

# wayves

## The Many Levels of Patricia Rozema

By Ramona Westgate

If you are a lesbian over the age of 30, then as a rite of passage it is unlikely you have not seen “When Night is Falling.” Although it is no more wondrous than any of writer/director Patricia Rozema’s work, it was at the time a rare opportunity to see two women falling in love and making love on screen. Patricia was recently in Halifax to headline the first ever WIFT-AT “Women Making Waves” conference. I had the distinct pleasure of both sitting in on the opening session, *A Voyage of Discovery*, and was able to chat with Patricia later that morning.

During the opening session, Patricia discussed her work in an interview format with art journalist Christina McLean. Christina led Patricia on a chronological journey through her feature films. Participants were given a glimpse into how Patricia’s mind works as she shared her insights from herself described surprise success of “I’ve Heard the Mermaids Singing” to her conflicting feelings on “the thrill of voyeurism” as we “enter a new era of less and less privacy and more and more exhibitionism” dur-

ing the making of “Grey Gardens.” She described her creative process as how she uses what she has learned in life and applies it to her work. Sharing an analogy of how she incorporates what she learned at her Calvin College philosophy class about a glass (or a pen) existing on a multitude of levels. It ‘functions on an aesthetic level, a historical level..., an economical level... the more levels you can address on each square of the world the richer it is.’ This combined with her first (borrowed) mantra as a film maker to “make it simple but bursting at the seams.” She strategized to “always trying to find that central line, that one cord that runs through the whole thing. It’s simple at the beginning, I clutter it up with feeling and thought and image, reaction and style and atmosphere and plot, plot, plot... Then I strip away again to find the line, that simplicity and hopefully there is a beautiful, simple rich essence left.”

Patricia appeared to captivate conference participants with the same “one half drama, one half humour” recipe for success that she

applies to her films. With the frequent eruption of belly laughs from the auditorium, it is not so surprising that Patricia describes herself as “inherently funny” if not somewhat ironic when she calls herself “laughable really.” At one point admitting she always “had the desire to be on the outside of the law” and is thankful that her Calvinist upbringing meant “the law was don’t buy things on Sunday, because if it had been normal, I’d be selling meth or something.” All joking aside, she credits her success to hard work, and her need to explore new avenues for her artistic expression. She admits she craves the challenging insecurities of “I want to be a little nervous if I can pull it off.” Ultimately she describes what she terms the dream of all dreams is to “defeat death... if

you can create something that is very beautiful from beginning to end and it will always remain thus.”

Sitting down with Patricia one on one, it is easy to see there are just as many levels to her as her philosophical glass of water, and she seems to value them all on the same level. She appears to take a great deal of joy from her parenting. She is proud to be a Canadian, stating that “Canada is the best place to live in the world if you are a lesbian.” She has a genuine

love of women and sincere appreciation of her friendships with men. She is remarkably modest for her stature, so much so that conversing with her was so engaging that it felt more like meeting a new acquaintance at lesbian dinner party than interviewing an Emmy award winner. Yet there is something mesmerizing about her passion for life and her work that sets her apart and reminds you that

*Cont’d on page 4*



*Un sur Dix Sexual Diversity March during Sexual Diversity Awareness Week in March 2010. They marched around University of Moncton's Campus with the pride flag, posters and signs, and will be doing it again on March 22 as part of Sexual Diversity Week 2011.*

by Chantal Thanh Laplante

Un sur Dix is a University of Moncton association for the LGBT community and their allies. Our mission is to ensure their well-being, as well as to end homophobia. The services and activities are not only for students, but for the entire community as well. The 2010-2011 executive consists of president Chantal Thanh Laplante, vice-president Jean-Roch Savoie, and executive members Estelle Lanteigne, Lyne Michaud and Céline Comeau.

We hold regular activities such as monthly pizza lunches, movies on

sexual orientation, awareness booths and presentations, support and discussion groups and more. Following our presentations with high school students, many French schools have created their own Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA). We have an annual “Sexual diversity awareness week” in March where LGBT students and allies walk around the Moncton university campus with rainbow flags, awareness posters and signs. We participated in 2010’s Pride Parade and did an interview on Radio-Canada’s show “Luc et Luc” this past January, which gave us a lot of visibility in the

community.

Although many people might think that universities are homophobic-free environments, this is not the case. At University of Moncton, we often have our posters ripped off the walls or thrown in the garbage. LGBT students are laughed at or criticized for their “feminine” or “masculine” styles; we know of at least three LGBT students that tried to commit suicide in the last year. This is why an association like “Un sur Dix” exists on campus and will continue to offer services for the community.

We recently organized a public

## Un sur Dix Moncton

awareness event at the Champlain Mall. On February 12 at 12:30 p.m., a few dozen people froze for three minutes in a certain pose close to the food court. With Valentine’s Day nearby, we created this event to raise awareness of the diversity of couples and to send out the message that “love is love, no matter what your sexual orientation.” Although the public was wondering what was going on at first, they read our signs and understood the meaning of the event and even applauded once we had finished. We had attracted the media (Here Magazine), which did an article on our “Love Freeze” the week after.

Also, we have been working on creating awareness posters, which we will launch during this year’s Sexual Diversity Awareness week (March 21-25). The posters feature members of the Un sur Dix Association and University of Moncton students and have the following themes: stereotypes, homophobia, love is love and educating children.

If you wish to be a member of Un sur Dix and/or if you need support, you can contact us by e-mail at [un-sur-dix@umoncton.ca](mailto:un-sur-dix@umoncton.ca). We also have a website ([etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix](http://etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix)) where we regularly post our past and upcoming activities.

## Regular Columns

**Chef's Corner 10 • Groups & Services 12 • I Am What I Amherst 5 • Kibitz and Bitch 6 • Lesbian Soap Box Diaries 4 • Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden 11 • Last Word 14**



**Deadline for May issue: Friday, Apr. 1 (first Friday of every month!) [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) • Online: [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca) • Join us on Facebook: **Wayves Magazine Rocks!** • and Twitter: **@WayvesMagazine****



# Fetish Ball in Halifax

By Don Murchy

The Eighth Annual Fetish Ball will be held this year on April 30 at the Fleet Club in Barrington St. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m. and close at 2:00 a.m. The Show starts at 9:00 p.m. with the Fetish Wear Contest at 11:00 p.m. and dancing till close.

The Fetish Ball is the biggest fundraiser for a number of local fetish groups and not-for-profit groups. The three to four hundred people from all orientations that participate always have a great time, and have a chance to win some decent prizes from the local Sponsors like Venus Envy, Halfway Creations, Night Magic, Booty Boutique, Wayves and the Coast.

Our host this year will be Rouge Fatale. The show, which includes the Noveltease exotic dancers, displays involving bondage, Vac Bed, flogging, violet wand play, foot worship and trampling, gender bending, Puppy and Kitten play, rope dancing and suspension and any other edge

play we can find before show time.

The Fetish Contest at 11:00 p.m. will be judged by three local celebrities from the local Community. Simple rules: all genitals are covered, as well as female breasts, and no butt cheeks are to be showing. The outfit can be spiky, lacey, leathery, rubbery, latex-y... you get the idea. We are here to have fun with people who we have gotten to know over the years and with new folks of a like minded attitude.

Some of the reasons to come to the Fetish Ball are to support our local fetish groups, check out the latest fetish fashions, connect with the best Dom(mes) and subs in the Maritimes, see how to join some of the local fetish and BDSM groups, see the erotic and exotic acts being put together by local groups and to feel free to be who you really are—even if it is only for a night.

At this year's Fetish Ball Weekend, Masque will host the Friday Evening party.

New this year, the School of Kink will be hosting an Interactive Dungeon from noon to 4:00 p.m. The Interactive Dungeon will showcase some of the Fetish community's most popular forms of play. We'll have flogging, spanking, and other forms of impact play, as well as needle play, wax play, fire play, and the always popular violet wand and rope bondage.

This is a perfect opportunity for the public to come out and experience what we do first-hand. Many of our local community members have volunteered their time and expertise to make sure the experience is a positive and safe one. Everyone is welcome to try out anything being showcased as either the giver or the receiver. We'll give tips and hints to make sure you feel comfortable with whatever you choose to experience.

Please join us April 30 from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the School of Kink's Interactive Dungeon and then the Fetish Ball at 8:00 p.m.



Demonstration at a previous Fetish Ball.

## Atlantic News



### AIDS Saint John Memorial

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial had its beginnings in 1983

and has become an annual May event around the world. We remember those we have lost to HIV/AIDS, and offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. At AIDS Saint John, we have been dedicated to celebrating this event since the late 1980s.

This year, reflective music provided by local artists such as Debbie Adshade, Theresa Rogers, and the Saint John

String Quartet will set the tone for a very powerful evening. Once again, we will be joined by dancers from the Port City Dance Academy. Father Bill Elliott, our guest speaker, will call on

us to ponder action speaking louder than words.

The reading of names of the loved ones we have lost is always the most touching part of the evening.

So please join us on Sunday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Vincent's Convent Chapel (side entrance) on Cliff St. You being with us matters.

In addition, please mark your calendars for the AIDS Saint John Annual General Meeting, to be held Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Centenary Queen Square on Wentworth Street. For more information call (506) 652-2437 or e-mail aidssj@nb.aibn.com.

### Safe Harbour at Crossroads

At the end of the service on March 20, Safe Harbour MCC's minister Jennifer Paty announced that she can no longer continue with the congregation.

Paty cited financial reasons — the very modest Safe Harbour stipend vs. the cost of living and taxes in Canada — and spiritual divisiveness within the congregation which have only seen modest improvements during her time with Safe Harbour.

Board member Angela Croft confirmed that the organization is not financially stable.

The church will examine its future at the Annual General Meeting after the service on April 3.

### HERSTORY

HERSTORY is a passionate visual ART show about our grandmothers', aunts', and mothers' influences and how these translate into our own creative processes. It is a reflection of their stories fused within our own. Local artists Dawn Josey and Jaki Durocher will exhibit their art at the Nova Scotia Archives Gallery located at 6016 University Avenue, Halifax, for the month of April. Opening night is April 6 from 6:00 – 9:00

p.m. For more information please call (902) 866-1003, e-mail at [jaki.durocher@live.ca](mailto:jaki.durocher@live.ca) or visit the website at [www.jakidurocher.com](http://www.jakidurocher.com).

### Corbet In Russia

Wayves contributor and acclaimed Canadian portrait artist Christian Corbet is the first Canadian artist to have a sculpture added to the permanent collection of the State Darwin Museum in Russia.

Corbet was commissioned in 2009 to create a portrait bust of Charles Darwin on the bicentenary of Darwin's birth. Charles Darwin (1809-1882) was a Naturalist and most famous for his groundbreaking writing entitled: "On the Origin of Species" published in 1859. Corbet was a natural selection to sculpt this portrait, as the Corbet family had known Charles Darwin.

Nicolas Simakov of the State Darwin Museum at The Museum of Natural History in Moscow wrote in an email statement "...I have told to our keepers in order to find out if



### Allan James Francis

This world has become a little bit dimmer. Allan James Francis, 35, from Indianbrook, "Little Al," "Alexis From Texas," "Allen Fufu," "Alley Kat" as we knew her has left us to join the spiritual world. Little Al lived all of her life with courage and style, always dressing and celebrating her woman spirit. Life on the Rez and in the blueberry camps at Maine was a bit more fabulous with her there. All the Shubiewacker women were a bit envious when Little Al appeared, especially with

those high-heeled sneakers that no one else had or could walk in. Even in Maine she would be raking blueberries in full drag, never getting dirty and keeping up with any of the men. Little Al is survived by her family and friends and by her drag sister and best friend, Rob Michael.



**Halifax 2011**

# Fetish Ball

Hosted by: **Rouge Fatale**

**Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**PERFORMANCES:**  
Exotic Dancers, Suspension  
Vac Bed & other stage performances  
**9 to 11 pm**

**CONTESTS & DOOR PRIZES:**  
**11 to MIDNIGHT**

**LOCATION:**  
**FLEET CLUB**  
Barrington Street entrances, just down from the  
Halifax Shipyards

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON:**  
**12 to 4** There will be an interactive  
dungeon at the Fleet Club  
Fetish Ball from **8 to 2**

**MASQ**  
Fetish theme Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>  
**Coconut Grove**

sponsored by:



# Order Flowers, Receive Homophobia

by Nathan Adams

"I am choosing to decline your business. As a born again Christian, I must respect my conscience before God and have no part in this matter." This is what's stated in the e-mail Kim Evans, owner of Petals and Promises, a flower shop in Riverview, NB, sent to a lesbian couple who were preparing for their wedding. At first Ms. Evans had agreed to make the floral arrangements for the wedding, but when she learned it was for a same sex wedding... an anxious couple waiting to see their beautiful flowers received nothing but homophobia.

Although the couple wishes to remain silent, Mario Bourgeois Leduc, the couple's wedding planner, stated on an interview with CBC radio that he was appalled by the florist's e-mail. "You're celebrating love and you're going against all of the odds

to celebrate what is important in your life," he stated. "This is going to stay with them for years, because they were again told that their lives are not okay."

It is hard to believe that in this day so much fear still exists in society, yet religion is supposed to justify it? Well, I'm sorry, Kim Evans, but my God is a loving God who loves all of his children equally!

Section 5 of the New Brunswick Human Rights Act states that "No person shall deny to any person or class of person, any accommodation, services or facilities available to the public because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of origin, age, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, sex, social conditions, political beliefs or activities."

The attitude of Petals and Prom-

ises has caused much uproar with the gay community, resulting in numerous petitions, news coverage, and on Saturday, March 19, about sixty people gathered for a peaceful protest in front of the Riverview shop.

In an effort to show that this is not going to be forgotten, members of the LGBT community and supporters rallied at Petals and Promises, leaving flowers on the doorstep. Meredith Martell, organizer of the event, stated that it was an absolutely incredible turnout. "Thank you, thank you, thank you everyone who came out today, it could not have gone better, you are all just awesome!"

There was no negativity and no hostility. "We will give the florist what she was incapable of giving our community, a bit of kindness,"



About 60 people showed up for the peaceful demonstration in Riverview, N.B. against a flower shop that refused to sell to a same-sex couple, citing religious beliefs. Photo by Nathan Adams.

Meredith added.

It was an amazing feeling to witness the LGBT community and its supporters pull together like they did

and make a stand for what is right. As long as we all keep reaching out and moving forward, together we will make homophobia a part of the past.

## More Atlantic News

Cont'd from prev. page

there are some more works of art at our museum, created by Canadians, but it seems this bust is the first one. That is why we are very happy."

The portrait bust of Darwin is made of bisque and hand-painted mounted on a walnut base. For Corbet this is the first work of art he had collected into a national Russian museum so he is equally pleased. Corbet said, "To be the first artist to represent one's country is an absolute honour and quite humbling."

### ClosetLetter

ClosetLetter is a new website with a simple purpose: creator Michael Browne is looking for first-hand stories of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The website's goal, says Michael, "is to bring to light the commonality of such discrimination that occurs in a wide range of situations to a wide range of people through the words of the people that have either experienced or witnessed such events

first-hand."

ClosetLetter wants stories from everyone, from youths to adults, students to professionals, anyone who has directly experienced a situation in which discrimination was suffered based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, or from those who have witnessed it. By collecting these stories, ClosetLetter will highlight that discrimination can occur anywhere and raise awareness that often times it can be subtle and often goes unnoticed by those who are uninvolved.

Each story will be completely anonymous with no information required unless the writer chooses to include a general location (such as a country or province or state). The stories will then be posted on the website, unedited, in a simple format.

The site is still in its early stages and invites submissions from all interested.

Browne was born in Newfoundland and moved to Halifax, where he currently lives, to attend Dalhousie. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 2007 and a Recording Arts certificate from NSCC in 2008.

Visit the website at [www.closetletter.org](http://www.closetletter.org) or check out its Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/ClosetLetter/167612213281560>.

### HIV Inclusion

We are people who are trying to find ways to include people living with or at-risk for HIV/AIDS in decisions that AIDS Organizations make. If you take part in this study, it will help us to better the way that people living with or at-risk for HIV/AIDS are part of making such choices.

If you take part in the study, it will mean talking with someone for about 90 minutes. You can decide to talk to this person at a place that you choose or over the telephone. You

will be given \$20 to cover any costs you encounter, such as child care, in taking part in the study.

If you would like to know more

about this study, please contact us by telephone at (506) 458-7951, toll-free at 1 (888) 215-9139 or by email at [jbrewer1@unb.ca](mailto:jbrewer1@unb.ca).

### Important WAYVES Dates!

#### Issue Content Deadlines:

**Fridays:** Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3, Jul 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](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) any time!

#### Production Meetings (Halifax):

**Mondays:** Apr 4, May 9, Jun 6, Jul 4: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

#### Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Apr 10, May 15, Jun 12, Jul 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!

### Our Cover

Flowers pile up at the doorstep of Petals and Promises in Riverview, NB on March 19. Story this page. Photo by Moncton Bureau Chief Nathan Adams

### Wayves On Line!

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

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**Blowers Street Paper Chase for meeting space**  
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Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) and tell us where we should be!



## Lesbian Soap Box Diaries

# Lesbian Friendships

By L. Connors

*(To A.L., for always giving me an opportunity to grow as a person and to admit when I am wrong. And because I know as long as we are friends, I'll always have a +1.)*

Friendships between women, regardless of sexuality, are usually very intimate. Outside of our romantic relationships, it is our friends that we share our hopes and joys with as well as our fears and insecurities. We go shopping together, we complain about our lives, our bodies, and our bodily functions/malfunctions. If they are good friends they tell us, "Oh girl, you're NOT going to wear that are you?" If they are great friends they tell you, "She/he is never going to leave her. You deserve better, you deserve more." It is our friends that we use as a sounding board for what is going right or wrong with our love life. And it is them that we turn to

when our love life falls apart.

Lesbian friendships are the most complex relationships that exist in my mind. Our relationships are intimate in nature regardless, but when it comes to friendships between two lesbians, sex (or the lack thereof) is usually the primary defining factor that distinguishes between lovers and friends. Because the option of sex exists with a more likely probability than it does between self identified heterosexual women, our boundaries are a bit fuzzy.

There are unwritten and accepted rules between heterosexual women in their friendships. You don't have sex with your friends. You don't have sex with your friend's man, or her exes. Your friend is "your" friend, and her man is more of an acquaintance. You don't call or hang out with your friend's man unless you are planning

a surprise for your friend. All rules are meant to be broken, but in the straight world they exist and are generally agreed upon. As lesbians we seem to think we have evolved beyond them. We think we can (and should) all be friends. This, in my opinion, has led us to deep-rooted and well-founded jealousy and insecurities. After all, historically, we have all too often left each other for each other.

Maybe you believe in hetero guidelines, and maybe you don't. Either way, I have a hard time believing I can find even one (mature lesbian) reader who has not witnessed the ramifications of our superior evolution. Maybe it was a friendship that over time developed into something more romantic in nature. Maybe it was convincing her to be a fuck buddy. Maybe you were left out in the

cold when you were not a big fan of your friend's new girl, or she wasn't a fan of yours. Maybe you've lost a friend or friends who sided with your ex in a breakup. Maybe you're good friends with your ex or someone else you have had sex with. Maybe it was the ultimate betrayal: your lover leaving you for your best friend. Even if it was none of the above, there is all too often the perception that, if you spend any amount of time with another lesbian on a regular basis, then "Oh, come on, you must be fucking?" I'm not a betting woman, but I'd wager the humble contents of my bank account you've seen it more than once, and, more frequently than you've seen it among your straight friends.

In our defence, I think to some extent this issue was born of an era when the only lesbians we knew were

our friends and our friends' lovers. Our circle was so small, that we had little prospect outside of it. It's nauseating to remember the vulture-like circling I've witnessed after a lesbian break-up, or, the competitive hungry-wolf-like behaviour that occurs when "fresh meat" arrives on the scene. If we were not objectified by men we sure as hell are by each other.

I don't profess to have the answers. My goal with this or any other article is merely to explore the questions. I can only share what I've learned. Relationships, regardless of their nature, are hard. They require a substantial investment of time and emotion. I know that when you love women, you are considerably more likely to be hurt by them. The real challenge is to find the relationships that are worth the risk.

## Rozema

*Cont'd from Page 1*

you are in the company of great talent. She has that hopeless romantic air about her and seems profoundly idealistic. When I asked her if she felt that being a woman and/or lesbian had ever affected her ability to find work in the film industry she replied, "I'm a bit oblivious at the best of times. No, really, I'm kind of relentlessly, preposterously, optimistic, so... it may have happened and I didn't notice."

Ironically she thinks the lesbian themes contained in "I've Heard the Mermaids Singing" got it "set apart from the hordes... and got it into Cannes. I was just lucky that I dared to treat that sexuality at that time, it was 1987. And I was lucky that I did it with humour." I told you she was modest!

Patricia admits that she first fell in love with a woman when she was 15, but continued to date men into her twenties. "It was always pretty clear to me that I loved women. What wasn't clear was whether or not I could love a man. I never really fall in love with a guy.... I can't answer why a woman is a much more intriguing creature to me than a man. It was traumatic when I was a teenager for sure. I felt like oh, my gosh my life is gonna be so hard. I was very, very frightened of my future almost, when I realized that I would love women and that would be my primary attachment. I was frightened by what my life might look like and of being humiliated. Being told that I had less value than anyone else. Now the world has changed very dramatically over the course of my lifetime. It's actually beautiful. It's beautiful to have seen it."

With regard to "When Night is Falling" she denies any direct parallels in her character development to her own coming out process. On a "factual" level she does admit "that it's there are on an emotional level completely... basically [I] took two sides of myself and then put them in opposition and attraction to each other. Actually three sides, 'cause the male side too... when you write characters you can imagine yourself as another woman, but you can also imagine yourself as another man, you can imagine yourself as a child, or a nold dog. That's why I don't only do

lesbian romances because I can do a straight romance and I can be the guy, or I can be the woman in that. That's actually can be just as exciting to me, to imagine myself as another sort of being. 'When Night is Falling' was very personal in that it was a struggle in a religious context to come out. It was a struggle in a religious context to actually really like yourself. And not think you are a product of damage, or somehow some psychological incompleteness. It was always confusing to me because... in that world they tell you oh, if you were abused maybe that would happen or if you had some terrible experience with men. I had this model childhood and model upbringing and model everything [yet] here I was, loving women."

She is open regarding her sexuality but admits she has "not always chosen to discuss it when there was a tape recorder in the room because I was always terrified that some creepy guy... would ask me, 'Tell me about your first time with a woman?' Sometimes you just don't want to talk about your sexual history with strangers. It feels like a bit of an oppression, that I wouldn't if I was straight talk about my first sexual experiences, and my first sexual desires... because what makes me different from a heterosexual filmmaker is sexual, often I have to talk about that stuff... but I don't want to because... it's personal."

But she is no less proud of being a lesbian. "I'm so proud to be a lesbian. I'm so happy to be a lesbian. It's a wonderful way to walk down the road; I get the company of extraordinary women. I get the intimacy of extraordinary women. I love it!"

Although Patricia has a deep love of women, you won't see her marching down the aisle anytime soon. Patricia feels "anybody who wants to marry should be able to marry. I am absolutely in favour of gay marriage for those that want gay marriage. I have never wanted to get married. I have never felt the desire to bring the state into my personal life. I've always thought it was more romantic to choose to be with someone every day."

Patricia returned home to Toronto after a mere 24 hours, which left her

little time outside of the conference to enjoy the city. She did say that "I have in the past really loved this city because I think it's actually a genuinely creative place [and] a genuinely warm place. There is a kind of openness between people that is actually really... relaxed and genuine."

Patricia will soon be flying to the Thai Burmese border to begin work on her next project: a prison film. It is not expected to be released for a year or more. However, whether it is on a personal level, a professional level, or

otherwise; I have no doubt she will be successful in all of her future endeavours.

For more information about Women in Film and Television Atlantic please visit the website at [www.wift-at.com](http://www.wift-at.com).



Acclaimed director Patricia Rozema (centre) runs through a scene from *Blue Valentine* with actors Lise Cormier and Jim Fowler, while actors Kristin Langille and Anthony Black look on, during the *Working with Actors* workshop at Women Making Waves, hosted by Women in Film & Television-Atlantic March 4-6 in Halifax.

**Chez Tess**

Chez Tess is gay owned and operated and proudly welcomes the LGBT community!

Check out our website for events and specials, including 'Dinner and a Show' partnerships with The Company House.

**HOURS**

Brunch	Sat & Sun	9:30am - 2:30pm
Lunch	Tue - Fri	11:30am - 2:30pm
Dinner	Tue - Thu	5:00pm - 8:00pm
	Fri & Sat	5:00pm - 9:00pm

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## I Am What I Amherst

# Amherst Church: Yes To Marriage

By Gerard Veldhoven

By the time this reaches the pages of Wayves, we will be into the spring season. We can now look back on a horrific winter, especially in this neck of the woods. The cold temperatures, the huge snow falls and icy conditions were rather unusual, even in blueberry country. However, now we look back and wonder what all the fuss was about. The queer community here is back into full swing making preparations for our annual Pride Week.

This year Pride Week in Amherst will take place from July 10 to 16. Events have been decided on and the committee will get all details ironed out as time progresses. I am able to report on each day's events during that week:

July 10: A Pride Family Picnic

at Tidnish Provincial Park; July 11: Pride Flag raising ceremony, hosted by the town of Amherst; July 12: Car wash fundraiser; July 13: Barbecue in downtown Amherst; July 14: Cosmic Bowling; July 15: Chill night at the shore; July 16: Pride dance!

More details will be available from Cumberland Pride as time progresses and these will appear in Wayves. This year's Pride Committee members are Lloyd Petrie, Carrie Everill, Chrystal Schippers-Everill, Sue Reid, Linda Lamirande, Chris Trenholm and Gerard Veldhoven.

Trinity-St. Stephen United Church in Amherst voted 75% in favour of same-sex marriages in their facility. This has been a struggle in the past as a vote was held on January 27, 2002 when it was decided 45 to 40 not to permit same-sex covenant-

ing services to be carried out in that church. On February 27 the congregation adopted to marry same-sex couples. This follows the decision by Sackville United Church in Sackville New Brunswick and St. Andrew's United in Truro to allow such marriages. Trinity was slow in following in their footsteps, but nevertheless the outcome is extremely positive and welcome to those wishing to marry in a church. I approached Trinity-St. Stephen to hold a re-vote two years ago and lately I wrote again and the decision was made to have another vote. Kudos to the congregation for recognizing diversity within their church and accepting members of the queer community.

As we ponder this development in Amherst, I am reminded of the funeral of Uganda's prominent gay

rights activist David Kato who recently was brutally murdered. The pastor conducting his funeral service told the mourners that all gays and lesbians will go to Hell, causing an uproar—the mourners grabbed the microphone from his hands. An Anglican priest made certain Kato had a proper burial. One may well ask if that sort of behaviour could happen here and the answer is a resounding yes. Even as we experience problems here at home, people generally are of the opinion it will not happen in their town. Let's take the blinders off, folks, and observe all the wrongs we still experience on a daily basis.

We also are concerned about Wayves being pulled from the shelves of places such as Mel's Diner in Sackville. Double standards remain a problem, as this particular estab-



lishment carries other magazines with suggestive advertisements and pictures of nude individuals. This is purely a case of discrimination against our community. Kudos to Janet Hammock and Marilyn Lurch for approaching the owner, since it seems he made up his mind after being approached by various customers complaining about the advertisement on the back of Wayves.

That's all from Amherst for now, but check the future pages of Wayves for updates.

## Looking Both Ways

# The Third Sexual Orientation

By Sara Montgomery

It seems that the hardest part about owning one's bisexuality is resisting the pressure to choose one label over the other. Everyone wants you to do that. There's a very strong pull to choose one and say that it's better and that the "other one" is an aberration.

"Bi Any Other Name – Bisexual People Speak Out" (1991 – Edited by Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu)

Some say bisexuality doesn't exist, or shouldn't exist, that it is all black and white with a conspicuous absence of grey shades. Grey must signify invisibility; however, I would venture to say that non-black and non-white are technically in existence but perhaps buried deep in an abyss, at most times.

As a quiet, pretty, studious elementary school girl I had a crush on a dark-haired boy who didn't say a whole lot in class either. Never did I reveal how I felt about him and the harrowing heart throbbing lasted until junior high. At this point I fell "in love" with another boy who I wrote about incessantly and privately, not saying a word about my feelings to even my closest friends. I remember

feeling it was this deep and dark secret.

At a Grade Nine dance at another junior high besides my own, I was struck by someone. She was sitting on a bench in the semi-darkness, looking a touch sad, perhaps waiting for a dance. She looked forlorn and beautiful and Cupid's arrow struck deep into my heart. What the hell?

Funny, but we ended up being close friends all through high school and it was a relationship both exhilarating and agonizing. So close but so far away. Boyfriends filled our lives. Deep down I thought I must be some kind of freak! I wouldn't tell a soul, not even my diary. If someone read it, it would be like confessing to a murderous atrocity.

By the time I was thirty, I still self-identified as heterosexual. Despite that I was in love with one of my good friends, a woman my age who

had been my roommate and we had grooved at a caliber the highest quality of mint. We were like in a type of ecstasy in one another's "het" company until she moved away and we just kept in regular contact. Her six week stint working with Air Canada in Halifax had come to an end and she was headed back to home town Quebec City to study nutrition at Laval.

I finally decided it was time I told someone about all this heavy stuff.

One spring sunny day I met my sister (married/kids) for lunch in Point Pleasant Park. We were sitting and dining on the dirt, looking over at a blue sparkling sea.

"I have something serious to tell ya."

"It sounds serious. Go on, you can tell me anything."

A pause and then I just blurted it out: "I love Nathalie!"

A pause and then my sister blurted out, "Oh my God, the same thing happened to me!"

We walked the shaded park letting loads of crusty old bricks off of our chests. We naturally decided to see the glass as half full: "Well, we're twice

as lucky to meet the person of our dreams" type of thing. We laughed and goofed around and agreed to meet up again later that day for drinks and supper at Gatsby's and The Bitter End for more tête-à-tête or heart to heart.

I have been researching bisexuality for two years now. There really isn't a lot out there on the shelves compared to books on homosexuality. But in particular, I would personally recommend "Vice Versa: Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life" by Marjorie Garber, a bit dated

from its 1995 publication, but very well researched. Also, more recently, "Sexual Fluidity: Understanding Women's Love and Desire" by Lisa M. Diamond, published by Harvard in 2008.

By talking to people of the third very real sexual orientation, and reading about it by experts, I feel that this grey area is so multi-layered, so buried, so personal and deep, and especially from the heterosexual and gay communities; so full of myths.

Bisexuality is natural, confounding, and ubiquitous.

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**Leonard Preyra**

MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island



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## Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITE

Hi Tom

Well, at long last Mistress Spring seems to back with us again; time for some of us to shed that winter weight that we used as extra insulation during the cold months. At least that's my rationale for it. There are even some crocuses coming up next to my gargoyles. (Sounds like the kind of thing your doctor would prescribe cream for, doesn't it?)

I am trying to make some minor changes to my eating and exercise habits. Things like focusing on vegetables for meals with meat or fish as incidentals rather than the center of attention, and walking more, which is easier now that the daylight has returned. Several of us at work have been talking about trying to be more active and fit. The Anthill even has one of those exercise balls in her office. The other day I was attempting to demonstrate a pose called the Plank which is supposed to be especially good for the shoulders, back and abs. You are supposed to rest your elbows on the ball and put the rest of your weight on your toes with the body in a straight line, like a plank, hence the name. It looked so easy when the hunky fitness trainer on TV demonstrated it but as soon as I put my elbows on the ball it tried to roll away. The fact that I had only one leg in position meant that I had no leverage to stop it. There I am scrambling around with one leg extended showing all the grace of a crab with cramps much to the amusement of the Anthill when the ball—and my head—met with the side of a table and stopped. Grunting curses under my breath and telling the Anthill—heretofore one of my dearest friends—to stop laughing only succeeded in making her laugh louder and longer. On my second attempt I did accomplish the proper position and urged her to try it. I was standing behind her to help support her legs when her fit of the giggles came on again, she lost control of her arms and sprawled in a rather ungainly fashion across the ball, ass in the air and the ball vibrating from her laughter. It was at this point that our supervisor opened the door to ask a question. The question was never voiced, however, since at this point both the Anthill and I were helpless with hilarity and could not have formed comprehensible words. Slowly backing up and shaking her head, the supervisor said not a word as she softly reclosed the door.

A little mirth is a necessary thing these days with disasters of several different kinds coming in from

all parts of the globe. There are several natural catastrophes but it seems to me that there are more crisis situations that have their source in humankind. By the time you get this letter, we may be in the midst of an election campaign. My bias against Harper is well known to you, Tom, but the number of missteps by the “Harper government” is really piling up lately. Bev Oda accused of lying to parliament, the “book keeping” disagreement about use of campaign funds, trying to cut funding to the CBC and on and on. Most unforgivable in my view is that Harper is just so unattractive. I don't mean in the sense of body image or anything, I just don't ever get any impression of him as a physical, sexual, sensual being. I can forgive a lot—and god knows with politicians one has to—but I never have any sense of him as a person. Maybe it's because he avoids any contact with the press and the public that he hasn't set up and orchestrated himself that he doesn't project any human qualities. For all I know he could be an alien, like the pod people from Invasion of the Body Snatchers. Come to think of it, that would explain a lot. Oh sure, laugh, Tom, but mark my words.

Because the world news is so dire these days I've made a conscious effort to lighten the effect on me but checking out all the silly and odd items that show up on my Yahoo! homepage. I've found some useful things too like the many health properties of lentils, cinnamon and sweet potato. But my real favourites are articles on “Surprising things to do with a vegetable peeler” or “How digital inserts can add to your life.” I mean really, Tom, how can one resist? I don't enjoy knowing about the baby who chain smokes, or the dog that ate some of his master's toes while he slept. Nor, do I really care which Hollywood celebs are sleeping with or breaking up with other celebs. But give me a video of a streaker at a football match or voiceovers of exotic animals making rude remarks and I'm happy. Oh, gotta go, Tom. Someone just emailed me a list of funny church signs. Those things kill me.

Love ya!

*Crawford*

## NSRAP Report Health Care

By Lucas Thorne-Humphrey, BSc. (Pharm.), ACPR

Comparing the health of Nova Scotians to other provinces, we often find ourselves at the bottom of the list. On similar lists, the health outcomes of minorities also fall to the bottom. Without a doubt, members of Nova Scotia's LGBTQ community are an underserved population in our health care system. The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) has previously worked with other organizations and independently to improve the health of LGBTQ Nova Scotians. Over the last year, NSRAP has formed its own Health Committee to address the disparities that LGBTQ people face in the health care system.

The health needs of LGBTQ people are significant and often very complicated. Health care can be preventative or treatment-focused, but

LGBTQ persons often do not have access to resources that exist for them. The reasons for this are numerous, but certainly include fear of real or potential discrimination from health care workers. Many LGBTQ Nova Scotians also lack extensive social and family networks and financial reserves that help ease the burden of illness. There is a higher prevalence in our community of people struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, smoking and other concerns. In recent years, there have been tremendous strides toward acceptance of LGBTQ people and the efforts of health care workers and policy makers have improved the care of our community. Although many LGBTQ Nova Scotians would consider their access to health care resources generally fair and equitable, more work must be done to ensure better access for all members of the community.

Despite our progress, there exists a disparity with regards to the trans population. Profound and unacceptable inequalities exist in social settings,

employment, legal and educational systems for trans people. Collectively, this results in a marginalized population that is even discriminated against by other members of the LGBTQ community. Trans Canadians have been shown to have higher rates of suicide, unemployment and homelessness than average citizens. These and other social determinants of health conspire to reduce the health of trans Nova Scotians.

In Nova Scotia, trans people have only been recently identified as a group that can benefit from targeted health care and the need for increased sensitivity from practitioners. After being “off the radar,” trans Nova Scotians face disadvantages in our health care system. However,

*There is a higher prevalence in our community of people struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, smoking and other concerns.*

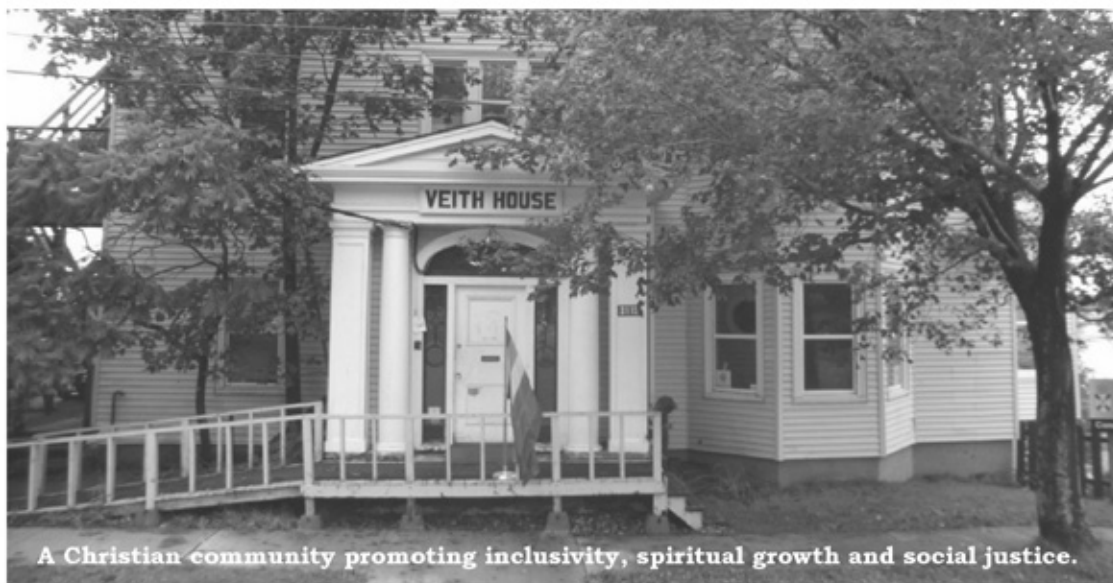
the work of many health care professionals should not go unnoticed. Known to many community members in the HRM, there exists a group

of dedicated social workers, psychiatrists, general practitioners and endocrinologists that tackle the needs of trans Nova Scotians with the insufficient resources they have. These services are regrettably only accessed by a fraction of the population that needs them.

Across the province, NSRAP will campaign for targeted health care initiatives, such as mental health programs and dedicated practitioners to help LGBTQ persons and particularly trans people cope with the greater challenges so many of them face. In addition to primary health care, we also need provincially funded programs that provide access to other medical interventions related to trans health, such as sex reassignment surgeries (SRS). Many provinces publicly fund SRS and other interventions, resulting in a glaring disparity between Nova Scotians and Canadians in other provinces. NSRAP advocates for public funding of medically nec-

*Cont'd next page*

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# Syphilis Outbreak in New Brunswick

by Nathan Adams

Syphilis is a serious sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a germ called *Treponema Pallidum*. This disease was rare in Canada but is now becoming much more common, and recently there has been a major increase in the number of syphilis infections in New Brunswick. Since November 2009, 49% of these cases have been reported in the Moncton area alone, with Fredericton, Saint John, Bathurst and Edmundston following close behind. Most of these

until the doctor or nurse says that the infection is gone.

## How is syphilis spread?

Syphilis is mostly spread by having unprotected vaginal, anal and oral sex with an infected partner, and can be spread from person to person. Pregnant women can also pass this infection to an unborn child as well as at time of delivery. Much less common ways of spreading this infection are

the body, mainly in the vagina, penis, anus, rectum or on the lips and in the mouth. • The sore is firm, round and small. It is painless and may go unnoticed. It can also be mistaken for genital trauma or genital herpes. • The sore can heal without treatment, but the disease will still spread to the secondary stage.

Secondary Syphilis (most contagious, two weeks to six months after contact) • The sore may still be present or may have healed. • A rash may appear as rough, red, or reddish-brown spots, and can be present on the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet. • Fever, swollen glands, sore throat, weight loss, muscle and joint aches are other possible symptoms. • Without treatment, the disease will progress to the third stage.

Tertiary Syphilis (not contagious, 10–30 years after contact) • Infection stays in the body for years.

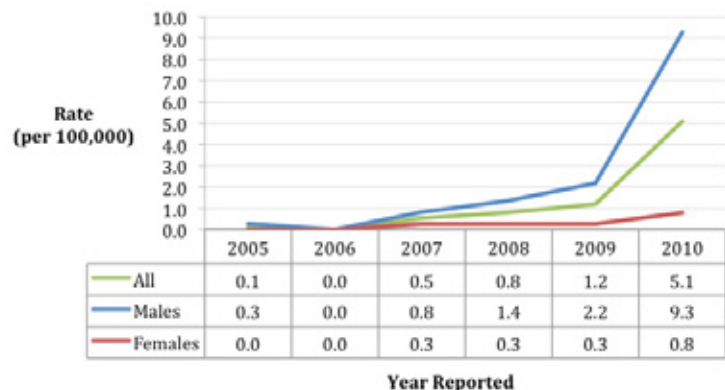
What happens if syphilis is left untreated?

Untreated syphilis can spread and cause damage to your brain, heart, bones, and many other organs in the body and, in severe cases, may cause paralysis, blindness, dementia and even death.

Syphilis can be prevented by having protected sex, limiting your number of sexual partners, and by knowing your partners' sexual history.

For more information contact your local public health office or health care provider.

(All information from Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.)



cases have been reported in males from the ages of 20–24 and 60% reported having unprotected sex with other males. Five male cases reported being co-infected with HIV.

Total number of reported cases in New Brunswick: • 2010 – 37 • 2009 – 9 • 2008 – 6 • 2007 – 4

These are just the cases that have been reported. If you are having unprotected sex, multiple sex partners, are a sex trade worker or one of their partners, an injection drug user, someone who has had an STI, or from a country where Syphilis is more common, then don't do it just for yourself, but for everyone you are having sexual contact with: go get checked out. Syphilis can be treated, and a person with this infection should be treated immediately. Syphilis is treated with antibiotics, usually penicillin by injections, and it is very important not to have sex

by sharing infected drug equipment or through broken skin on the body (accidental needle stick injury). Syphilis cannot be spread through contact with toilet seats, doorknobs, shared clothing or eating utensils. After one year of having Syphilis, most people will no longer spread the infection.

What are the symptoms?

Not everyone infected with syphilis will have the same symptoms, and you can actually have this infection and not even know that you have it. The symptoms are very similar for males and females, and, without treatment, syphilis progresses in four stages.

Latent Syphilis (contagious in early stage) • Duration varies from months to years. This is a hidden stage with no symptoms.

Primary Syphilis (contagious, 3 to 90 days after contact) • A sore or ulcer will appear where the germ entered

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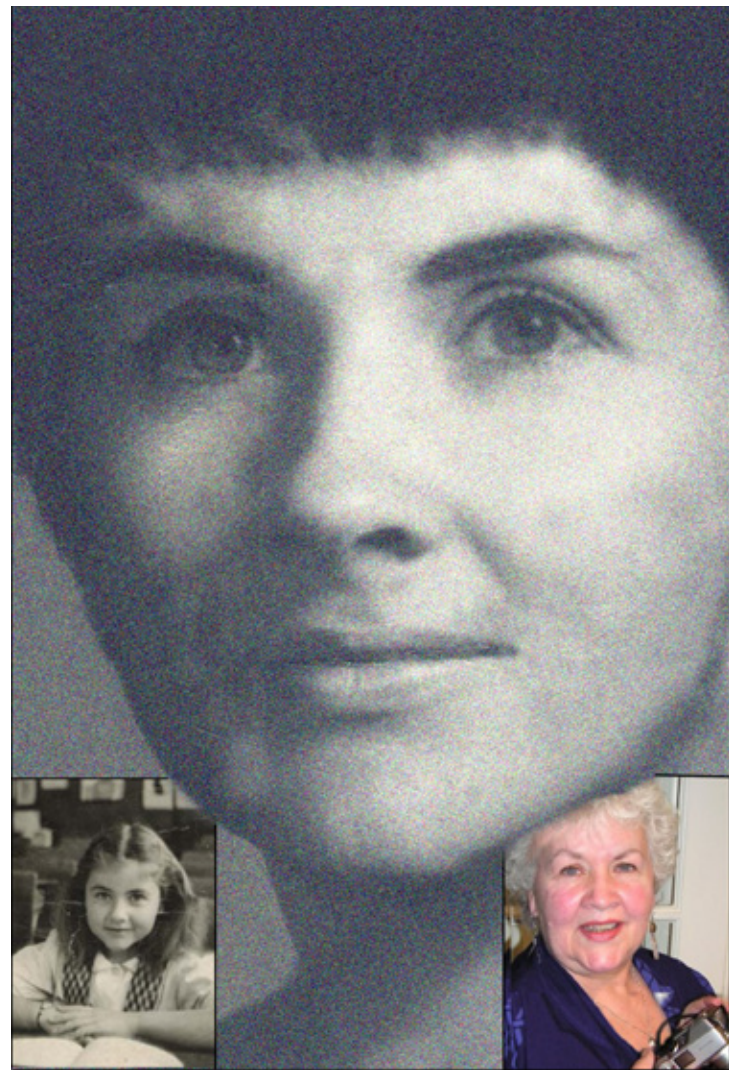
essential interventions related to trans health, which is guaranteed under the Canada Health Act. This is a position that Doctors Nova Scotia and The Provincial Human Rights Commission support.

NSRAP works on societal initiatives that aim to reduce the inequalities that lead to the marginalization of LGBTQ persons and predispose them to poorer health care. The NSRAP Health Committee works to address the specific needs of LGBTQ persons, remove policy barriers

and encourage resource allocation to better improve the health of our community, with particular regard for trans Nova Scotians.

Faced with great challenges, our community demonstrates an outstanding resilience and strength. We stand on foundations built by previous advocates for change and are poised to work in our own communities to improve our health and exercise our rights as Nova Scotians. NSRAP is committed to our health care rights and asks for support as we make progress in this initiative.

## How our priorities change



As a child, all I could think about, all I cared about was skating after school.

As a lesbian in my 30's I wondered: Who am I? Where am I going? How will I get there? Will there be someone I will love and care for?

Now in my early 70's, I visit older friends in senior facilities and I wonder: Will there be facilities that will welcome me, understand me? Is there a place for me and my friends and family – my straight, gay, bi, trans, lesbian family? Is there a place for us?

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# Fredericton Travesty Cafe

by Eugene Campbell  
If you are looking for a place to go and show off your poetry skills, read your short stories, present your own style of music, or if you are merely looking for some place to go to enjoy such work, then look no further. There is a place for you.

Travesty Cafe, the brainchild of UNB PhD student in Sociology Shaun Bartone, is open to the public the first Thursday of each month at the UNB Grad House—the Alden Nowlan House, in Windsor Street on campus.

Bartone, a well-known poet, has only been in Fredericton for two years, but has become very actively involved in gay affairs. A native of Providence, Rhode Island, he is a former law graduate, having practiced the profession in Massachusetts for eight years.

Openly gay and transgendered, Bartone says he always connected with being gay, through literature. Although unpublished as a poet, he contributed to the recently-launched Gay Pride CD, “Just Love,” with his poem, “We Dance Sex Magik.” He said that coming out is about telling people you are gay. “Most people, you can’t tell they are gay unless they tell you. That is what coming out is all about—telling people.” He said that a critical part of coming out is “exploring it through other people’s stories—thus Travesty Cafe—a place where you can tell those stories. That is why I started this thing, because I just wanted to shout out, ‘I’m Gay!’”

He says that you don’t have to be gay to present your work at Travesty Cafe, however. “It’s not just for gay people. It’s for everyone. This is a place where you can read gay literature, for example. We started out with poetry, short stories, music and more.” Now, he is in the process of asking the two local rock bands to perform at the monthly get-together. He went on to say that he is pleased to announce that transgender author,



Local poet Shaun Bartone reciting one of his works. Very active in the local gay community, he is the founder of the Travesty Cafe and, along with Debi Skidmore, is actively working towards the opening of a Gay Cultural Centre in downtown Fredericton. Bartone’s composition, “We Dance Sex Magik,” is his contribution to the Pride CD, “Just Love.” Photo by Eugene Campbell

Ivan Coyote, who writes short stories, has agreed to come out to do a reading at Travesty in March. He said that funding for the appearance has been made available from the League of Canadian Poets.

“Erotica is allowed,” he said. “Academic work, articles, essays, in fact, anything you can read. We also welcome small performances, like poetry. We have had some of all that stuff.” He said they get at least five people each month. “It’s very real—very open—that’s what is allowed there. We have had just about everything. It’s a small group, but every month everybody shows up.”

There is no admission fee to attend, and Bartone said that everyone is allowed. “It is open to anyone over 18. If you are not a UNB student, you have to come as a guest of a UNB student,” but he welcomes all. “They sell beer to everyone,” he said. “It is really fun. It is very supportive. During the school year, it focuses more on poetry and literature. It is a little bit quieter.” If you would like to attend and present your work at the monthly get-together, you can reach Bartone at [travestycfe@gmail.com](mailto:travestycfe@gmail.com).



Greg Perry, backed by the recorded sounds of his band, “Equal Humanity,” belts out a number, showing his talent the Pride week CD release night, held at BOOM nightclub in downtown Fredericton during Pride week. Perry is one of eleven contributors to “Just Love.” Proceeds from the sale of the CD will go towards upcoming Pride activities. Photo by Eugene Campbell



Matt Legere, lead singer of “The Waking Night,” is shown here doing his thing at the 2010 NB AIDS Walk, held in Fredericton on September 11 at Officer’s Square. The Waking Night was the featured act of an afternoon of top-notch entertainment, opened by another local rock group, “Midnight Ramblers.” Photo by Eugene Campbell

## Just Love

by Eugene Campbell

As part of this year’s Pride Week celebrations in Fredericton, a CD was launched featuring the works and talents of eleven Fredericton-based artists. A special launch party was held in honour of the release, at BOOM nightclub, Fredericton’s only gay-friendly gathering spot. Many of the performers who contributed to the project were on hand to present their recorded work.

Contributing poet Shaun Bartone, who recited his composition, “We Dance Sex Magik,” best summed up the performances, saying, “We are here tonight to show the world how Fredericton does Pride!” Following Bartone was Evans McGee, who performed his contribution, “Street Light,” as well as some original music. He was followed by Moon Joyce, who did “Dance the Dance that

You Know.” Joyce was accompanied for one number by fiddler George Steeves. The fiddler had previously wowed audiences at the gathering at Officer’s Square following the Pride Parade, with his rendition of the fiddle classic, “Orange Blossom Special,” for which he did it credit.

Joyce was followed by LOLA (“Loved Or Left Alone”). Made up of the trio of Barb McMullin, Sarah McAdam and LA Henry, they opened with their rendition of “Fever.” The group showed their versatility by performing everything from original numbers to “Ring of Fire.” Their contribution to the CD was “When Your Story’s Told,” written by McAdam and LA Henry.

Greg Perry, backed by the recorded sounds of his band, “Equal Humanity,” performed his contribution next, followed by transgendered

singer Jamey Luvs and “Trans-Sisters.” Luvs said, “It’s really good to be here celebrating Pride with you guys.” “TransSisters” only exists on the internet. She said, “They are all transexuals, like me. They are from all over the world.”

Well-known local entertainer Lindsay Morgan performed next. She said of “Just Love”: “It’s hot.” She entertained the full house with a variety of music, including her rendition of the Michael Jackson hit “Billy Jean.” She was later joined by Sarah McAdam and together they received cheers for the CD. Morgan said, “It is most likely one of the only Pride CDs in the world.”

“Just Love” is available at BOOM nightclub in Queen Street in Fredericton, Tony’s Music Box, and Backstreet Records, both also in Queen Street.





# Diamond Divas Revue 11

On February 19, Diamond Divas returned to the Capitol Theatre in Moncton.

"This year's fundraiser to benefit the C.A.R.A. Helpline Inc. has new talent, new acts and a few added surprises" said show Producer, Steve Laviolette. "The Maritimes best Female Impersonators will be having you do double takes on some of the most famous Divas."

Laviolette added, "Our volunteers are golden. Without them this event would not have been possible. And special thanks, as well, go out to the ASL interpreters."

Karen Eustace from CARA would like to thank Steve Laviolette and Wayne Richard for all their hard work and effort over the years. "It was a fun, entertaining evening. Comments were tremendous and the performers were top of the line."

Clockwise from top left: Elle Noir as Patti LaBelle; Deva Station as Cruella DeVille; Dyna Might as Christina Aguilera; Kara Mylk as Donna Summer; Shirley Albert, ECMA Country Artist; Rouge Fatale as Wynonna; Deva Station as Reba; Empress XI - Ms. Vicki DeKnight; Natassha N! as Annie Lennox.

Photos by Jake Stevens and Ewan Love.

Hello darlings!

I would like to take this time to tell you all about Diamond Divas, a proud supporter of the CARA Helpline.

Each year the producer and director seek out and pick the best female impersonators from across the Maritimes to volunteer their time and talents for a wonderful cause.

I remember four years ago when I was asked by Wayne Richard and Steve Laviolette to perform for this great cause that Diamond Divas supports. I was shocked yet honored and of course I said, "Yes!"

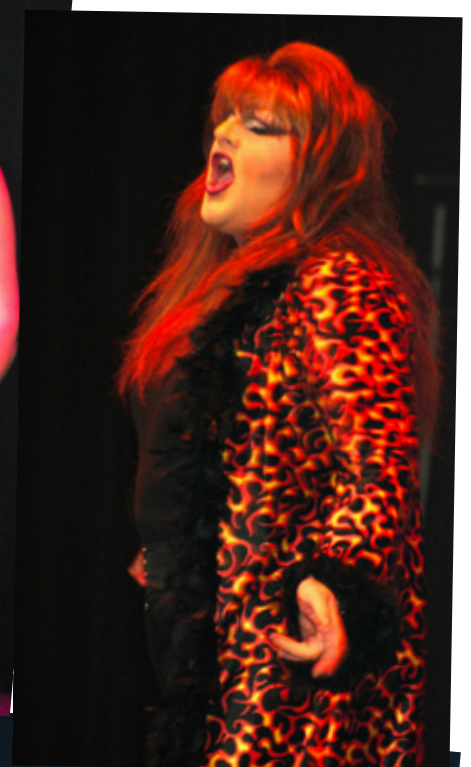
Steve and I e-mailed back and forth a lot on what kind of characters I should choose to perform for this event. I finally settled on Cher and Judy Garland. This was my first time with the company at the Capitol Theatre.

As show time grew near, so did the rehearsals. Wayne greeted me backstage and showed me around, guiding me to the stage for the very first time. I was nervous but glad, because I was there for a wonderful cause and to support CARA Helpline.

When we finished the show and took our final bows, I thought, "Wow, this is a great company. I'm very blessed to work with each of these talented performers."

The Capitol Theatre has been very helpful in providing a great venue for Diamond Divas for 11 years.

Until next year!  
Miss Julia Jeffries





# Chef's Corner



Okay, are you tired of boiled dinners, stews and too much stick-to-your-ribs kind of meals this winter? Well, do not despair. Spring is here and so is this delicious, light and nutritious soup, that uses readily available product from any Asian market and most large grocery chains in the region. This will be a nice change of pace with a familiar concept just re-jigged a bit. The folding of the wontons is difficult to explain in words, but when you see it it's an "Oh, I see!" type of moment. So I suggest that you Google it or go to YouTube for a live demo. This soup is wonderful paired with an Austrian Gruner Veltliner or a well-rounded Gewurztraminer. Enjoy!

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 gastronomical society. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, or online at [www.chives.ca](http://www.chives.ca).

## Review You Better Watch Out

by Greg Malone  
Vintage Canada, 2010  
Review by Bill McKinnon  
Greg Malone, actor, impressionist, AIDS activist, environmentalist and master storyteller, co-founded Codco with the late Tommy Sexton. Codco was on CBC TV from 1987 to 1992. Greg has numerous stage, film and TV credits and awards and is famous for his impersonations of the late Barbara Frum, Jean Chretien and Queen Elizabeth II and has been described as a comic genius. Greg has written a book about growing up in St. John's, Newfoundland in the 1950's, a place and time seemingly magical and different from most people's home towns and early years. The stories of Greg's childhood (his first 13 years) are both hilarious and touching, poignant and charming. Author Joan Clark described Malone as "a writer of deep intelligence with a profound understanding of the absurdities of life." In many ways Greg's upbringing was not so much different from that of hundreds of other good Catholic boys growing up in a perfect (but maybe not so perfect) family with strict but loving parents and three brothers (one older, two younger), and under the guidance of strap-swinging Christian Brothers as teachers in all-boy classes, where the emphasis was more on adherence to Catechism and discipline than on academic development and self-actualization. Greg was no wimp, was very much like other kids of his age,

(i.e., he was not a misfit, had lots of friends, and could generally give as good as he got in the rough and tumble St. John's world of young toughs), but he was also different in ways with which some us can identify. He wasn't into rugged sports like hockey or soccer, he liked playing house with girl friends and got called a sissy for doing it, frequently described some other boys as handsome, had a vivid imagination, liked performing, was devoted to his patron saint, Dominic Savio, liked dressing up in his mother's clothes, and was scolded by his mother for practice kissing with his next younger brother in a game called "Marilyn and the Monster." Perhaps the most telling incident was when, at age 13, he and his closest male friend came out to each other. I had difficulty putting down Greg's memoir once I started to read it, and enjoyed talking to him briefly at his recent reading in Halifax. I look forward to his next book, "Don't Tell the Newfoundlanders," the real story of how Newfoundland joined Canada. It's not yet published but will be soon. Will Greg write a sequel covering Codco and other events of his later life? He says he may and would like to but the relationships of teenage and adult life are more of a challenge than writing about childhood and cannot be told with as much frankness. The stories of life at school with the Christian Brothers had to be accurately told because they could be corroborated by 30 other boys. Has Greg moved

### Lobster Wonton Soup

Makes four servings

#### Wontons

20 rice flour wonton wrappers  
6 oz raw lobster meat (or cooked if raw not available)  
1/2 cup sliced scallions

#### Broth

8 cups chicken broth  
1 cup clam juice  
2 tbsp Mirin sweet rice wine  
2 tsp fish sauce  
1 tbsp seasoned rice wine vinegar  
1/4 cup low sodium soy sauce  
1 tbsp toasted sesame oil  
1/4 cup dried shitake mushrooms  
1 stalk lemon grass (chopped)

2 pods star anise  
1 tsp Chinese five spice  
1 dried Szechwan pepper or 1/2 tsp dried chili flakes  
2 shallots (minced)  
4 cloves garlic (minced)  
1 inch grated ginger root  
1 carrot (small dice)  
2 stalks celery (small dice)

#### Garnish

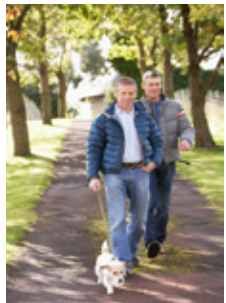
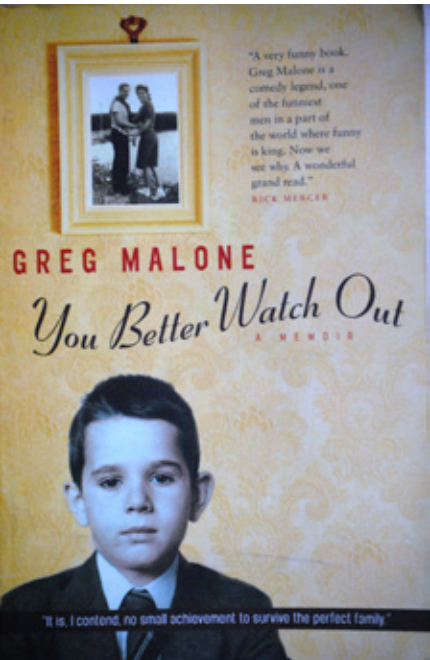
4 pieces Chinese broccoli (Gai-lang) or several broccoli fleurettes, cut to bite size pieces  
2 baby bok choy (broken down into leaves)  
1/2 red pepper (julienne)  
1/2 yellow pepper (julienne)  
1/2 carrot (julienne)  
1 tbsp sliced pickled ginger  
1 tbsp toasted sesame seeds  
2 tbsp scallions cut on the bias  
1 tbsp chili infused oil (optional)

#### Method

1. In a 5 qt saucepan on medium heat, sweat the broth vegetables and spices in 1 tbsp of light vegetable oil until softened. Add the Mirin and reduce by half. Add the remaining liquids, bring to the boil then reduce to a low simmer uncovered for 1 hour.
2. While the broth is cooking make your wontons. Finely chop the lobster meat and green onions and fold together with a pinch of sea salt. (see article)
3. Now that you are back from class and have the wontons formed, set them aside under a damp cloth so they do not dry out.
4. Strain the broth through a fine mesh strainer into another pot, add the vegetables and wontons and bring to the boil. When the wontons float the soup is ready to serve.
5. Garnish with a few drops of chili oil, toasted sesame seeds and more scallions.

away from the Church? "Yes," he said jokingly, he would still like to be Pope and "yes," with sincerity he is still devoted to Dominic Savio, but he has otherwise mostly rejected the Church and believes many boys were severely damaged by their school experiences. How has St. John's changed since Greg was a boy? Well, in those days, your door was always open to strangers, but not so much nowadays, and back then the kids spent most of their time outdoors, not inside, but today you hardly see any kids on the street. To listen to Carol Off's 2009

interview with Greg about his book on the CBC's "As It Happens," go to [www.cbc.ca/asithappens/episode/2009/12/21/december-21-2009/](http://www.cbc.ca/asithappens/episode/2009/12/21/december-21-2009/) and click "Listen to Part Two." For more about Greg see [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greg\\_Malone\\_\(actor\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greg_Malone_(actor)) and for more about Codco see [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CODCO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CODCO). Episodes of Codco can be viewed on YouTube. "You Better Watch Out" is available your local library, and you can buy it online or from the Bookmark in Halifax or Charlottetown.



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## Ramblings from the Sanctuary Garden

# Fracturing the Concrete

By Bethana Sullivan

Where am I rambling today as the garden is wet, the sky grey and the air cool? Such a contrast to yesterday when the sky was blue, the air sun-warmed and the grass such a green in some microcosmic garden spots. I am reminded that the world holds all in its hands, the dark and the light, the growth and the destruction. How can I speak today of the issues I encounter in my everyday ramblings over the land, when the world herself has moved and shaken and rearranged the priorities of costal Japanese, when nuclear meltdown is not an idea but a real possibility. I find myself thinking about the decisions the Japanese face as a country, as a people who live on top of the so-called "ring of fire." Not that I am presuming these issues have not been discussed, argued and reconciled over and over again in the history of that country. Each generation faces new

information and insight, altering the landscape the questions are embedded in. And isn't that how life works, not as a macrocosm but as a microcosm of the yes and the no, of insight and denial, of possibilities moving us forward and holding us back at the same time. It reminds me of a couple of precepts from "The Dancing Wu-Lui Masters" lists of dancing lessons for quantum mechanics: predicting probabilities and observing something changes it.

I think of how the Internet, very concretely, though it is only the structures of communication that appear concrete, has drawn us into the reality of interconnectedness of all that is. We are a web of life, what I do today in my life, in my actions, in my garden, affects all. It is a majestic perception and a humbling one. It can paralyze and it can enable.

"But somehow it seems to me we still live in a world dominated by

concrete reality so that..."—this is the sentence I began and it is a good example of the habituation of ideas and positions—illustrating wonderfully the embeddedness of Newtonian physics in that it is hard to give up the idea of a one-reality world. The world, in whatever size it exists, is dominated by certain ideas, genders, philosophies and so on yet the word itself-world-holds many possibilities and realities, where gay marriage exists alongside religious opposition, feminists come in many colours, genders and ages, working alongside each other sometimes against each other, where the world is at eye level of the viewer, from an inset or baby to an astronaut in space. How perceptions change!

So in a quantum physics world it is possible to experience the domination of some by others, the fracture lines of that domination, the establishment of an alternate reality and as

evidenced by GLBTT reality and by the complexity of multiple feminist realities, multiplicity lives, diversity is necessary and interconnections hold us together.

Coming back to the lived existence of my garden and my life I am facing the possibility of change in a big way: for example changing my actions in relationships feels like the rubbing of the core plates together as in the Japanese earthquake. On a lesser scale, the garden needs some fundamental reshaping, involving time, energy and money, all in short supply these days it seems to me. So I am going to learn from the Japanese preparations for disaster—plan ahead as much as you can; work together to recover, heal and build anew; welcome help and be stoic until a more appropriate time for grief and other feelings. I will add this to list-where necessary look at possibilities that at first glance seem inconceivable. A



Mary Wesley quote seems appropriate here: "They may turn out to be a great disappointment, or perhaps they may be full of enchanting surprises."

In writing about interconnectedness it seems appropriate to me to invite you to send in your feedback, suggest ideas for the column and ask questions. Let's build something together. Send your words to labyrinthwork1@gmail.com.

## Lesbians and STIs

by Valerie Windsor

Did you ask her if she has any sexually transmitted infections? Do you have any? What about HIV/AIDS? Nothing like spoiling a romantic moment to ask these tough questions before you jump into bed. But the sobering reality is that women having sex with women can transmit viruses, bacteria, infections through sexual contact like touching, kissing, exchange of bodily fluids, including vagina fluids and especially blood to blood contact. Lesbians are just as likely to contract an STI as heterosexual women.

You need to know each other's sexual history before you swap juices. If your partner does not want to disclose her history or refuses to use protection at your request, then you might want to re-consider that relationship. You can get tested through a sexual health centre or talk to your doctor.

Many common sexually transmitted infections are curable and treatable. But some are not and you really don't want to be stuck with herpes or HIV after the girlfriend is long gone. Here is the scoop for some common STIs.

Herpes – There are two kinds of herpes; oral herpes (the cold sore kind) and genital herpes. Either type can reside in either or both parts of the body and infect both orally and genitally as well. Both are easily transmitted and often acquired when we are young. The cold sore herpes can be transmitted as easily as a casual kiss between parent and child. Sexual activity between young adults and teenagers commonly transmits genital herpes.

HIV/AIDS – Research suggests that sexual transmission of HIV between lesbians is probably very low, except in situations of blood to blood contact. Where there is a possibility of infection or one of you has tested positive, you should use latex protection to minimize the risk

of contracting HIV. More research is needed on woman to woman transmission of HIV.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea (aka the clap) – Both are bacterial infec-

*If your partner does not want to disclose her history or refuses to use protection at your request, then you might want to re-consider that relationship.*

tions and can easily be transmitted through vaginal, oral or anal sex. Young sexually active women should get tested routinely because women can carry these two STIs without symptoms and these are serious enough to damage your reproductive organs. The good news here is that both of these are curable.

There are other STIs of concern such as HPV/genital warts, syphilis and yeast infections.

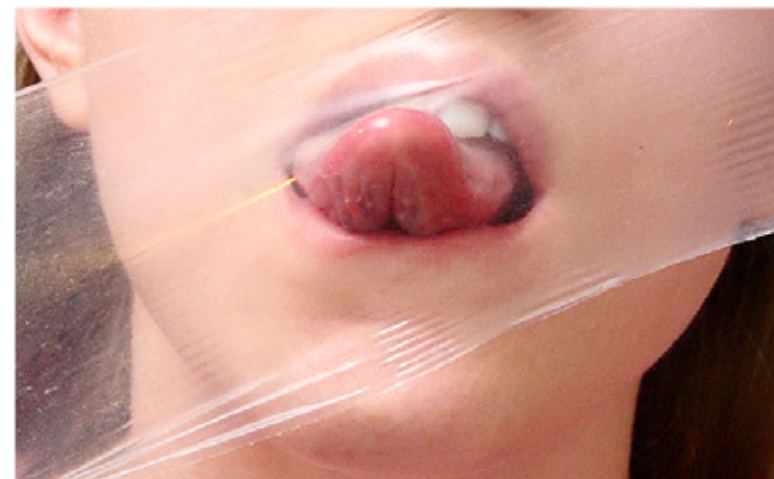
Before you become sexually active with a new partner, regardless of gender, there are some suggestions to prevent the spread of STIs. Get and give a sexual history, wash sex toys, cover sex toys with condoms

and keep bodily fluids from entering each other's bodies.

Get regular Pap smears and STI checks. A Pap test is a simple test that can help prevent cancer of the cervix. Women often assume that a doctor will automatically check for STIs when doing a Pap smear. This is not usually the case, especially for women in their late 30s and beyond. You should ask your doctor to check for STIs.

Remember, when you are partying, that drugs and alcohol can blur your decision-making ability and put you at risk. Infected menstruating women can easily transmit an infection. Condoms can be cut to the size you want and using latex gloves during sex can also help prevent infections. Saran wrap and dental dams have not been proven effective barriers.

I realize this is a subject a lot of you will not want to discuss and probably find quite repulsive. However, social stigma aside, we need to take care of ourselves. Go to your local sexual health centre for testing and for more information, check out LesbianSTD.com or lesbianhealth-info.org.



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# WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

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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](http://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/](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/)

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

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: [gender\\_expressions@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:director@access-wave.ca) web: [www.hon93.ca](http://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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## New Brunswick (506)

### Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. Needle exchange located in office at 65 Brunswick Street Fred. E3B 1G5. 459-7518 email: [jennifer@aidsnb.com](mailto:jennifer@aidsnb.com) web: [www.aidsnb.com](http://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](mailto:jamesw@stu.ca)

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

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

Spectrum: Spectrum is a social/support group celebrating the diversity of the GLBTQ community and gay-friendly peoples at UNB and STU. Weekly meetings are open for both students and non-students to attend, and may feature various 'theme' nights from fun

and games to more serious current event discussions impacting the GLTBQ community. email: [spectrum@unb.ca](mailto:spectrum@unb.ca) web: <http://www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum/> (Group Meets Fridays at 5:30 pm (subject to change, see webpage for updates)) at University of New Brunswick - Fredericton Campus, Marshall D'Avry Hall, Room 235

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

### Moncton

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

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](mailto:monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html](http://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](mailto:riverofpride@hotmail.com) web: [www.fiertemonctonpride.ca](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:unsurdix@umoncton.ca) web: [www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/](http://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](mailto:info@gngnb.ca) web: [www.gngnb.ca](http://www.gngnb.ca) (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See [www.gngnb.ca](http://www.gngnb.ca) for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

### Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

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

### Sackville

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT-T2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: [jhammock@mta.ca](mailto:jhammock@mta.ca), meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street in Sackville, NB

### Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: invites you to wor-

ship!. 506-634-8288 email: [cqsunited@nb.aibn.com](mailto:cqsunited@nb.aibn.com) web: [www.cqsunited.ca](http://www.cqsunited.ca), meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

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

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

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

Port City Rainbow Pride: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: [events@portcityrainbowpride.com](mailto:events@portcityrainbowpride.com) web: [www.portcityrainbowpride.com](http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com)

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

The UNBSJ Q-Collective: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email: [QCollect@UNBSJ.ca](mailto:QCollect@UNBSJ.ca) web: [www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective](http://www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective) (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LGBTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "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](mailto:richardb@nbnet.nb.ca)

## Newfoundland & Lab (709)

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

### St. John's

AIDS Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador: HIV/AIDS education and support for male/female/transgendered, all ages, Newfoundland and Labrador 579-8656 email: [info@acnl.net](mailto:info@acnl.net) web: [www.acnl.net](http://www.acnl.net)

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

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

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

PFLAG Canada: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: [www.pflag.ca](http://www.pflag.ca) (For support or information on chapter meetings

regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at [gemma-hickey@yahoo.ca](mailto:gemma-hickey@yahoo.ca) or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at [ddeacon@mun.ca](mailto:ddeacon@mun.ca))

St. John's Pride: St. John's Official Pride Organization. web: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2497860774](http://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](mailto:info@HepatitisOutreach.com) web: [www.HepatitisOutreach.com](http://www.HepatitisOutreach.com) at Our office is located at 2973 Oxford Street, between Liverpool and Cork streets. Please call to make an appointment or email Program@HepatitisOutreach.com.

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

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society: email: [tpineo@hotmail.com](mailto:tpineo@hotmail.com)

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

### Amherst

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

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

### Antigonish

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

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

### Bridgewater

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

South Shore Pride Social Club: for 19 & older. 530-5986 web: [www.southshorepride.ca](http://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](mailto:alstew@eastlink.ca)

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. Provides direct service and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and also offers various prevention programs across NS. You can reach us locally to HRM at 425-4882 or across the province at 1-800-566-2437. (902)425-4882 email: [acns@acns.ns.ca](mailto:acns@acns.ns.ca) web: [www.acns.ns.ca](http://www.acns.ns.ca)

Alcoholics Anonymous: Live & Let Live AA Group for LGBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: [courage449@yahoo.com](mailto:courage449@yahoo.com), meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews United Church, 1479 Barrington

St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: [bedfordunited@eastlink.ca](mailto:bedfordunited@eastlink.ca) web: [www.bedfordunited.com](http://www.bedfordunited.com), meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and 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](mailto:sueandrews1964@hotmail.com) web: [ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/](http://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: DalOUT is the award-winning LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University. We pride ourselves on hosting fun, engaging and educational events for the entire Halifax community. email: [dalout@dal.ca](mailto:dalout@dal.ca) web: [www.dalout.ca](http://www.dalout.ca), meets 2nd Thursday, and 4th Thursday (from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.) at the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave., Room 321)

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

GAY, 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](http://www.getouthalifax.ca) at Visit and get on the email list for more info.

Girl-ish Productions: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. web: [www.girlish.ca](http://www.girlish.ca)

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

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. Everyone welcome. Confidential and non-judgmental. 455-9656 web: [www.HSHC.ca](http://www.HSHC.ca) Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society: Fundraising. 902-449-7612 web: [www.imperialcourtns.com](http://www.imperialcourtns.com), meets 1st Sunday, and 2nd Sunday (Executive Meetings Are Currently Held Every Second Sunday) at Meeting Locations Vary

Integrity: Integrity is an organization of GLBT Anglicans and their friends, to encourage Christian gay men and lesbians in their spiritual life; to support the Church in its commitment to seek and serve Christ in all people; and to reach out to the GLBT community in Christian love and service. (902) 425-8383 web: [www.integritycanada.org](http://www.integritycanada.org), meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at All Saints Cathedral

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Koinonia is an ecumenical faith community offering open membership, equal marriage, practicing bible, church, religious and soul freedom,as well as open table communion. Koinonia offers Spiritual Care. Crisis support visitation and counselling for an honorarium. ALL are Welcome who celebrate God's Covenant to Love All of God's Creation. We are a registered charitable organization accepting donations from all who believe in the promotion of our all-inclusive community of faith. Contact Rev. Elaine @ 902-876-8771 for more information, or mail your contribution to 2410 St. Margaret's Bay Road Halifax N.S. B3T 1H1 with your name and address so we can issue your tax receipt. 876-8771 email: [koinonia@eastlink.ca](mailto:koinonia@eastlink.ca) (we gather bi-weekly at 12:30pm - 1:30 followed by a time of fellowship) at Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre, Maritime Centre - entrance on the corner of Barrington & Salter Streets



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

Mount Pride: LGBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@mountstudents.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 245 ) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Rose-ria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LG-BTQ community events to be involved with 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 Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. These meetings are open to all. For more information please feel free to contact Michelle Mal-ette by phone or email. Hope you'll join us!. 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month from 6:30 -8:30 pm 902-431-8500) at Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St, Halifax

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

Pride Week: Producers of Atlantic Canada's largest LGBTQ cultural festival. 431-1194 email: info@halifaxpride.ca web: www.halifaxpride.ca

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

Quakers: Quakerism emphasizes that we all manifest the Divine. 429-2904 web: halifax.quaker.ca, 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/genderspectrum/, meets 2nd Sunday at Just Us Cafe, 5896 Spring Garden Road

The Youth Project: Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and Health nurse on site. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (Please see our website for an up-to-date calendar of events.)

Trans Family Nova Scotia: Trans Family is an open & supportive space welcoming families, friends and allies as well as trans and genderqueer folk themselves. If you are unable to join us at a meeting for any reason, we can you help source resources and refer you to other appropriate organizations to help meet your needs. For more information, please feel free to call or email Michelle. 902-431-8500 email: transfamily@eastlink.ca, 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.

Can you do an article to fit a weird shape like this? Prove it to us and maybe you'll get to see your name in print! submissions@wayves.ca

## Middleton

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

## New Glasgow

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: 695-3366 email: pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com

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

## 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

## Sydney

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms! Queer Advocacy and Education, Needle Distribution, Food Bank, Coffee, Safe Space for those infected or affected. (902) 567-1766 Toll Free 1-877-597-9255 email: christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Monday and Tuesday each week from 8:30 to 4:30 and Thursdays from 8:30 to Noon. Check our Website for events and updates. ) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 1G6

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbsu.com (Monday to Thursday 8:30-5 or by appointment) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

PFLAG: Peer support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. No meetings for June, July or August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 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@pridecapebreton.com web: www.pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

## 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 (Centre Hours Mon-Thurs 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive, Truro Nova Scotia

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

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

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

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

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pei@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca (Meetings take place on an as needs basis.) at Check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.

## Charlottetown

AIDS PEI: AIDS PEI offers HIV prevention and support services to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 375 University Ave, Unit 2, Charlottetown PE, C1A 4N4

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



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## The Last Word

# Pondering the (Dis)connect

by Randall Perry

This year I decided to start my spring cleaning early. A few days before Valentine's day I grew tired of seeing all the Find! Love! Online! ads cluttering up my Facebook profile and decided to deactivate my account for my yearly online detox. I also took a long look at how much time I was spending in front of the computer checking on the various profiles I've been maintaining on numerous dating sites. I said to myself, time for a change.

So I deleted the whole lot. All of them.

Simple reasoning—I've been spending a great deal of time and effort for no return on investment. I'm told it's the "Law of Internet Attraction": guys whose postal codes do not start with B appear to be the most interesting and the most interested. When it comes to appreciation from afar, my virtual cup was always overflowing. Gorgeous, sexy, woofy, hot—the descriptors abounded, pouring effortlessly from my inbox like wine. Such flattery would have gotten these men into my pants, had they been close.

Local guys, though, for the most

part represented the other side of said law of attraction—"meh," "whatever," "no," "oh, it's you," and my favourite, "I don't think we'd be compatible" to my initial suggestion of coffee. I can't say it was all negative or indifferent, since I have made a few good friends from my online activities. Just no romance. I have absolutely no luck with online dating. Obviously it's different for the thousands of others who have struck it lucky—apparently eHarmony has insane numbers of success stories, and if you believe what you read on the side of the bus, smokin' hot Amy and Matt are shakin' up and we should follow their story on metroclassifieds.ca. I'm just not built for the online hookup.

Here's the real irony: at this point in my life I'm better connected than I've ever been in my life, in all the years I've been online. I think we all are. For all that connectivity, though, how much time do we spend socializing face-to-face or in groups? I read a recent article in the New York Times bemoaning the decline of gay

social groups—many of which owe their existence to the Internet—and attributing online culture as at least part of the cause of their demise. I agree, but nor do I believe it's a simple black and white situation, that the Internet is completely to blame. The sheer expense of travel (where

*We humans are social creatures and cannot exist in the cloud alone...*

"run-type" gatherings such as the ill-fated International Bear Rendezvous are concerned), volunteer availability and burnout (we all know that the biggest events are always run by a small group of dedicated volunteers who find out after a few kicks at the can they're not super-human after all), changing personal priorities and needs, the "been there, done them all" factor are just a few possible reasons.

I attended my first bear event in Fredericton in 1996, an event I would not have known about had I not been online. Hell, I wouldn't have been attuned at all to the existence of bears and bear culture as a fragment movement of gaydom had I not dialled my modem up to 56K and fired up my browser.

Now with the demise of the long-running IBR I hope this is not the harbinger of a trend, where more and more of the large events fall victim to low attendance and close up shop (I mean, I still want to go back to Provincetown for Bear Week, but this time without an entourage of crazy people). We humans are social creatures and cannot exist in the cloud alone. I don't know about the rest of you, but I like the idea of getting together in social spaces. I don't want to spend my life always dependent on a little glowing screen for the prospect of companionship.

I'm not saying we should all turn off our devices. I, for one, never did excel at the telephone tree and when it comes to getting the word out quickly to large numbers, Facebook and Twitter are must-haves. And someone has to look at all those hot guys on Scruff! But instead of sitting alone at our desks window-shopping at midnight for Mr. Right or Mr. Right Now, let's use our technological prowess to create and populate more social events and venues were real connections can be made.

(Just so you know, yes, I've reactivated my Facebook account and I'm



back in the land of the connected. As for that elusive date, I'm still looking...)

randall@wayves.ca

## Review

# Let's Get This Straight

An e-book review

by Bill McKinnon

Tina Fakhrid-Deen's book, *Let's Get This Straight: The Ultimate Handbook for Youth with LGBTQ Parents* (Seal Press, 2010, 143 pages \$11.59) tells us what it's like for a young person with a mom or dad who is LGBTQ and how to cope with this challenge.

If you are child with an LGBTQ parent, you frequently suffer from homophobia in the same way a gay person is subject to discrimination, hatred and misunderstanding even though you are not LGBTQ. Some people assume you are gay because



your mom or dad is and that can be true but more frequently it is not.

Having a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered parent can be a difficult problem but it does not have to be if you have love, understanding and open communication with your parent and your parent's partner if there is one.

Successful choices can be made as to how to deal with the homophobia encountered and to what extent should you opt to be open about your family to friends, teachers, classmates, etc. The author provides many solutions covering a wide variety of circumstances that

will best match each problem. The author shares not only her own experience as a child of an LGBTQ parent but also the experience of dozens of other individuals who have learned to live happily in an environment which is different from that of most young people.

The author also introduces us to COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere see [www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org)), a movement which helps youth with LGBTQ parents. There's no Atlantic Canada chapter yet but there's one in Toronto. If your kids fit the profile and are age 10 or older, they should read the book and perhaps join COLAGE. I read the Sony e-book but it's also available in other e-books and in paperback. The book

is a bit rambling and repetitious at times, but if my mom or dad were LGBTQ, I would cherish and read it over and over again. As it is, I learned about a lot of things I had never previously considered.

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## PFLAG CANADA

### ...is returning to Halifax!!

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first Thursday  
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**Halifax Youth Project**  
2281 Brunswick Street

Contact Michelle Malette  
992.431.8500

### Lay Chaplaincy Services

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# Hello Sailor! is Coming!

This spring Halifax's Maritime Museum of the Atlantic will play host to a one-of-a-kind exhibit of gay life at sea. Hello Sailor! is travelling from its home at the Merseyside Maritime Museum in the port of Liverpool, England for a special engagement across the pond.

The exhibit "...looks at life on board passenger and merchant ships from the 1950s to 1980s, a time when homosexuality was illegal and for gay men there were few places to be safe." It was based on a book "Hello Sailor! The Hidden History of Gay Life at Sea" by Jo Stanley and Paul Baker. The authors drew on roughly five oral

histories in their research but for the exhibit many more stories were used along with a plethora of physical specimens.

The Halifax landing of the exhibit, while retaining the design of the original, will expand on local stories gathered by researchers here. The exhibit comprises about ten large "posters" and a recreation of one of the gay stewards' cabins. Each poster deals with a different topic... one in

particular deals with Polari, the jargonized (and dying) language used by many British subcultures in the 19th to the mid-20th century.

In a video interview with Jo Stanley, she indicates her delight with the Merseyside exhibit: "This material is too good to be just

in a book, it needs to be displayed in an exhibition."

"It was a very brave decision of the [Merseyside] Maritime Museum

to put on an exhibition about homosexuality because it's still a difficult subject, and museums often have to be family friendly and to have topics in the national curriculum," she adds.

The intricacies of Hello Sailor! are being worked out but an announcement of the opening dates and a more extensive feature will be published in an upcoming issue of Wayves. In the meantime, visit the exhibit's Merseyside website at [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/gaylife](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/gaylife), where you can get a feel for the exhibit's history. There's a link to the above-noted short (but engaging) video interview with Jo Stanley in the Video section.



*The Halifax landing of the exhibit, while retaining the design of the original, will expand on local stories gathered by researchers here.*

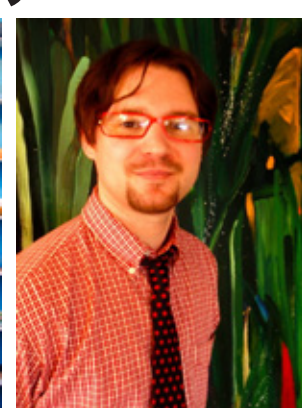
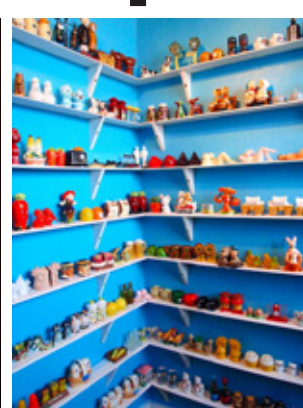
# Swoon: Art, Antiques, Fashion

Swoon — Fine Art, Antiques & Fashion is like no other shop in Nova Scotia. This unique space located in a beautiful Victorian farmhouse, just outside of Halifax on the Hammonds Plains Road opened Oct. 22, 2010.

Owner and gallery director Brandt Eisner attributes the success of Swoon to a powerhouse of support from the local community and the gallery artists that he represents. "Swoon is a community affair, it's not about me but about creating a space that embraces people whether they are artists or not".

Brandt is no stranger to the art scene in Nova Scotia. After graduating from high school he opened Mum n Sun Garden Gallery in Chester Basin. Mum n Sun offered everything from art and antiques to bedding plants and landscaping services.

"It was during this time that I really began working with other artist, showing their work in the gallery, curating and organizing shows at the Chester Train Station Gallery and working on the board for the South Shore Festival of the Arts. Unfortunately being so young and living in a small community began to take its toll. I closed the business after five



*Some of the art, and proprietor Brandt Eisner. Photos by Anita Martinez*

years and moved to Lower Sackville. I spent a few years working in group homes but with much encouragement from friends I applied to NSCAD, I was accepted and spent five years

there before graduating with a BFA Interdisciplinary".

The mandate at Swoon is to also work with the community. We have started organizing workshops and

plan to have some outdoor events when it's warmer that people can come and participate in rather than just see".

I asked Brandt how being a gay man influenced the way things are done at Swoon. "I don't think that being gay necessarily influences how I do things as a business person any more than any other life experience. What it does affect is how I perceive the world and others. I came to the realization while at NSCAD that my work had a lot to do with the viewpoint of 'the outsider.' Once I realized this I started to become more comfortable in that role and more sympathetic to others. It is not easy growing up gay in a small religious community;

you are always the outsider looking in on what others perceive as living a 'normal life.' With time I came to realize that there are many people who live on the outside of society but for many different reasons. Artists are just one of these groups and I feel that I have a wonderful opportunity to provide them with a space where they can feel free to be and do what comes naturally."

Swoon — Fine Art, Antiques & Fashion is located at 1410 Hammonds Plains Road, NS. Also check out their website, [www.swoonfineart.com](http://www.swoonfineart.com), blog, [www.swoonfineart.blogspot.com](http://www.swoonfineart.blogspot.com) or Facebook. Swoon's Winter/Spring hours are Monday — Friday 12-6 and Saturday 10-6. Phone — 444-8279.

**WEEKLY LINEUP**

MON: **2 Drinks for \$7**  
**Pool Tournament @ 8 PM\***

TUE: **So You Think You Got Talent @ 10 PM**  
**Drinks - BOGO\*\* (Buy One for \$5.25 & Get One) for \$3\***

WED: **KARAOKE - Win up to \$500 w DJ Bear\***

THU: **Girlz Night Out - No Cover w Jen & DJ Legacy\***  
**60oz Pitchers - \$14.25**

FRI: **BOGO\*\* (Buy One for \$5.25 & Get One) for \$3 (till midnight)\***

FRI & SAT: **Dance w DJs ...**  
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SUN: **Happy Hour 3-9 PM, Drag Show 9-11 PM\***

\* Check the events calendar on our web site for details \*\* Happy Hour included

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