

Wayves

Safe Harbour's Ship Has Sailed



by Brendan Dunbar

It's official: "the biggest little church in the country" has closed after 20 years of ministering to Halifax's GLBTQ community.

On April 17, during an added session of the church's annual general meeting, the congregation members voted 11 – 3 in favour of ceasing operation. This overturned a decision made two weeks earlier at the original AGM, when a slim 9 – 7 majority agreed to keep Safe Harbour open despite precarious finances and the loss of Rev. Jennifer Paty, their full-time pastor. Paty tendered her resignation on March 11.

Safe Harbour MCC has 27 members—all of whom were eligible to vote on the issue—and 14 regular attendees who call themselves "friends" of the church.

The board of directors first signalled their intention to discuss closure in a letter to the congregation dated March 25.

"Whereas Safe Harbour MCC has not been able to grow as a healthy, vibrant church after two years of study, and the concerted efforts of church leadership to do so; and whereas Safe Harbour has demonstrated that it does not have the financial ability to support a full-time pastor at a reasonable living salary; therefore, be it resolved that Safe Harbour, in an orderly fashion, discontinue operations," the letter states.

Board of directors member and church

treasurer Bob Fougere confirmed this information. "Internal relationships in the church and finances. It was those two things. I'm not pointing to the board when I say that," he said.

After the death of Rev. Darlene Young, Safe Harbour's long-time pastor, the church engaged an interim minister to help resolve some of the internal issues. Rev. Bob Bond spent one year in Halifax.

"The intentional interim pastor is different from the settled pastor in that they know they aren't going to stay with the congregation, so it is easier to be direct with them and to lift up their behaviours, rules and general culture that is influencing the growth and health of the congregation," Bond wrote in an e-mail.

During the interim period the congregation is expected to take certain steps in preparation for the arrival of a settled minister. These steps include the creation of a five-person team to support the interim process; coming to terms with the church's history and current situation; building a clear and shared sense of identity and purpose; renewing ties with the larger church; and building commitments to new directions

Jennifer Paty thanks the congregation for gifts and memories after her last service to Safe Harbour MCC.
Photo by Anita Martinez.

in ministry.

Bond says he worked with Safe Harbour in all these areas, "with varying levels of success."

For outgoing pastor Paty the reason forcing Safe Harbour's closure are complex.

"The lay leadership of the church, the board, has done the best with what they have," she said.

When Paty arrived in Halifax last year, she found a church whose members were tired. Some became caught up in what she called "life's events" and were unable to give as much of their time and resources as they could in the past. Others were still recovering from the last few years of Young's life—diminished by an illness that left her less able to do her normal duties. Congregation members stepped in to help.

"The rest of it is, well..." she said.

Community expectations play a role. Many GLBTQ people have scars from their childhood church experiences, regardless of denomination. It's possible, perhaps even probable, that the MCC in general—Safe Harbour in particular—has increased expectations placed upon it because of the church's specific mandate to reach out to the GLBTQ community.

"MCC can't go through struggles without community judgement...If St. Matthew's United has internal struggles, does the LGBTQ paper pick up the story?"

Money plays the biggest role in the decision to close. The financial figures included in the board's letter reveal an increase in church attendance but a decline in offerings over the last three years. In 2008, the average weekly offering was \$519. Safe Harbour had 21.1 congregants. By 2010, the average weekly offering had

Cont'd on page 7

The decision to close the church caught some parishioners by surprise. Paul... learned in early April through word of mouth.

these qualities was seriously hurting the entity's ability to engage and include the very people whom they claimed there were here to serve. During and after the week of Pride, I spoke with dozens of community members and often heard the same concerns: "We didn't know how to get involved." "Our voices weren't heard." "How did this decision get made?" "Who makes the financial decisions?" "Why is Pride involved in this controversial issue?"

Cont'd on page 4

By Jennifer McCreathe

Transparent. Accountable. These are two words we often hear as core corporate values of any major organization. Without these qualities, organizations risk not being taken seriously and they risk alienating their client body. In the non-profit sector, clients are often members of the general public. After three years of involvement with an informal group of people calling themselves "Pride Committee," it became clear that a lack of

Pride Schedules

Fredericton: August 7-14
www.frederictonpride.org

Moncton: Aug 17-21.

Parade Day Aug 21

www.fiertemonctonpride.ca

Saint John: Aug 7-14.

www.portcityrainbowpride.com

PEI Pride: July 2-9
Parade: July 9 1-2pm
www.arcoppei.com

Corner Brook: July 15-17.
July 16: Pride Flag Raising,
Pride Park Festival and
Pride Masquerade Party!!
www.cornerbrookpride.com

Antigonish: July 10/11/16 (so far!). rainbow-rising2011@hotmail.com

Halifax: July 17-24, Parade Day July 23, halifaxpride.com/

Sydney: Aug 5-14. Pride Parade Aug 6, pridecapebreton.com



Chef's Corner 10 • Groups & Services 12 • I Am What I Am-herst 14 • Kibitz and Bitch 6 • NSRAP Report 10

Deadline for July issue: Friday, June 3 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca • Online: www.wayves.ca • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine Rocks! ... and on Twitter: @WayvesMagazine

Regular Columns



Better Together

HALIFAX PRIDE
JULY 15 - 24

halifaxpride.com

Media Launch

June 2, 5PM

Labatt Beer Institute, Keith's Brewery Market

Out Bid Auction

June 24, 7PM

Casino Nova Scotia

June's Colour Party – Orange

June 24, Free cover until 10PM

Menz Bar



Atlantic Canada News

ARC PEI

Prince Edward Island's annual Pride celebration will celebrate lucky 13 this year. Events for 2011 are scheduled to run throughout the week of July 2 through 10, with the parade and party scheduled for Saturday, July 9.

The next ARC dances will be held June 24 and 25 at Mavor's in Confederation Centre, Charlottetown. For more information visit the Abegweit Rainbow Collective's website at www.arcfpei.com, where you'll also find a link to Pride P.E.I. and its Facebook page.

Anglican Worship Service

The regular monthly Integrity Eucharist will be held on Sunday, June 19, at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Martello St., Halifax. Rev. Trevor Lightfoot will preside and Archdeacon Robert Richmond will preach. Refreshments to follow. All GLBT persons and friends

are invited. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your spiritual journey you are welcome. Information about Integrity may be found at www.integritycanada.org, and contact at integritynspei@gmail.com.

Bears With Us

Maritime bears, cubs, otters and chasers are organizing!

Organizer Ben Maguire says: The actual website is still currently offline. We've decided to just operate



through Facebook until we establish a broader base of members. 90% of our website hits came from the link on Facebook. The full website will be up again for summer in time to co-ordinate our first event.

At this point we are leaning toward a men's only night at Triangles in Moncton or a BBQ. At the moment the BBQ option seems to be drawing the most interest due to people

requesting a more social event where people can talk and make friends and still hear themselves think. For those wanting more information or those that don't use Facebook; we have an email that sends out monthly updates on what is going on with Maritime Bears: maritimebears@hotmail.com.

On Facebook, look up "Maritime Bears."

River of Pride

River of Pride – Rivière de fierté inc. of Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, as the officially designated and sanctioned non-profit association to organize LGBT events in greater Moncton, is pleased to announce the official Pride events for 2011.

Pride Days, our 12th edition, will run from August 17 to 21. Thus far the following events have been confirmed, with permits issued and Moncton City Council approval.

Flag Raising – Wednesday, August 17, 12:00 noon at Moncton City Hall
Pride Parade – Sunday, August 21,

2:00 p.m. Parade line-up will take place at Highfield Square parking lot. Pride Celebration – Sunday, August 21, 3:00 p.m. at Riverfront park on Assumption Blvd.

Please note that all other events taking place during Pride Days are not sanctioned by River of Pride – Rivière de fierté inc. and are not official Pride events.

For more information and updates please visit our website at www.fiertemonctonpride.ca. We look forward to seeing everyone in August.

Diversity in Healthcare

"Why does diversity matter to healthcare?" is the subject of a free public talk in Halifax on June 13. Whether someone is of a different sexual orientation, culture, race, religion or ability, everyone is concerned about the care they receive when faced with health challenges.

Dr. Rani Srivastava will be pre-

senting a free one-hour session to talk about defining diversity and why it's important to an individual's health care. She will discuss how our personal values, beliefs and biases affect relationships with fellow staff members and the quality of care provided to clients.

The free public talk will be held 7:00 - 8:00pm at the QEII Royal Bank Theatre in the Halifax Infirmary, 1796 Summer St. and is part of the Northwood Spring Conference held at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth earlier in the day. Cost to attend the day-long conference is \$100 before May 27. Along with keynote Dr. Srivastava, one of the four panelists on the 'first speak' panel is Hugo Dann, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP).

If you're interested in registering for the conference, please contact the Northwood Foundation at 454-3069 or download the online brochure at www.nwood.ns.ca.

Why Do LGBTfolk Gamble?

By Sheena Jamieson
To date, little research has been conducted on gambling habits and attitudes within the LGBT population. Out!Alive hopes to change this, thanks to a grant from Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia (formerly the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation) that will allow a better understanding of gambling behaviours within the LGBT community. "I was at a Federation of Community Organization's meeting and a representative from the NS Gaming Foundation (as they used to be known) explained how they have grants available to community organizations," said Angus Campbell of the Halifax Sexual Health Centre. "This sounded like an ideal opportunity for OUT!Alive to conduct some

research to discover if gambling is a problem in our population, as we know we have higher rates of tobacco, alcohol and drug use."

Out!Alive is composed of citizens and organizations that are concerned about drug, alcohol, tobacco, and gambling issues within the rainbow community, and meets regularly at the Youth Project. The group will use the grant to conduct online and in-person surveys at various Pride events in 2011, culminating in a report that will be available to the public.

Project Coordinator James Sheddien has been hired for the Rainbow Needs Assessment and will organize the many components of the project. James has been actively engaged with community issues for over 20 years. He has worked with the Nova Scotia Persons with AIDS Coalition, Phoenix Youth Programs, the Canadian AIDS Society, Chignecto Central Regional School, the provincial government, and with Addiction Services since 2006 undertaking Prevention and Health Promotion initiatives. He has a keen interest in research, addiction issues and the LGBT communities. "I am excited to have the opportunity to learn more about an aspect of LGBT culture that we have heard very little about," says Sheddien. "This needs assessment will provide

real information to the community and an opportunity to develop an innovative Nova Scotian response."

If you see James out at your local Pride event, consider giving him your feedback or participating in Out!Alive's online survey. For more information about research and regular updates, search for Out!Alive on Facebook for the fan page.

Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit, arm's-length government organization that encour-

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:
Fridays: Jun 3, Jul 1, Aug 5: that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax):
Mondays: Jun 6, Jul 4, Aug 8: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14: help build the paper – no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

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

ages and supports an independent response to problem gambling in Nova Scotia. This is accomplished, in

part, through funding to community groups and researchers to help address problem gambling.

Wayves

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

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

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Circulation: use the email address below. Subscriptions, per year, are in Canadian dollars: \$20 + 15% HST = \$23 in Canada, \$30 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Send cheque or money order to the postal address below.

Wayves

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www.wayves.ca

Our Cover

Hello Sailor! poster; story on page 8. Here, Queen Mary crew members dress up, with "Jane" (centre), a steward from Liverpool, parading as the pin-up of one of Merseyside's football teams c. late-1950s. Picture courtesy of Oral History Archive at Southampton City Council/Ocean Pictures/Cunard.
Cover design, as always by Cam MacLeod.

Wayves On Line!

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

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

I Am What I Amherst

A new “Rainbow Rising” in Amherst

The Cumberland Pride Society has collapsed and is replaced by a new group: Rainbow Rising. For a variety of reasons, particularly a questionable democratic process within the Cumberland Pride society, the executive of the group has decided to step aside. In place of the Cumberland Pride Organization is Rainbow Rising—a new, less formal organization that will focus more on the social side of things in the region.

Beginning anew is a challenge, but the group is up to doing so with vigour and a vision of where we wish to take Rainbow Rising. At present, the group plans to continue work on

the annual Pride Week events. Three events are confirmed for this year: the flag raising ceremony will take place at Amherst Town Hall on Monday July 11 at Noon; a Pride picnic is planned at Tidnish Docks Park in Tidnish on Sunday, July 10; and a Pride dance is scheduled for July 16 at the Old Warehouse Café on Havelock Street in Amherst, beginning at 9:00 p.m.. More information will be available, as more events are scheduled throughout the year.

Queer folk of the Amherst and Cumberland County area are looking forward to initiating new friendships in a new environment and with a

positive outlook. We celebrate a new beginning with Rainbow Rising. The organization will not have a formal setup with an executive and by-laws, but will emphasize social events. The LGBT community is in need of an organization that is welcoming and projects a feeling of belonging. That's the reasoning behind Rainbow Rising. We are looking for people with positive attitudes that support each other and keep personal ambitions by the wayside. Our belief is that by working in unity, we can reap unbelievably.

Rainbow Rising invites you to join them at any of their events throughout the year in Amherst. The promise

of a great time awaits you as the Town of Amherst and Cumberland County celebrates the queer community. For any information contact rainbowrising2011@hotmail.com or call (902) 660-5004.

Stephen Harper's re-election with a majority government is not good news for the queer community. The reason for distrust is definitely warranted taking into consideration what the man has attempted during the time he has been Prime Minister of Canada. Time will only tell what he intends to do, but our community has every reason to be concerned. The need to be vigilant is needed



now more than ever as he now has a majority and therefore able to bring in any type of new legislation to suit his right wing agenda.

American cultural anthropologist Margaret Meade wrote, "A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." 'Til next time.

St. John's Pride

Cont'd from p. 1

It became clear, that although I apparently attended every meeting, there was activity going on behind the scenes. The person who was supposedly elected Chair was replaced without any proper procedure. A "Pride Citizen Award" was created and given to a member of a controversial organization, at a private event, without any structured public award nomination or voting process. We saw a Pride week that featured several major problem areas: reports of under-age attendees and under-age drinking at adult-only Pride events; a confrontation at an event that included a committee member, that required police intervention; the marketing and promotion of controversial private companies who had not been endorsed by a quorum of committee members; money being given to Pride and spent without

accountability; the booking of a private event that members of the general public were not welcome to attend; and the taking of stances on controversial issues such as blood donation policies.

Given my background in business management and policy development, I could clearly see the problem: without structures and rules, you can't expect rules to be followed. When prominent members of the LGBTQ community were telling me that something needed to be done, I couldn't turn away. I felt a moral sense of responsibility to help solve the problems by becoming part of the solution—hence, the birth of St. John's Pride Incorporated, a legally registered non-profit corporate entity: an entity that has legal obligations and company that clearly states who they are, what they do, and how they do it.

For those who aren't familiar, a non-profit organization is a stand-

alone entity that is separate from any of the individuals who manage it. Board of Directors are legally obligated to act in the best interest of the organization. No individual or group may own a non-profit en-

Without structures and rules, you can't expect rules to be followed.

tity. With this in mind, it is my hope that stakeholders, potential sponsors and donors, will have a high level of confidence in the organization.

Given the article about St. John's Pride that appeared in January's Wayves, I want to clarify some matters of misinformation. The article made it sound like the founders of St. John's Pride Inc. were not part of, or associ-

ated with, the committee. Not true. Members of Pride Inc. were deeply involved, but not formally recognized. Furthermore, Jennifer McCreathe is not the Chair. There is no chair for now. We are a team whose decision-making model is based primarily on reaching consensus, with a majority vote acting as a last resort. All our policies are published online.

This year's St John's Pride Week will be held from July 18 – 24. Pride Inc. has already secured a flag-raising event and opening ceremonies at City Hall. Steps are also being taken to finalize a parade. In addition, for the very first time in the history of this city, negotiations are currently underway to gain the recognition, sponsorship, and hosting of a St. John's Pride event by the Provincial Government

Meanwhile, the work is far from

done. Community engagement is critical in shaping the rest of the week. In addition to having a website (www.stjohnspride.org) and a Facebook presence, we are on Twitter and Yahoo! groups, which will allow people to communicate with us anonymously. We will also be taking a proactive approach to ensure the word gets out about how to be involved in Pride, as we intend to get media exposure, as well as advertising in local print publications. Public stakeholder engagement meetings will be booked in a variety of locations all around the city, to ensure that Pride can be accessible to everyone.

For more information, visit the website or e-mail info@stjohnspride.org.



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

5687 Charles Street
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902.406.3133
www.cheztess.ca

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: Thirsty Thursdayz - No Cover w Elle & DJ Legacy*
60oz Pitchers - \$14.25**

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

**FRI & SAT: Dance w DJs ...
... Nick Nonsense, BEAR 777 or Sonny D**

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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Free To Be: Pride Week in Cape Breton

by Peter Steele

Bigger is better! No matter how we may hate to admit it, we all prefer bigger to smaller, and this year's Pride Week festival in Cape Breton is definitely bigger than ever before.

Free To Be, Cape Breton Island's eleventh annual Pride Week festival, will run August 5 to 14, with activities included in Sydney's summer Action Week festival. Our first three days events will be a part of Sydney's longstanding and ever successful Action Week, making the Cape Breton Regional Municipality an incredible vacation destination for early August travellers.

Our flag will fly proudly outside the Civic Centre beginning 12:00 noon on Friday, August 5. Being the biggest supporter of the island LGBT community, the municipal government has always been on board with all our efforts throughout the year, proving you really are Free To Be in the CBRM. Sponsorship for the LGBT community, as well as for our festival, has grown. Local businesses continue to jump on board, and this year we've seen a growth in our off-island support. Venus Envy has always been a supporter, and this year they're joined by Halifax based Matthews and McDonough Financial

Planning

The week's activities will kick off with a Pub Night and BBQ at the Southend Community Centre running 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Admission for this popular mixer is only a toonie, with music by DJ Mickey and a barbecue on the spacious deck.

Saturday, August 6 will be a full day to strut your Pride. Beginning at 12:00 noon is our annual Pride Parade through downtown Sydney, followed by our free barbecue gathering at Louisa Field in Sydney's north end. Sponsored by M&M Meat Shops, this party gives everyone an opportunity to see friends visiting from away, listen to some terrific dance music, and meet the Pride Week volunteers and parade participants. At 2:30 p.m. the women and men will compete against each other yet again in the Pride Friendship Memorial Baseball Tournament. Later in the evening, the pride of Cape Breton and the Maritime's greatest drag performer, Rouge Fatale will host Diva Delights at the Horizon Achievement Centre along with her friends and special guests.

On Sunday, August 7, PFLAG will host Family Day at the Southend Community Centre Field beginning at 1:00 p.m. This free event is said to be the best day camp in the region, with

much to do for children, including a complimentary hotdog barbecue and other give-aways. Later in the evening, Rouge Fatale will host Gay Bingo at the Horizon Achievement Centre starting at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free, and you can purchase all the cards you can handle to win any of the many merchandise packages.

A number of new events have been added to our festival roster. On the afternoon of Monday, August 8, PFLAG will host a children's Craft Day at the YMCA of Cape Breton and, later that night, for those who wish to socialize in a non-alcoholic environment, we present a dry pub and barbecue starting at 6:30 p.m. At the Southend, music will again be by DJ Mickey and admission's just a toonie with a barbecue on the deck.

In addition to our regular Tuesday Night Movie Night (August 9) of two movies beginning at 7:45 p.m., PFLAG will host a family movie beginning at 6:00 p.m. As in earlier years, bring your own lawn chair to the Delta Sydney for this free admission event, and pop and popcorn will be on the menu.

Wednesday, August 10 will see the ever-popular youth and adult MusicFest at the Southend. This free event (donations accepted) brings to-

gether the best of Cape Breton musical talent. The youth session will take place at the Southend Community Centre field beginning at 2:00 p.m., while the adults' begins at 9:00 p.m.

On Thursday, August 11, PFLAG will host two events. Beginning at 11:00 a.m. Three Rivers Wildlife Park will be the scene for Family Diversity Day. Bring a picnic and enjoy some of Nova Scotia's most fascinating wildlife, or swim at the park's beach. There are also a playground, a petting zoo and wagon rides. Later in the evening the eighteen-and-under crowd can strut their stuff at Star-echoe: The Next Star beginning at 7:00 p.m., just before our regular adult Fairy-oke, which starts at 9:00 p.m. Hosted by DJ Isnor, merchandise prizes will be awarded for the top three at each karaoke session. The 7:00 p.m. show is just a toonie, and the 9:00 p.m. just \$5.

Friday night, August 12, brings us a night of great music, dance and fantasy with our first Pride Mardi Gras Dance at the Horizon Achievement Centre. Beginning at 9:00 p.m., admission is \$10, with music and lights by DJ Isnor and prizes for the best Mardi Gras costumes.

On Saturday, August 13, we begin to wind down the week with our



2011 Is Going to be TransTastic!

By Josie Harding

New Brunswick's first Trans Day of Celebration is coming up June 11 and 12. We invite all male-to-female, female-to-male, androgynous, two-spirited and gender-variant persons to join the Moncton Transgendered Peer Support Group in a weekend of celebration of just being your beautiful, unique self. Come join us and celebrate gender diversity with like-minded people and bring your friends and trans allies for support. We will have guest speakers, a barbecue, bonfire, games, prizes and more. And the very best part is that it's totally free. Just find a way to get here and you're all set.

The event will take place on private property in a forest setting. This

area has no civic markers to follow and is approximately 30 minutes from Moncton. We will all meet at a large parking lot a few minutes' drive from the event grounds and drive all there together. This ensures no one gets lost and most importantly our safety from outside party crashers.

The site will have a large tarp cooking shelter with a propane barbecue. A newly-constructed outhouse for washrooms, bonfire pit, and an ATV and trailer to tow all your gear in so you don't have to carry it are all available. There is no running water on site but a "bottle shower" will be there for emergencies. The site has cell phone coverage and a Tim Horton's is only seven minutes away.

Bring a sleeping bag, your camping

clothes, a flashlight and four litres/one gallon of water (for group use). As for sleeping arrangements, tenting is encouraged but if you do not have a tent, the cooking shelter can be converted to house many of us. As the event draws near, other items may be suggested but not required.

There will be free hamburgers, hot dogs, marshmallows and canned drinks on the afternoon and evening of the 11th. Bring whatever else you'd like for snacks or breakfast the next day. You can also bring items to cook on the barbecue for your own enjoyment.

Alcohol is permitted and sensible consumption is encouraged. Drunkenness is not. Alcohol will not be provided, so bring what you need.

Since safety and security is our utmost concern, this is an RSVP-only event. Simply e-mail be_tgmoncton@live.com to get your name on the list. In your e-mail give us your name (or one you prefer to go by), the town you're coming from, and how many people are coming with you. This will help us plan on how much food and supplies are required so please have that e-mail to us before June 5. We will send out updates to keep you in the loop as the 11th approaches but your e-mail address will not be visible nor shared with anyone. If you do not have regular access to e-mail, you can simply email your phone number where we can contact you.

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom,
Do you think it makes me egotistical that I viewed the Royal Wedding as an extension of my birthday? After all it happened only a few days after the anniversary of my arrival on the physical plane. Coincidence? I don't think so. I pretended that all the cheering throngs waving flags were saying Happy Birthday, Crawford.

As always, bless 'em, the Anthill and Fisherman's Freud were central to the festivities of my birthday. I had a lovely dinner with lots of love and laughter. Doesn't get any better than that, does it? Among the prezies was a bottle of Limoncello—the lovely lemon-flavoured liquor that I first tasted in Italy. I didn't even know you could get it here but of course the clever Anthill has a special gift for finding just the right thing. Limoncello is served icy cold and I am trying to make it last and just savour a tiny glassful from time to time direct from the freezer where it lives in between samplings. What has become a tradition is the Anthill's scallops ceviche. Have you ever tried ceviche, Tom? The raw scallops are "cooked" by soaking in lime juice with cilantro and some hot pepper flakes. They fall apart in the mouth and are so delicious I have difficulty resisting the urge to gobble them all up leaving none for anyone else.

Did I tell you that I'm the subject of scientific research? Isn't it interesting to think of me, Crawford, being studied for the greater betterment of humankind? At least, that's how I think of it. A graduate student has been interviewing LGBT people who live in rural areas. Country queers I guess you could say as opposed to city fey folk. We chatted for over an hour about growing up gay and the changes I've seen over the years etc. I was fascinating... oops, I mean, it was fascinating. To think of my pithy, scintillating thoughts appearing in a thesis and perhaps even in some sort of learned journal. At long last, recognition!

Did I tell you about the man I met online, Tom? Well, I met my new Gentleman Caller, or GC for short, a while ago and we've been enjoying each other's company for a while now. Having a new relationship has required me to try and break some old patterns though. In the old days I would make a decision from the first meeting as to whether there was the chance of a long term relationship or not. Of course the conclusion was based on little or no knowledge of the new person and usually resulted in my bailing out before the new relationship even had a chance. Old habits are hard to break but so

far I've managed to just take each day as it comes and enjoy the moment without trying to figure out if there is a wedding cake and/or matching jock straps in our future. I must say it is very pleasant to be with someone who finds all my teensy eccentricities and neuroses charming and fun. GC and I laugh a lot together which I always think is an excellent sign.

We went into the city last weekend to have dinner and go to a play. Afterwards we stayed at a hotel which created a kind of naughty, erotic atmosphere for some reason. Even the tall, lanky valet who took our car keys seemed to give us a knowing smile. And we smiled right back. I had a brief fantasy of inviting the valet to join us for a game of three handed strip Yahtzee, but I resisted. GC and I celebrated my birthday together and we both got to unwrap each other's gifts.

The warmer weather and the new relationship have renewed my resolve to get into better shape. I've always enjoyed walking but other exercise regimens always bore me and I invariably let them drop after a brief period. They always say that you should take up an activity that you enjoy doing—besides that activity, Tom! I've discovered that if I put on a TV show like Flash Gordon with the sound off and put Lady Gaga on the stereo that I have both visual and auditory stimulation. I'm hoping to dance my way to a fitter, firmer figure to the beat of Poker Face and Born That Way while gazing on the pleasing bodies of men in an alternate universe. Kind of like the home version of a great gay bar. The only drawback was during the election campaign when commercial breaks sometimes included images of Stephen Harper at which point my firm resolution would begin to droop from ED—Electoral Dysfunction. When the regular program came back on it would take several scenes of bare-chested warriors before my desire for tautness would rise again.

However, let us quickly move away from that unpleasant topic. Any plans to visit out this way again, Tommo? You know you can always count on something hot on the grill and, more importantly, something cold in a glass here chez Crawford.

Love ya!

Dear Safe Harbour

Below are my comments concerning Safe Harbour MCC members deciding to cease operations after 20 years.

Dear Wayves:

Danny Poirier and I live in Digby County so we have only attended about 5 services at Safe Harbour Church in the last 11 years; however we very much felt welcome and we appreciated the services and sermons.

In May of 2006 we were married by a Unitarian Universalist minister in the McKinnon-Cann Inn in Yarmouth. After putting our picture in the Chronicle Herald, the then archbishop Terence Prendergast informed our parish priest that Danny could no longer direct the choir and we were to be denied Communion because we had committed a scandal by going public. His definition of scandal was when one's actions caused people to doubt the Vatican's teaching. This despite the fact that our parish priest and the laity had seen that we were and are an openly gay committed couple.

Danny and I then joined Yarmouth's Beacon United Church where we have been equally welcomed by its minister and congregation. We sing in the choir and are active in several of its committees.

The United Church of Canada accepts gay and lesbian ministers and will perform same sex marriages if the individual congregation votes to approve. I would like to encourage members of Safe Harbour MCC and other interested GLBT to consider attending a service at Affirming United Churches in the Halifax Bedford area. Affirming Churches state publicly that they are fully inclusive and commit themselves to working for justice. And have a visible gay symbol and or table with positive reading material.

Local affirming United churches in the area are:

St. Matthews U.C. 1479 Barrington St. St. Andrews U.C. 63036 Corburg Road St. John's U.C. meets at the Maritime Conservatory 6199 Chebucto Road Bedford United Church 1200 Bedford Highway

Jack Murphy and Daniel Poirier

Dear Wayves:

I was saddened to learn of the closure of the MCC Safe Harbour. I recall our visit there on a couple of occasions when the late Darlene Young was the minister. I believe the space was being shared with the Unitarian Church as well. We (Jim and I) had the opportunity to minister to the congregation by doing a musical selection, "My God and I."

Due to the distance from the city it is somewhat difficult to attend, however; we are involved in a music ministry with Christ Church (Anglican) in Shelburne. Over the past years there have been a number of gay couples move here and purchase homes and start businesses. I am happy to report that these people are being accepted in our community. We are fortunate to have an affirming church in our town (Trinity United) and we are presently dealing with the issue of same sex blessing within the Anglican Church as well. I am sure that there are many gay Christians in the city. This is the time/opportunity for you to support the cause. Don't wait until it is gone. We always felt welcomed and safe during our visits at Safe Harbour.

Bernie Nickerson, Shelburne

Dear Wayves:

I am really sorry to hear about the closing of Safe Harbour Church. Even not having attended services or been actively involved with the church in recent years, I think it is an important sanctuary for the gay community and family and friends of the LGTB community in Halifax., and it has given help, comfort and support to many of us.

I came in touch with the Safe Harbour Church during my first visit in Halifax in the summer of 1995 where I attended a Pride service at their old location on Inglis Street. I went back again the next summer. When I was a full time student at NSCAD and involved in various other projects, I came back to the Safe Harbour Church. In September, 2001 when I fell in love with another woman

Cont'd next page



Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church "Sailing Into the Future!"

A Final Celebration Worship Service

Sunday June 19 - 11am
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902.453.9249
safeharbour@eastlink.ca

Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

- guest speaker



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Safe Harbour

Cont'd from p. 1

dropped to \$444, though the church boasted 28.2 attendees.

The board had established a target of \$500 a week, which is well below the \$1,200 in weekly offering they indicated they needed to support a pastor at "a reasonable living wage." By comparison, the United Church of Canada's starting salary is \$35,000, including benefits like housing and gas allowances.

"The reality is that Safe Harbour has never supported a pastor. They've never been financially responsible, not even close. This isn't a bad thing, it's a real thing," Paty said.

Safe Harbour has operated on this model during its entire 20 years of existence—not unusual for MCC. Paty guesstimated that as recently as three years ago, about one-third of MCC congregations could not pay their pastors a reasonable salary.

But circumstances are changing.

"I know of three churches that were asked to close or were recommended by their elders to close because they did not meet their size or financial requirements," she said.

Fougere said that churches with fewer than 35 members are shut down, but the larger MCC did not want to do that in Safe Harbour's case.

Both Fougere and his husband, Sam Wilson, have been members of Safe Harbour for 13 years. During that time they saw a church that punched above its weight class in terms of accomplishments, leading its members to nickname it "the biggest little church in the country."

In addition to spearheading the campaign for equal marriage in the early 2000s, Safe Harbour was instrumental in bringing renowned theologian Bishop John Spong to the city in 2003 for a speaking engagement—a minor miracle, according to Fougere.

"His fee alone would scare the pants off you," Fougere said.

Spong agreed to waive the fee if Safe Harbour could not raise enough money to cover it. In the end, the church was able to meet the obligation. People travelled to Halifax from all over the province to hear Spong speak.

Manna for Health, the most well-known of Safe Harbour's charities, has been in operation since 1996. The food bank offers support to people

living with HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses. The church has also run a community Christmas dinner for the past 18 years. It has grown to serve 200 people every year.

"We make a profit," Sam Wilson said. "Every one of those 200 people donates something... You never see them at Sunday service, but yet how would we survive without our Safe Harbour Christmas dinner?"

In order to preserve the two charities, the board of directors is working with groups of Safe Harbour members to take over their operations when the church closes for good. Paty has no doubt that Manna for Health will survive.

"Manna is very secure. The community absolutely supports Manna," she said.

This type of outreach is in keeping with MCC's Christian values, she added. Rev.

Troy Perry founded the Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles in 1968. He based the church's theology on Christian creeds, with an emphasis on open communion—anyone is welcome to accept the Eucharist.

The reality is that Safe Harbour has never supported a pastor. They've never been financially responsible, not even close. This isn't a bad thing, it's a real thing."

Perry, a former Pentecostal Church of God minister, began the church specifically as a way to provide a welcoming spiritual home for the GLBTQ community, which has traditionally been spurned and vilified by the Christian church. Over the last 43 years the MCC has grown to include 250 congregations in 23 countries.

J.J. Lyon, Robert Byers, Bruce Moore and Terry Parker established Safe Harbour MCC in 1991. Following a well-attended Christmas carol sing-along in December of 1990, people expressed an interest in gathering for regular Sunday worship. In February, 1991, Lyon, Byers, Moore and Parker and about a dozen others began holding services in the boardroom of the AIDS Coalition office on Gottingen Street.

Safe Harbour became a permanent member of the MCC in September, 1991, and adopted the "Safe Harbour" name at that time. By then the congregation had become too large for the meeting space and moved to

Brunswick St. United Church.

Young became Safe Harbour's first full-time pastor a year later. She served until her death in 2009. During her 18 years in the pulpit the congregation made three more moves—to the Universalist Unitarian Church on Inglis Street in the fall of 1992, to its own space in the Bloomfield Centre in 2004, and finally, to Veith House in 2006—established its own charity in Manna for Health and started a community Christmas dinner that now feeds 200 people every year.

Following Young's death in 2009, Bond ministered at Safe Harbour as an interim pastor for one year. Paty became the full-time pastor in 2010.

The decision to close the church caught some parishioners by surprise. Paul (not his real name) has attended services at Safe Harbour since he moved to Halifax a few years ago.

He learned in early April through word of mouth that the church was closing.

"I didn't even really know how to react," he said. "I remembered being kind of surprised, but (at the same time) not really" because he was aware of the financial pressures Safe Harbour bore.

From the time he stepped through the doors at Safe Harbour, Paul felt embraced and valued in way that other congregations couldn't match. Before he became a regular at Safe Harbour, he attended "a couple of" churches in Halifax.

"I didn't particularly feel comfort-



Rev. Jennifer Paty begins the service on the Sunday before Easter. Photo by Daniel MacKay.

able there," he said.

During the post-worship coffee hour Paul stood in a corner of the church hall, feeling ignored. He sensed that he was expected to approach the members to introduce himself. At Safe Harbour, people approached him.

He also appreciated that MCC was founded out of a desire to minister to the GLBTQ community. Other denominations that welcome queers talk the talk but don't walk the walk, he said, making tokens out of the queers in their congregations.

"They make me feel like I'm different, and I don't like to feel like I'm different. I like to feel like I'm normal."

Along with his concerns for the fate of Manna for Health, Paul worries about his own spiritual well-being. Right now, like others who went faithfully to Safe Harbour, he

stands at a crossroads.

"Do I seek out another Christian church? Do I seek out another type of faith community? Do I do nothing and wait to see where that takes me?" he asked.

Though there are no firm plans to raise a new MCC out of the ashes, many of the congregants believe Safe Harbour provides a needed spiritual haven for Halifax's GLBTQ community.

Bond wrote, "It is my hope that the closing of Safe Harbour MCC will result in a new church to be formed with a vision to be agents of the Divine in the HRM area for the marginalized who do not find themselves celebrated in the existing faith-based organizations."

"There is a place for MCC in Halifax. I absolutely know there is," Paty said.

Cont'd from prev. page

and needed some support and affirmation in this new "coming out," I attended regularly until the end of 2003. Stayed in touch with the late Reverend Darlene Young, and also in 2006 we discussed together a few paragraphs about the Metropolitan Community Church and the Safe Harbour church I included in a big

research paper about Homosexuality and Religions in Canada. The last time I saw her was at the Pride service at the Garrison Grounds, an event I always enjoy.

I feel saddened by the closing of Safe Harbour and my heart goes to all of those who will miss a safe space and a point of reference.

Karen Nieuwland



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Everything's Queer

Story and photos by Randall Perry

When I meet Dr. Jo Stanley a couple of days before Hello Sailor! opens at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax she reminds me of everyone's favourite auntie, the one you were told to stay away from because she's bursting with the most delicious stories. She greets me, smiling broadly, shakes my hand enthusiastically and proceeds to take my picture.

I'm hooked.

Hello Sailor! is the realization-in-progress of a dream for Dr. Stanley. The original book and the travelling exhibit make up only a portion of the expansive, multi-faceted plan to give what was a neglected, hidden footnote of gay history its full, long-overdue telling.

The seed of the project was planted decades ago, she tells me. "In

the 70s I was married to an AB (able bodied) seaman and he kept telling me stories about these guys who wore gorgeous frocks with plunging necklines who camped around like Tallulah Bankhead or Dusty Springfield at night but who were absolutely respected for their toughness in the performance of their jobs by day. I thought that was fascinating; people should know more about that."

Lavender Linguistics

Dr. Stanley kicked the idea around for a number of years until a chance meeting in 2001 with Paul Baker, an expert in lavender linguistics writing his Ph.D. thesis on Polari, a type of cant slang used as a secret language among gay mariners. The two collaborated on the book, "Hello Sailor!: The hidden history of gay life at sea," published in 2003.

After Dr. Stanley submitted a proposal to the Merseyside Maritime Museum, the exhibit phase of the project opened in 2005. "It was designed as a travelling exhibition," she explains. "It travelled to three different locations in the UK and this is the first time it's been abroad. It's also the first time it's been translated and I

think it's just fantastic the way it's developed so far."

Dr. Stanley would like to add a lesbian component to the exhibit, considering the current British material documents only gay men. She would like to find out what gay life was like for mariners of other countries. She recognizes the material's obvious theatrical components and as such has written a Hello Sailor! musical: "I really hope it gets to the stage... it'd be so much fun!"



Above: Replica of a gay seafarer's cabin as part of the exhibit. Right: Nothing says style on the seas than a closet full of frocks!



Five local seafarers provided their stories and added to the richness of the exhibit.

Oral History

We're joined by curator Dan Conlin and we make our way around the exhibit-in-progress, chatting about the value of oral history and how it captures the stories that can sometimes be suppressed by society. "We were very impressed with the innova-

tive use of oral history [in the original exhibit] and how grounded it was in the history of shipping," says Conlin. "I thought, this is the kind of thing that we should be doing in Halifax."

Inside the display space the exhibit is not yet completely set up. The

boards are in place on the bulkheads: royal blue for local content, pink for the original British content, emblazoned with bilingual text and bright photos. I spot a display case which holds a pair of dressy Navy jackets, one paired with a gold-sequined bustier, another dressed with a lanyard made out of polypropylene rope lashing, which I recognize as belonging to Elle Noir (aka Chris Cochrane), one of the five participants who generously lent their stories to the local exhibit.



Jo Stanley and Dan Conlin cut the ribbon to launch the Hello Sailor! exhibit.



Elle Noir provided a pair of her customized navy jackets for one of the displays.

Wanted: Queer Seafarers

Two Ph.D. students, Emily Burton and Bob Harding, were funded by two local donors to do the research for the Halifax-based exhibit. A call was put out and eventually five queer seafarers (Chris Cochrane, William Andrews, Frank Letourneau, Bryson Syliboy and Helen McFadyen) were interviewed, and from their stories the new text was developed. Their experiences take in a wide range of trades and span a time from the 1960s through to today. A surprising thread among all the stories was the relatively little homophobia displayed by their shipmates, an acceptance and mutual respect of different backgrounds,

whereas the crushing homophobia came from the institutional side—the Canadian Navy persecuted and witch-hunted queers, drumming them out of the service up until 1992.

"That's not to say that there was no homophobia at all aboard ship," Conlin adds. "They [the participants] had their own stories, but they seemed to be more isolated incidents and rare, which is interesting."

One of the major contrasts in the experiences of the British stories to those of the Canadians is the decided lack of a coded, Polari-like language among the latter. "We wanted to know if some Polari words had mi-

grated into Canadian use and nobody was familiar with the language or had heard anyone speak of it," explains Conlin. "Considering the distance not only geographically but also time-wise, it appears that Polari was falling into disuse by the 1980s."

"Navy ships are full of all kinds of crazy slang; some of that may be Polari, who knows? Maybe there were some Canadian ships where this particular unique subculture existed among the stewards, but we didn't find it, however it might be interesting for other researchers to explore."

eer Once You've Left the Pier! (or... "How bona to varda your dolly old eek!")



Farrah Moan and Eureka Love strike their best Frida and Agnetha during the opening number at the pre-launch reception.



Big Drag in the Small Craft Gallery

When I arrive the next evening for the opening reception the display space has been completely transformed from a sparse collection of boards to a fully fleshed-out feast for the eyes. I sneak in behind the pink ribbon and find Elle's jackets are safely ensconced behind glass. The show-piece of the exhibit, an interpretation of how a gay seafarer's cabin might have been made up—I'm told it was put together in record time by the team—is a work of art. I look closer and realize I have that very Dusty Springfield album ("A Girl Called Dusty") and another one by Barbra Streisand and I wonder,

had I lived then, might that possibly have been my life?

The museum's Small Craft Gallery plays host to the opening reception. Sails are lit with strategically-placed pink lights and the staff sport white Dixie-cup sailor hats—there's even a fascinator or two in the crowd. The room fills quickly and shortly the festivities are underway. We're treated to a couple of musical numbers courtesy of local drag entertainers Farrah Moan and Eureka Love, as well as Elle Noir herself, whipping the crowd into cheers as cameras flash madly. Numerous speakers, including Dr. Stanley and Dan Conlin, present

their thoughts at the podium.

"What an inspiring adventure this exhibit has been," indicates Conlin. "We're presenting the very first exhibit in North America that looks at the lives of gay and lesbian mariners. It's a first not only for Nova Scotia but for the continent."

When the moment comes for the ribbon cutting, Dr. Stanley wields the scissors with a practiced hand. She beams as the exhibit space fills up and people begin taking in the latest in the Hello Sailor! adventure. "Amazing," she exclaims as she poses for pictures with the pink ribbon. "I've never had so much fun."



Observing one of the local exhibit boards. Royal blue was used for local content to complement the British content's pink boards.



Snippets of some personal stories make up the audio interactive portion of the exhibit.

Integrity and Creativity

I ask Dan Conlin and Dr. Stanley what they want people to take away from the Hello Sailor experience. "I'd like people to think that gay mariners are like any other mariners," Conlin answers. "While many of us tend to think of ships as macho, traditional environments, they also have a tremendous sense of camaraderie and an acceptance of all kinds of backgrounds, and that was a common theme among the five we interviewed. It's important for people to know that these gay mariners have faced challenges of all kinds, but the sea has also provided all kinds of opportuni-

ties which have been important and fulfilling to them."

"I'd like people to walk away feeling inspired by the way these guys absolutely just went for the kind of lives they wanted, acting with courage, integrity and creativity," adds Dr. Stanley. "But I also want people to be inspired by the tolerance that came from all around. For me, it's remarkable proof that we as human beings can transcend our bigotry—remarkable easy, it turns out—and if we can do it with sexual orientation then we

can do it with other aspects of life. It contains lessons about race, class

It's remarkable proof that we as human beings can transcend our bigotry... and if we can do it with sexual orientation, then we can do it with other aspects of life.

and gender, too."

As much as I've read about gay history and for all the things I've

experienced over the last quarter century, as I make my way through the exhibit, browsing the boards and reading the stories I realize there's still so much I haven't seen. Before me is a significant piece of history, previously untold, only recently coming to light.

There's an important lesson to be learned from Hello Sailor!—not just from the stories and artifacts in the exhibit itself but from the whole hidden history of openly gay life on the sea. If, decades ago, long-held prejudices can be put

aside in the historically homophobic environment of a ship at sea and as a result welcome and empower those very people outcast by society, then it's certainly possible to cast aside the same baggage society carries on land.

Hello Sailor! is on display until November 27. Visit its website at museum.gov.ns.ca/mmanew/en/home/whattoseedo/hellosailor.aspx.

The original British exhibit's website can be viewed at www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/gaylife.

Moncton City Pride Plans Expand

By Nathan Adams

On April 28, Modern Vision Events held a press conference at Casino NB, announcing the events to be held in Moncton from August 17 - 21. The goal of these events is to celebrate the spirit of Gay Pride and spread the message that bullying and discrimination must be stopped. Speaking at the press conference was Moncton's MP, Brian Murphy, who talked about his involvement with bullying, and also spoke about times that he himself

had been bullied as a politician. Mr. Murphy stated that he was fully supportive of the City Pride celebration and the meaning behind it.

Modern Vision Events Ltd. will bring in 12 DJs (some of whom are local, others are from the United States and abroad) who will perform at many different venues including the Oxygen Complex, Triangles bar and I-Rock. There will also be two dances at Casino NB. Other venues are yet to be announced. Among

the DJs is Grammy-nominated Tony Moran ("My Heart Will Go On") from New York, whose music has resonated through clubs and areas around the world, and has been dominating the Billboard dance charts for decades. Internationally-acclaimed Hector Fonseca was signed on in 2010 as one of the main Matinee USA residents and headlined Matinee NYC and Miami. DJ Joe Gauthreaux, Phil B, Dave and Gerardo, Patrick Guay, Paskal & Vesselinov, Sonny D, DJ

Trennd, DJ Master, as well as two special guest DJs will have you on the dance floor all night long.

Other venues such as Rouge Resto-club, La Teraz, V-Tapas and Lounge and Fox Creek Restaurant will host cocktail parties, brunches and meals.

More events and other DJs will be announced on June 1, so be sure to check the website at www.citypridecelebration.com and Facebook page for press release details. Ticket



prices for the different packages, as well as more detailed information on Modern Vision Events, City Pride Celebrations event schedule, volunteer sign up and more, can also be found on the website.

Coming Out In the 'Chi Part 2

In May, Nathan told us about his strong attraction for a friend, and wanting to hold him and kiss him. Then one day...

I leaned over and kissed him. He pushed me away and had a look of shock in his eyes. I thought, "Oh no! What have I done?"

I thought my life was ruined. I was so surprised when he put his hand behind my head, pulled me towards him and kissed me again. I will never forget that night, the things we explored, the feelings I experienced. I felt so alive. For two years we kept what we had a secret. Both of us had girlfriends and our own group of friends, but on many occasions we got together.

I thought what we had was special but suddenly he stopped it all. He stopped calling, stopped wanting to see me, saying it was just a stage he was going through, that he liked women and didn't want to be with me or even talk to me anymore. I felt so hurt; the first guy that I fell in love with didn't want anything to do with me anymore.

So I went back to square one, dating girls, but now knowing that there were other guys like me. I was able to meet some new people and managed to explore my sexuality even further, but I was still living a double life.

I let my friends and family see what I wanted them to see, but when I was meeting new people from gay

websites or local cruising areas I was so relieved that I didn't have to hide who I was.

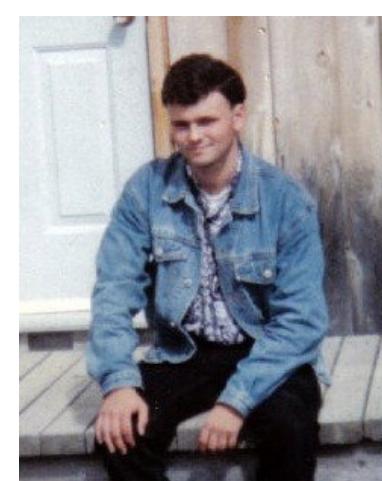
For years I still had girlfriends, trying to keep my secret from everyone, and when I was nineteen I became the father of a beautiful baby girl. That made me realize more than ever that I had to do something, that the road I was on was not the one that I wanted to travel. I love my daughter very much and she means the world to me. I have no regrets at all that I brought someone into this world,

If I was going to be truly happy I had to find a way to live my life as a gay man.

however I did realize then more than ever that I was gay, that I liked men and if I was going to be truly happy I had to find a way to live my life as a gay man.

For the next several years my life consisted of hook-ups with men, but still kept it very much hidden—or so I thought. Miramichi is a small city, one of those places that everyone knows everyone. Word soon got around that I liked men.

Friends asked me constantly if there was something that I wanted



to tell them, saying things like, "Hey, I heard a funny story about you the other day." I denied it for as long as I could until I just couldn't take it anymore. I got on the phone and called all of my closest friends and invited them over to my place stating that I really need to talk to them that it was very important.

I was so nervous when I looked at everyone and told them that I was gay, expected the worst. I was so surprised when they just looked at me and said, "Is that it?" I couldn't believe that everyone was so cool and so except-



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"Prejudices are what fools use for reason." ~ Voltaire

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managed to pick myself back up and move on, and always managed to come up with a believable enough of an excuse about my black eyes or busted lips to my parents as I still never gathered up the courage to tell them. Then I met Darcy....

(continued next month)

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

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

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

Healing Our Nations: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. 1.800.565.4255 email: ea@accesswave.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: denisined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

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

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

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

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

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

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

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

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

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

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/,

meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

Spectrum: 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 web: 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 web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at (506-859-4726 fax) 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

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

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

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

Un sur Dix - University of Moncton Association for the LGBT community and their allies (not only for students): The mission is to ensure the well-being of the community and to end homophobia (mainly a french association, but also organizes some bilingual activities). For more information, please visit the website. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix

Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

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

Sackville NB/Amherst NS

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

Sackville

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

Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: invites you to worship!. 506-634-8288 email: cqsunitd@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunitd.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 web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

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

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

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

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: cqsunitd@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 web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LGBTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News". Past events include the annual Rainbow Peace March, guest speakers, movie nights, participation in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

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

Woodstock

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

Frontrunners Newfoundland and Labrador: Running/walking club. 722-5791 or 753-9529 email: tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net, jennifer.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 web: 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 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 (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!

LBGT 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: lbgt@nlsexualhealthcentre.org web: nlsexualhealthcentre.org

PFLAG Canada: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gemma.hickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca) St. John's Pride Inc: The officially-registered non-profit Pride company for St. John's. email: stjohnspride@yahoo.ca web: www.stjohnspride.org

Nova Scotia (902)

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

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

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

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

Amherst

Sexual Health Centre Cumberland County: Open and inclusive services: information, education, workshops, free condoms. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.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 web: cumberland-pride.sites.net, meets 3rd Monday (7-9 PM)

Annapolis Valley

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: meets on a regular basis for coffee and talk, hosts a monthly dance when attendance permits. 825-3197,363-2055 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: faceitwithpride.tripod.com (email or call for locations or special events or themes)

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, meets every Monday (3:00-5:00pm) at The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, located in the Kirk Building at 219 Main Street, Suite 204 (above Tim Hortons).

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

Bridgewater

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

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

Halifax

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

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. 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: <a href="mailto:acns@acns.ns.ca

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

MomSquared: CALLING ALL LESBIAN MOMS. I know you're out there! A group for lesbian moms to connect and provide support and friendship to each other as well as friendship and interaction for our children. email: ilovemy2moms@gmail.com web: momssquared.weebly.com

Mount Pride: LGBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@mountstudentss.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 245) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Roseira.

Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always GLBTQ 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.nsrap.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 Mallette 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

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

Lunenburg

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

Middleton

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

New Glasgow

Pictou County 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@cbusu.ca (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: sydney@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 on 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: northernaidsconnectionssociety.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-pei-owner@yahoo-groups.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei At All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list. GLBT Youth group: Safe Space Drop-Ins. 367-3408 or toll free 1 877 380 5776 (E-mail us for further details.) at 144 Prince St.

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: 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@aidspci.com web: www.aidspci.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@arcofpei.com web: www.arcofpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)

Follow us on Twitter:

www.twitter.com/BullyingCanada

BullyingCanada.ca

1-877-352-4497

Visit us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BullyingCanada.ca



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Lay Chaplaincy Services

Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1J8

uchurch@eastlink.ca

902-429-5500

Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw Lay Chaplains
sstephen57@gmail.com armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca

weddings ◆ memorials ◆ child dedications ◆ other rites of passage

Guest Editorial

The sky is not falling, your country isn't dead

Guest editorial by publisher Dan MacKay, on the day after our federal election.

People, friends, the sky is not falling, your country is not dead.

We just witnessed a perfectly normal transaction of a democracy.

Your rights won't be stripped away tonight. In fact, a door has opened for a new era of engagement with your government. Instead of people complacently assuming that the minority government is going to result in good things, or at worst, inaction on your behalf, you the citi-

zen are going to have to get involved with government again, and not just once every few years.

Your new government will be under the media microscope like never before. It's the media's job to make politics accessible to you, the citizen, so that you can take informed action. Grassroots or mainstream, it is time to support them; this means buying subscriptions, and telling advertisers to continue supporting media with political journalism. Tweeting "RIP Canada" doesn't count. It doesn't contribute to responsive government.

To those of you who are today weeping and gnashing your teeth: I suggest you begin by striking up a personal relationship with your MP and let her or him know how you feel and what you want. Start by indicating that taking direction from party whips and lobbyists is not acceptable. Private members' bills are where the craziest stuff is introduced, and MPs are not whipped to vote along party lines for these—it is always a free vote. You can always put pressure on an MP to abstain from voting: there was a vote about corporate respon-

sibility in mining recently, and you'll note that a lot of folks from mining communities abstained. Tell your MP that you will be watching every vote they cast, and that you will be marching into their office to tell them how unhappy you are—and telling your friends when the opposite is true.

If your MP is in opposition, she or he needs to know your opinions too. And it is always good to put pressure on a party's critic for that area; so for example, for any health bill, Megan Leslie is giving advice to the NDP on how to vote. If you in the com-

munity have educated your MP on an issue, they may bring that opinion to a caucus meeting to try to influence the critic and the leader.

One easy way to keep tabs on your MP is via the website www.openparliament.ca. The first step is telling your MP what's important to you. Seeing what she or he is doing is the second step. The third step is to follow up with appropriate feedback when s/he does, or does not, represent you in Parliament.

Looking Both Ways

"Bi" Should Officially Be a Word

By Sara Montgomery

Or is it already?

A year ago this month, I ventured to a beautiful cottage on the south shore with my two girlfriends.

We stayed for two days; swimming, sitting in the sunshine in colourful chairs overlooking a grand lake with hardly any other cottagers on it. The breeze was light, the air fresh, we played guitar and sang, watched movies, ate and drank like royalty.

It was wonderful to get out of the city and hang out together in this late-

June rural Nova Scotia environment.

One of my companions is openly gay while the other is openly straight. To them, at any rate, I was open about being bisexual. Our varying sexualities did not swing any bridges joining us in the unification of our tri-friendship circle.

That was until our last few hours there where we indulged in a game of Scrabble.

So we were immensely enjoying playing and getting close to the finale of the game, the three of us in close score ranks. I think it was a triple

word score square when I placed B and I down... I would have won thirty or forty points and would have taken first place.

The only thing is neither of them would "let" me have it. They insisted that "bi" is not a word but an abbreviation. I argued that of course it is a word.

Oh, they laughed and teased me that I was a "sore loser" and I lost the game with a frown.

Or had I?

Recently, thinking about that b word, I did some investigating. I

turned to my Collins Dictionary. Well, it looked like they were right according to this source: "bi/bai/n & adj. informal bisexual. [abbreviation]."

From there I did an online search thinking the word (?) might have been modified into one. In Dictionary.com "bi" as a word is not listed. However, MSN's dictionary lists it as "bi (1): adjective (slang) same as bisexual [mid - 20th century, shortening]."

Then I remembered that I used to have a Scrabble dictionary. I looked on my bookshelf and there it was, in all its pristine, green and yellow

covered, third edition © 1996 glory: "BI n pt – S a bisexual." From there I double-checked the Collins Official Scrabble Checker: "BI Allowed Min Points 4/short for bisexual."

Alas, B and I put together may not officially be a word, but we have been using it in the spoken and written language for half a century. It doesn't even have the greatest connotations associated with it but it is all we really have for now when you're stuck in the middle.

Never has it taken me a year to say I won a board game, I must say!

Letter

Needed: New Moncton Pride

Re: James M.'s letter, May 2011

I firmly believe, for the sake of diversity and freedom of expression that we all should be able to air our opinions. It's great to have a forum like Wayves in which to do this. James M. has stated some valid points in his letter to the editor, however he doesn't offer much in the way of a solution. Constructive criticism is great; bitching is not. While it's true that the Pride Committee consists of members who are somewhat older (and yes, some of us are senior citizens) there have been very few young volunteers willing to come forward to take up the slack. I suggest that that

James M. might do something constructive about this, get a few young and forward looking thinkers like him and become members to implement the changes he would like to see made to the committee. His critique falls flat if he has nothing better to offer than that.

That "old man" has put his time and effort for years into the activities to raise money for public awareness, for tolerance and for the parade and the gathering at the park. There was an attempt at a teen dance—widely publicized—14 young people came out and far too many older men tried to crash the

dance. There have been information sessions, seminars and public awareness forums but these have not been widely attended despite all the time and hard work that has gone into

Who, if anyone, will step forward in the fall to form a new committee? I believe that it won't be you.

preparing for them. There is a yearly ball game which is always a lot of fun but rarely are there many young people there. The annual Bingo raises a lot of money for Pride. Prizes are donated by community businesses, but again, volunteers must approach

these businesses and gather up these prizes. It's a fun evening for those in attendance.

In order to have the parade and the afternoon at the park money must be raised, quite a lot of money. James M. says he's on a tight budget and doesn't like the \$6 he has to pay to go to a Colour Party. The Pride Committee is also on a tight budget, as are most of us these days. Where does he think the committee's money comes from? (And keep in mind this is a non-profit organization). It comes from glow sticks and donations, time and effort, and people willing to work freely and put themselves out there. No one gets paid here, these people give freely of

their time and put more effort into this than most people realize, and sadly, they will not be volunteering for this thankless job again next year. Who, if anyone, will step forward in the fall to form a new committee? I believe that it won't be you.

We "senior citizens" have been working on and off at this since the GLM days in the 80's. Fortunately for Triangles the gay populace of Moncton like to party their way through Pride Week, but it makes it difficult to raise money for other endeavours. You suggest "it's time for the people of Moncton to start another committee that appeals to all ages" and I suggest that you go for it. Moncton desperately needs it.

Evie Lane

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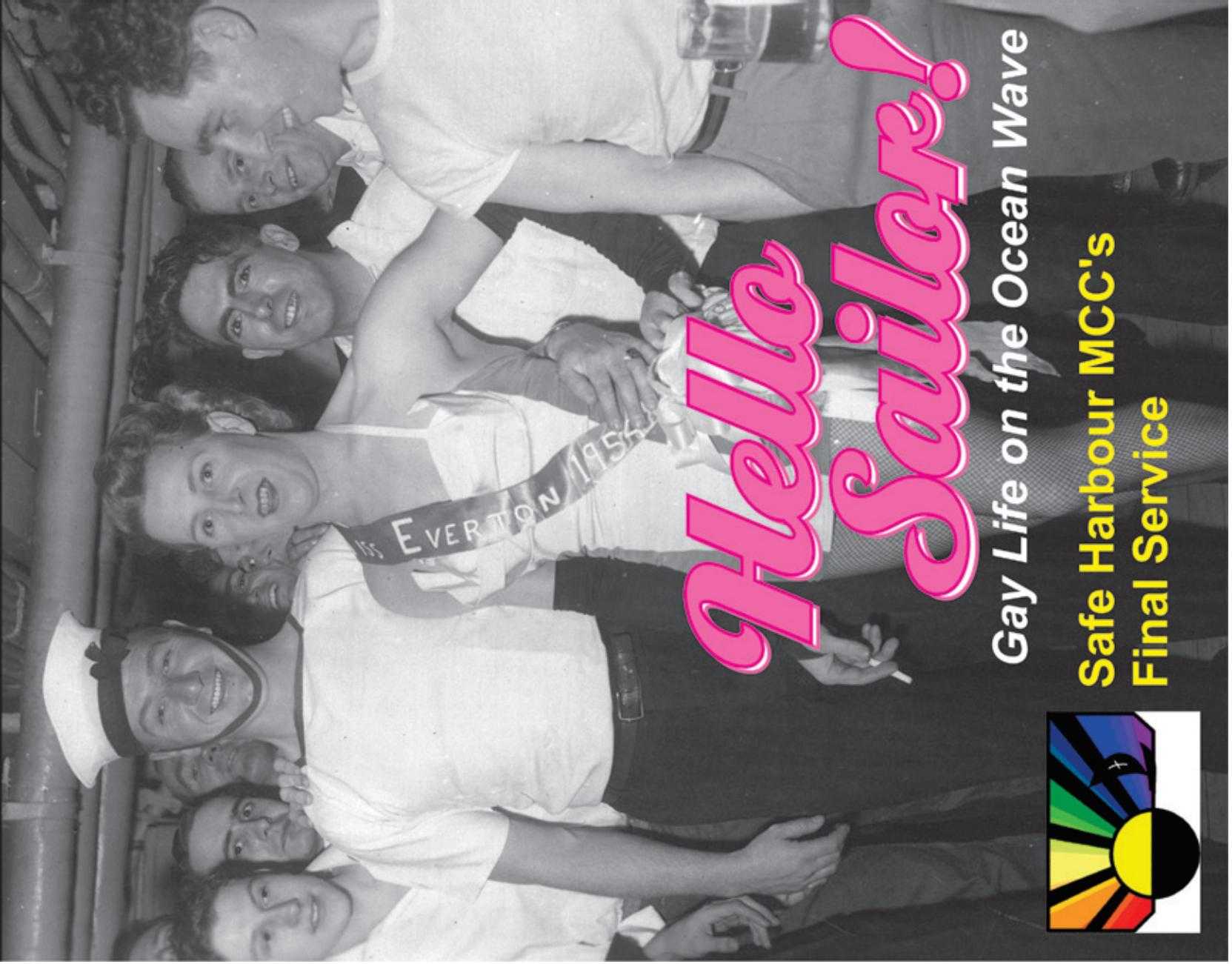
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