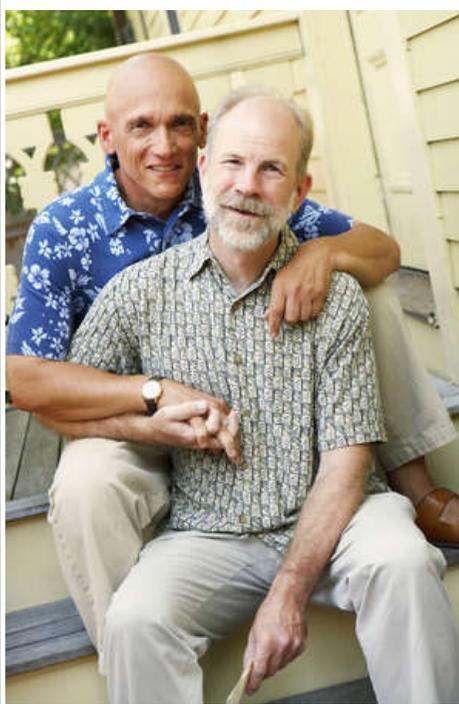
smell of buckshot and tar," a woman as likely to hop on her scooter as on her skateboard. More thoughts on nature: "Nature is what is caught, cellular, / Celluloid... (Perhaps nature/ Is childhood)." These poems are haunted by literature, our heroine preoccupied by Emily Dickinson: "Dickinson an ice pick scratching/ Wings in her brain."

The book's riskiest sections are its fourth and fifth: "Crash" (IV) is entirely composed of phrases from Google on the theme of car crashes, while "Some Moments From a Land Before the Expressway" (V) is a semi-

successful collage of text from Dorothy Wordsworth's Grasmere Journals. "Misdirections" contains some of the book's most satisfying poems, such as "Acceptable Dissociations," with its unconnected yet insistent closing questions hinting at romance and poetry: "Who wants a date who can't dance? / Who wants a line without rhythm? / Who wants a line without thought?" In "Three Dreams of the Expressway," Queyras dreams of women taking to the highways to dismantle what men called progress, putting down their laptops and iPods in favour of pickaxes and hammers.

The Blakean "Proverbs of Hell" is distinctly contemporary, hinting at environmental Armageddon: "The road of CO2s leads to rising seas... So the price of oil goes, so goes the number of wars... A wholesome food comes in fewer than sixteen pieces from seven states."

An indictment of uniformity, corporatization, and our own complicity, "Expressway" is romantic, realistic, and queer to the core, poetically committed to the curved rather than the linear: "The expressway is a straight line, but the crooked road remains the road of genius."



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Ramblings from the Sanctuary Garden

The Slow Down Movement Beckons

By Bethana Sullivan

Writing this monthly column is a good way to check on the process and events that I am engaged in and that surround me or pass me by in a blur. Sometimes it reminds me of how disjointed I feel as I reel from one thing to another, bouncing off ideas in meetings, stumbling over rocks in the garden and ducking the spice jars as they fall out of the cupboard—oops, there's goes my fish bowl!

My permaculture journey is becoming much like the other things in my life: big, important, exciting, interesting, all-consuming. It's like a snowball that becomes an avalanche. It isn't supposed to be like this. It's supposed to be about silence, observation, getting in touch with the inner spirit of the land, the self, listening to hear what needs to heal and how to do it. It is about reading, talking with others, engaging in community but, hey, who has the time? What about the goutweed strangling out the plants in

three of my largest beds, never mind the NDP allowing Nova Scotia Power to use woodchips to create power, or what is happening to our young gay friends bullied into dying or the Catholic church disseminating hate towards us or the dreadful fear mongering by Homeland Security forces that makes those already fearful try to keep out everything different from them.... It is overwhelming.

And then on the other side we have the happiness project, the daily quote being delivered right to the computer to enforce positive thinking; the "let's be grateful" movement; the "don't raise your voice because you might offend someone or worse, scare them or even worse, be labelled 'difficult to manage' and as such a threat to Homeland Security" movement; and most of all, the "let's be so busy being responsible for our health that we don't ever have to really think about what is going on in us and around us" movement.

This is, I think, a version of the goutweed in my garden.

So I woke up the other morning thinking about all of this, about how permaculture is becoming just another thing to do. In talking to a friend about it all he was reminded

It is about reading, talking with others, engaging in community but, hey, who has the time?

of how his father used to come home after work, change his clothes, and go sit on his lawn to weed it for an hour or so. Just a steady, everyday task that kept the weeds at bay while providing him a quiet time to be while doing. And we marvelled at what life was like than that allowed for such a thing. I told my friend that I find I am reacting to the events and people around me, that I woke up with the resolve to stop this. It won't be easy because

so much of what we do these days is reactive just because of the sheer amount of what we know and what is happening—it is a continue stream of information flooding our systems.

Deeper than the amount of information is the stream of fear flooding us: it is this that needs to be dammed. And not by mindless words of gratitude, ungrounded euphoria or simplified spirituality but by deep listening to the earth, by observation of what works and what doesn't, through conversation with each other using words that recognize and open us to each other and by slowing down, feeling the fear, learning how to ground with it and still be active. Not running, running, running.

As to the garden goutweed I took out all the perennials of one bed and am digging out by hand the roots of the goutweed than I will cover it with layers of cardboard and inches of mulch and overwinter the bed, checking for any goutweed growth



in the spring, repeating the above steps if necessary and then replant. The other two beds I will tackle in the early spring before the goutweed begins to grow.

So I guess, in the end, I am still interested in permaculture and in the "slow down" movement.

Facebook: Leaving the Addiction Behind

By Christian Corbet

It has often been referred to as "Crackbook" or FB, and even to some it's a life line for daily gossip. I respect that. However, Facebook is no longer for me. It may be the leading social network in the world and excellent for profiling businesses, organizations and other groups, but personally I am tired of it.

I decided to leave Facebook last month for a number of reasons.

However, the main motivation is the fact that it's a time-vacuum, sucking up all my bits of the day where I should be working in my studio or as Chairperson of Corner Brook Pride. I am bored reading about people's children advancing from diapers to pull-ups or from people who bitch about that little caterpillar that crossed their sidewalk! Some talk can be so trivial—at least to me.

I came to realize what a great net-

working system Facebook is for business, especially exposing people to a group that is close to my heart called Corner Brook Pride. And network it did! Within the first week Newfoundland and Labrador's first legally registered non-profit Pride organization garnered over 100 friends and supporters from all walks of life. Six weeks later the Corner Brook Pride Group escalated to over 600 people worldwide. Nice! And we didn't have to pay a cent to advertise—even better. Such exposure shone a bright spotlight on western Newfoundland, enlightening the LGBT community, both locally and beyond, to the fact that this often forgotten side of our island is out and proud and gearing up for our first official Pride for September.

FB did that for us—or, rather, we instigated all this community exposure to profile who we were, what we were doing and where we are going. We utilized the FB group to let City of Corner Brook officials realize that we had a right to a voice and that Freedom of Expression was

actually a Constitutional Right! So did it work? Damn right it did and it awakened them to the reality that we are, in fact, a part of the community, and there was no silencing us.

So now down to the nitty-gritty. Yes, I, the "creator" of the Corner Brook Pride Group, have left FB. Does this mean that the group closes down? Absolutely not. It will carry on with our other administrators while I focus more on the business of chairing Corner Brook Pride for 2011. As for the administrators of the group, they will carry on gleefully

letting our community know we are alive and well, and they will still keep me in the loop.

So for me, I realize I won't have everyday "creeping" rights into the lives of other people, and likewise for them to see what I am doing—but I am here. E-mail me, send an instant message via MSN or even write me a letter (I do like receiving tangible mail other than bills!). My time now will be dedicated more to Pride and sustaining a growing and glowing LGBT community here in western Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond.

Who,
What, When,
Where, and Why.
That's it. That's all you have to write. Then send it to us, and you might see it in a future issue of Wayves! Just send us an email at submissions@wayves.ca right now!

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

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces.

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

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

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: gender_expressions@hotmail.com (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Healing Our Nations: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. 1.800.565.4255 email: director@access-wave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Integrity: Integrity is an organization of GLBT Anglicans and their friends, to encourage Christian gay men and lesbians in their spiritual life; to support the Church in its commitment to seek and serve Christ in all people; and to reach out to the GLBT community in Christian love and service. (902) 425-8383 web: www.integritycanada.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

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

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

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

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

Spectrum: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unbf.ca/clubs/spectrum (Meets Fridays during the school year. See webpage for location.)

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

Moncton

AIDS Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 506-859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at (506-859-4726 fax) 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

Moncton Line Dancing: 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: 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

River of Pride-riviere de fierte INC. of Greater Moncton: The organization meets regularly, to discuss upcoming events and activities, everyone is welcome to attend. check out time / location posted on the website. Media and general inquiries, including registration of volunteers and parade participation, can be made from the website or by email. email: riverofpride@hotmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

Safe Spaces Moncton Region: Education on how to create safe environments for GLBT-TQQ youth. 859-9616

Transgendered Peer Support Group : Open to all M2F, F2M, Andro and trans-supporters from across Atlantic Canada. email: be_tgmoncton@live.com

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton: Visé 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.)

Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

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

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

Catalyst: Catalyst, Mount Allison's Queer-Straight Alliance, provides support & information for all Mt. A students, staff, and faculty through meetings, seminars, and social events. Everyone is welcome. email: catalyst@mta.ca web: www.mta.ca/clubs/catalyst/ (Catalyst meets approximately every week from Sept-Dec and Jan-April. For meeting info contact the president at catalyst@mta.ca or the Students' Administrative Council at sac@mta.ca.)

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT-T2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: invites you to worship!. 506-634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS Saint John: To improve the quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the spread of HIV through education and a needle exchange program. Call the office for details. 652-2437 email: aids@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com, meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St. Saint John New Brunswick

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

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

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

The UNBSJ Q-Collective: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LGBTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News". Past events include the annual Rainbow Peace March, guest speakers, movie nights, participation in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

Woodstock

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

Frontrunners Newfoundland and Labrador: Running/walking club. 722-5791 or 753-9529 email: tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net,jennifer.mcreath@yahoo.com (meeting times can be flexible to accommodate new runners.)

St. John's

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

Gay Urban Youth Zone Project: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness 579-8656 (ext. 28) web: www.aicl.net at Tommy Sexton Centre 47 Janeway Place Pleasantville, across from the old Janeway Hospital AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador LBGT-MUN Resource Centre: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers!. 737-7619 email: lbgt@munso.ca (Open Monday-Friday 9-4. Biweekly meetings for members and volunteers.) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved!

LBGTQ Youth Group: A monthly gathering for queer, allied, questioning, and any interested youth. We offer social events such as bowling, movie nights, and coffee houses. Contact group coordinator Rob Sinnott at the number listed, email, or visit the web page for more info. 699-0509 email: lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org web: nlsexualhealthcentre.org

PFLAG Canada: 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 gemmahickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's Pride: St. John's Official Pride Organization. web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2497860774

Nova Scotia (902)

Hepatitis Outreach Society: Since 1999 the Hepatitis Outreach Society has been providing support, education and prevention information for those infected and affected by hepatitis in the province of Nova Scotia. 420-1767 in HRM or 1-800-521-0572 email: info@HepatitisOutreach.com web: www.HepatitisOutreach.com at Our office is located at 2973 Oxford Street, between Liverpool and Cork streets. Please call to make an appointment or email Program@HepatitisOutreach.com.

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.

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

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society: email: tpineo@hotmail.com

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

Amherst

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

The Cumberland Pride Society: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5143 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Monday (7-9 PM)

Antigonish

Rainbow Warriors: Rainbow Warriors is a youth-run support group for LBGTQ youth and allies in Antigonish. We hold social events such as picnics and game nights, have educational discussions around topics such as stereotypes/assumptions and transsexuality, and raise awareness in the surrounding community by participating in functions such as the Highland Games Parade and the Farmers' Market. While our group is youth-focused everyone is regardless of age, and gender identity or sexual orientation! Find our group on Facebook "Rainbow Warriors - AHAH!". email: antigonishrainbowwarriors@gmail.com, meets every Monday (3:00-5:00pm) at The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, located in the Kirk Building at 219 Main Street, Suite 204 (above Tim Hortons).

X-Pride: social & support group at X. 867-5007 web: www.stfx.ca/people/xpride

Bridgewater

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NS-SexualHealth.ca web: www.theShaC.org (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead.) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

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

Halifax

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

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

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

Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. June 13 to around September 12 we have one 10 am service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

BLT-Womyn of Halifax: Bi Sexauls, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ (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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Call or email Pastor Elaine for more information. 876-8771 email: koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca (bi-weekly at 12:30pm) at Halifax Feast, Maritime Centre

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

Mount Pride: GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@mountstudents.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 12 noon) at The Diversity Center in Roseria on campus, and online (see email) 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.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: NSRAP, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: for 15 years the leading advocate for Nova Scotia's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community. Fostering change in our communities through education, outreach, and political action. 444.3206 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrp.ca at TBA

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

housie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (902-431-8500) at Halifax Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St
Play Group for Queer Families: 422-8780 (3-5pm) at Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week.

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

prideHealth: prideHealth is a program of Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre. If you are a member of the pride community and need support with any kind of health care call Anita our Clinical Nursing Specialist, number below. She is available free of charge, offers complete confidentiality, and can also give you support if you are experiencing homo or transphobia. prideHealth- improving safe access to health care. 220.0643

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

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

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GBLT 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

Spirituality For Lesbians: We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. 459-2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

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

The Masculine Spectrum: is a new support group for all transgender, transsexual, & trans men, FtMs, female assigned at birth genderqueers, two-spirited, intersexed, & questioning people 18 years of age or older, of all sexual orientations. No significant others, friends, family, or allies please. web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group, meets 2nd Sunday at Just Us Cafe, 5896 Spring Garden Road

The Youth Project: Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (6-9pm) at 2281 Brunswick Street. 25 and under. Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events. 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,

Trans Family Nova Scotia: We are the Parents, Partners, Family, Friends & Allies of Trans-Identified Individuals. supporting one another. 902-431-8500 email: transfamily@eastlink.ca, meets 3rd Monday (6:30 to 8:30 pm) at The Youth Project (2281 Brunswick St., Halifax)

Universalist Unitarian Church: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500 email: uuchurch@eastlink.ca web: UUCH.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30; see website for special events) at 5500 Inglis St

Kentville

Red Door: Youth Health & Support Centre. Information and services for sexual health. Ages 13 - 30. 679-1411 web: thereddoor.ca (Monday to Friday 2pm to 6pm) at 150 Park Street

Kingston

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 825-3197,363-2055 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: 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

Lunenburg

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

Middleton

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

New Glasgow

Pictou County Women's Centre: Offering Individual Support Counselling and Crisis Intervention, Information and Referral, Advocacy and Accompaniment, Programs and Community Education. 755-4647 email: pcwc@womenscentre.ca

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: 695-3366 email: pppc@ns.sympatico.ca

Pride of Pictou County: All GBLT in Pictou County. web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

New Minas / Annapolis Valley

Valley Youth Project: Sexual Orientation. Gender Identity. Allies. Youth. email: valleyyouthproject@gmail.com (6-8:30 most Wednesdays through May) at New Minas Civic Center, 9209 Commercial St. Ages 25 & under. Free bus tickets available. Free food. Fun activities. Join us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT-T2IQQ 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

Sydney

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: 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

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre: 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.

PFLAG: 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

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

Tatamagouche

Tatamagouche Centre: We are an affirming centre, welcoming all gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. 1.800.218.2220 email: tatacent@tatacentre.ca web: www.tatacentre.ca

Truro

Central Nova Women's Resource Centre: Resources, programs and services available for all women identified women. Advocacy and support - with outreach to rural areas. Also, see our Facebook group. Central Nova Women's Resource Centre http://cnwrc.weebly.com, cnwrc@eastlink.ca 535 Prince Street, Truro, NS B2N 1E8 (902) 895-4295. web: cnwrc.weebly.com

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre: Provides support and information to anyone (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

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

Rainbow Proud: Rainbow Proud supports the LGBT** community of Truro and surrounding areas. Our small group of volunteers work hard to put events together for everyone's enjoyment. Any feedback will be considered and can be sent to our

email address. We hope you continue to come celebrate our community together. email: rainbowproud@hotmail.com web: rainbowproudnovascotia.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

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

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

Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGB-T2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiu.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre: 585-2140 email: womens.centre@acadiau.ca (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

Yarmouth

South West Nova Pride: GLBT of any age are invited, we meet as a social gathering and peer support group on the 2nd last Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Beacon United Church parlour 25 Beacon St. Yarmouth. We are not church affiliated. 645-2914 email: jackanddan@eastlink.ca web: SWNovaPride.com

Prince Edward Island (902)

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

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

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

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pflagpei@eastlink.ca web: 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.

Charlottetown

ARC -- Abegweit Rainbow Collective: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)

Lay Chaplaincy Services
 Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax
 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1J8
 uuchurch@eastlink.ca
 902-429-5500
 Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw Lay Chaplains
 sstephen57@gmail.com ♦ armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca

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To learn more, or to set up an appointment with Anita, please call 220.0643 or e-mail: anita.keeping@cdha.nshealth.ca

Capital Health IWK Health Centre

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www.looseends.ca

PFLAG CANADA
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 Join us on the first Thursday of every month, 6-9pm at the Halifax Youth Project 2281 Brunswick Street
 Contact Michelle Malette 992.431.8500

Trans Family Nova Scotia
 Supporting...
 ...partners
 ...parents
 ...allies
 so they can do a better job of supporting the trans-identified person in their life!
 3rd Monday of each month 6:30 - 8:30 pm at The Youth Project 2281 Brunswick, Halifax 902.431.8500 transfamily@eastlink.ca



By Randall Perry

Pink is for boys, blue is for girls. Incorrect, you say? Only since post-World War II time has pink been the colour with strong associations to femininity. Pink as a shade of red, a regal and powerful colour, is historically manly. Blue is daintier, more calming, soothing and nurturing (in Catholic cultures evocative of the Virgin Mary), an association better reserved for girls.

How perceptions change.

The older I get the more I realize that masculinity is not so much an innate characteristic as it is something we as male individuals paint from the palette of our memories, perceptions

The Last Word Masculine: A Meditation

and experiences. We create the masculine for ourselves and for society and we make adjustments as we go along—fine-tuning, adjusting, sometimes scrapping the whole thing and starting over from scratch. It can be enormously frustrating, finding context for our expression. It can also be a source of immense reward. As gay men we have all kinds of freedom, whether we accept it or not, to write our own wish lists and define for ourselves what it means to be masculine in a society where gender roles remain stubbornly fixed yet gender expression is increasingly fluid.

I've not always thought like this. For a long time I thought that masculinity meant emulating what I experienced as a child growing up in a small village in north western Prince Edward Island. To me it was clear: the masculine was embodied in the rugged fishermen and farmers

who inhabited the realm of the rural. Anything else was less than manly, less than acceptable. Growing up disinterested in my father's decidedly working-class world meant I was destined for something else, something for which I suffered taunts and jeers of other, more boyish boys. I was told to be a man and stop acting like a girl. What kind of a boy writes stories and bakes cakes and is uninterested in hunting and chopping wood? How can an imaginative, sensitive man survive in a world that considers him beneath contempt?

When I was in school, a boy wouldn't be caught dead wearing pink. It would have been social suicide. Now pink is being reclaimed, worn as a challenge to arbitrary societal norms. Truth be told, I have a difficult time wearing pink. I don't think it looks good on me and I still feel the burn of judgemental eyes. It

appears I am not as highly evolved as I like to think. I still have a lot to learn.

I'm told I don't "look gay" or "sound gay." I have a deep voice. A beard. Hair on my chest. A stocky build. I inherited my working-class heritage as a genetic stamp, a chance mix of Irish and French genes. But XY in itself is not masculinity—no more or less than a stereotypical perception of tendencies toward the over-dramatic is the sole indicator of sexual orientation.

I was a fey child, sensitive and creative, given to imagination and emotion. The core of my being is still shot through with those remnants, all these years later. Boys are not supposed to cry, so say the arbiters of what is strong and manly. I still wear my heart on my sleeve and when I feel like an outsider and nobody cares the child I once was tugs at my sleeve and says, "Go ahead. I'll make sure

nobody sees."

A friend once said, "When you're gay it totally subverts the patriarchy." I think it goes further than that. Strong, confident gay men, no matter their manner, completely turn the patriarchy on its head. We render its arguments moot. The myriad archetypes are ours to combine as dramatically or stoically as we dare.

As I approach early middle age I continue my task of reinvention of attitude. Physically I'm finally comfortable in my own skin. I will never fulfill society's expectations of me because I was never compatible with them from day one. Mine is the realm of the pen and the word. I'll leave the working of the land to a hardier bunch. In the early hours of the morning, we will still make love with each other, no matter what we inherit.

randall@wayves.ca

What If Others See You Doing It Online?

by Bill McKinnon

Unless you want to be a porn star, you would probably prefer the particulars of your sexual liaisons to remain private and not available for the world to see, because it is your affair and that of your partner and not anyone else's business.

Pierre Elliot Trudeau said once that the state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation. I believe he would also have agreed that secret webcams have no business in students'

dormitory rooms. Well, it seems an eighteen-year-old Rutgers student, Tyler Clementi, naturally enough did not want his sexual encounter with another guy made public; so when two classmates secretly recorded the event with a webcam and streamed it online, Tyler killed himself by jumping off the George Washington Bridge on September 22.

We cannot know how Tyler's emotions and thinking led him to suicide but he faced the awful pre-

dicament of a young man being outed before the world, and, in his loneliness, shock and the overwhelming embarrassment he must have felt, he could not find a better solution. The details of Tyler's outing are maybe not

... the damage has been done—a young man has needlessly died ...

common but many other young men have also killed themselves when it was made known that they were gay and it seemed there was no one to turn to for help.

The Clementi tragedy occurred in New Jersey but it could just as easily have happened in Halifax or anywhere in Atlantic Canada, and it could happen to you, to me or to anyone. Webcams and video cameras are common and inexpensive today, and it's relatively easy to upload a video of a person, doing whatever with whomever, to the Internet and make the video available for viewing all over the world.

Such an activity is an invasion of

privacy and is a crime, but the damage has been done—a young man has needlessly died and his family is left with horrific grief. The perpetrators, if found guilty (in New Jersey), may serve up to five years in prison, but

Tyler's life has been permanently extinguished. It is also possible that this hurtful and insensitive prank by the two apparently heterosexual and homophobic classmates was a hate crime, for they not only uploaded the video, they also told their friends where to find it.

What can we learn from this unfortunate incident? I guess we can be careful we are not photographed by anyone with a webcam or even a cell phone, for cell phones can readily shoot videos. There is probably little or no sexual activity at the Dartmouth Sportsplex, yet using or even having a cell phone out in the open is banned in dressing rooms.

Having sex in a public place is both illegal and not a good idea, and even a relatively private place, such as a room at a sauna, might allow someone to make a video of you with a cell phone. If you become involved with someone in his or her house or apartment, it is also a good

idea to check that there is no webcam in the room, and if you do elect to allow someone else to film whatever you may be doing, you are looking for trouble.

If you are a young man or woman, you may well face a situation where someone spreads the word around that you are gay or lesbian, not necessarily by putting up a video on the internet. Naturally, you are upset, embarrassed, lonely and don't know where to turn for help. There is however help available. One good source for young people is the Youth Project... call (902) 429-5429 or check out www.youthproject.ns.ca. YouTube is another instant source for troubled LGBT youth. The "It Gets Better" is a good place to start: www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject.

Tyler's family was of course devastated by the loss of a son they dearly loved. On Friday, September 30, students at Rutgers wore black to remember Tyler Clementi and on Saturday the football team observed a moment of silence. Perhaps the rest of us may also wish to remember his death and to pray that this needless tragedy does not happen again.

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Letter

Dear Wayves:

I would like to respond to the article "The Pregnant Lesbian" by Valerie Windsor in the October issue.

Being both a parent and an adoptee perhaps brings an interesting perspective on this issue. I grew up in a home where being adopted was never mentioned. It wasn't until I was in my early teens that I overheard a remark that caused me to really think about the fact that I could be adopted. I had heard little "community rumours" but had no actual proof. My parental mother supplied me with my birth certificate just prior to my leaving home and entering the work force. It further supported the idea that I could be adopted. Thus began the desire/curiosity to find out as much as I could about my birth parents. In

my case I was able to locate them and I had a wonderful, positive experience and have met a beautiful, extended family that I enjoy daily.

It is difficult for me to put in words my inner feelings when I see ads from a couple that "just want sperm." Think about it! There are men who want the opportunity to be a loving father. They want more than to just be a donor. They want to be involved in the child's life. Allow them that opportunity, please.

I was fortunate to have two mothers and fathers. That is truly a blessing. I am sure that if I had not known a father that I would have questions and be curious. Don't rob your child of the opportunity of knowing the person behind the sperm.

Bernie Nickerson

Where is You Tell Us?

You may have noticed that the You Tell Us box on the third-last page of the magazine has been missing for the last few months.

We've retired the column. We had a lot of fun with it, our readers learned a little about each other, but its time has come and gone.

If you're interested in doing an interactive column with the Wayves readers — write us a note! We're always open to new ideas.

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Free!

November 2010

Community Hero Eric Smith



Inside:

Marsha Clark, Fredericton Artist

Prostitution: A Queer Rights Issue

November 20: Transgender Day of

Remembrance