

Wayves

“Deep End” to Splash at AFF

by Randall Perry



Producer Rob Evong and writer/director Brett Hannam. (Photo by Randall Perry.)

I'm sitting at a board room table at the Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative's cool new digs, chatting with the minds behind “Deep End,” a five minute dramatic short film produced under AFCCOOP's Film 5 program. Twenty-seven-year-old Brett Hannam, sitting at my left, is the film's writer and director. Twenty-four-year-old Rob Evong, sitting at my right, is the producer. These two men are

each young enough to be my son, and I'm roundly impressed by their articulate vision and infectious energy.

This is proof positive that, with these two in the picture, the future of Canadian film continues its bright burn.

“Deep End” is set at a community swimming pool and focuses on a 13-year-old boy's struggle to accept his older brother's coming out as gay. He must deal with the societal and personal impacts of this revelation, given his limited experience with what it might mean to be gay is filtered through the lens of junior high school. He spends the day at the pool, looking at both sides of the equation, faced with either supporting his brother or siding with his peers who are, because of their age and limited worldview, almost instinctively homophobic.

It's a simple, effective piece of storytelling—a coming-out narrative that explores another side of the closet, where casualty has lease. After the older brother comes out, will the younger brother take his place in a closet of his own? Brett explains that he wrote the original story

from which “Deep End” was in development for a long time. Originally it was a longer, more feature length story. “Actually more of a hodge-podge,” he says. “There'd be paragraphs of prose in outline and I'd go in and write out dialogue. That sat around for awhile and when I was camera-assisting on a feature we would shoot during the day and at night instead of sleeping I ended up writing it into a full, 90-page script.” That raw script went through more refinement over time and was eventually boiled down to its current form.

As is the tendency of fiction, Brett drew inspiration from some of his personal history, along with experiences recounted by friends, and allowed the imagination to combine everything together into a unique yet familiar narrative.

Brett and Rob met while attending NSCAD and over the course of their schooling they worked on a couple of film projects together, forging a solid working relationship. “We've developed a trust over the years. We have the ability to work with and challenge each other, while respecting each other's boundaries enough that I feel we make a very good team,” says Rob.

For their latest collaboration the two decided to apply to AFCCOOP's Film 5 program. Rob had taken a leave of absence from the film world for awhile and when they began working on the “Deep End” project Rob felt a renewed sense of direction. “It just clarified how ded-



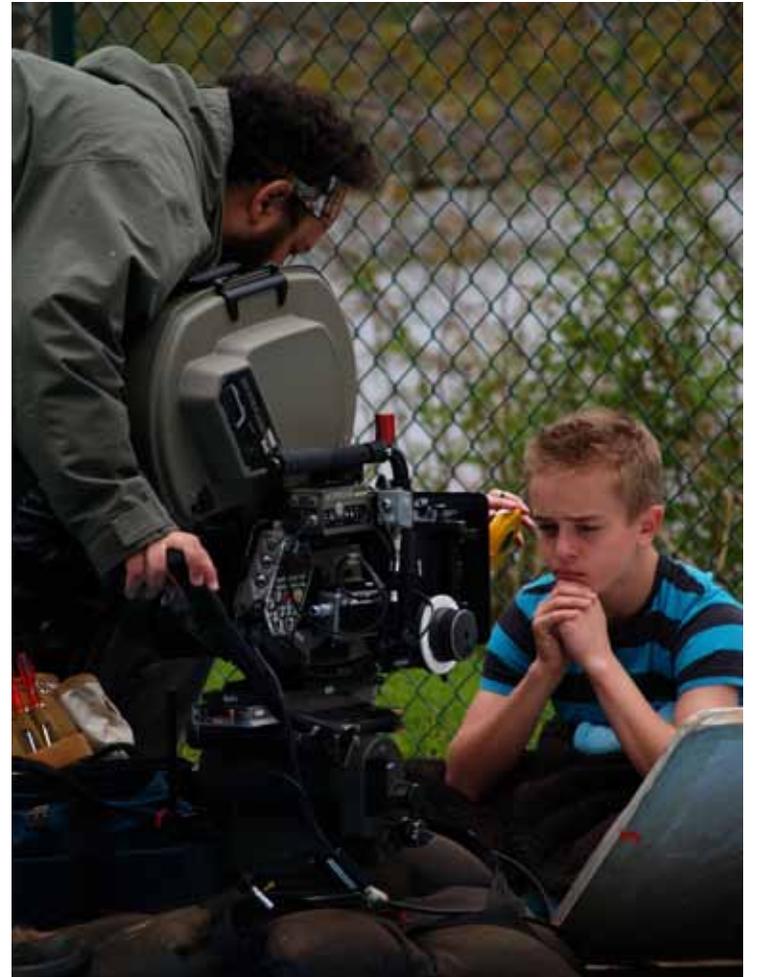
Bailey Maughan plays the lead.

icated I am [to film] and just how those valuable those relationships I've been developing over the past couple of years are, volunteering on other projects plus working on our own material.”

Film 5 is a program of AFCCOOP presented in partnership with Film Nova Scotia and Telefilm Canada. It is aimed at emerging, promising filmmakers who have some experience and are ready to take their creativity to the next level. The program provides professional and project development opportunities, training and mentorship to creative teams of writers, directors and producers, with selected teams moving onto a production phase where their projects receive \$7,500 in cash and \$25,000 in services to be realized on film.

Utilizing the resources available through the program, “Deep End” was made using industry-standard processes and equipment—shot on 35mm film using the Super 35 process, which was transferred to a digital intermediate (Apple's ProRes high-definition format) for editing in Final Cut Pro.

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Bailey Maughan before the camera. (photo by Lauren MacDougall)



Brett works in the editing suite. (Photo by Randall Perry.)

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Deadline for October issue: Friday, September 2 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca • Online: www.wayves.ca • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine Rocks! ... and on Twitter: @WayvesMagazine

Atlantic News

New Gay Prostate Cancer Group

The Prostate Cancer Canada Network (PCCN) intends to establish a new support group in the Halifax region for gay men and their families. This is in addition to monthly prostate cancer support groups that PCCN already operates in Yarmouth, Sydney, Pictou, Truro and Halifax.

"The prostate cancer gay support group will be a first for Atlantic Canada and quite possibly the entire country," says Peter Mallette, Director of Prostate Cancer Canada's Atlantic Region. "When I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2005, I felt isolated and didn't know where to turn to for the questions I had. We're hoping this new support group fills that void for gay men and their families."

According to a study by Ryerson University, it is estimated more than 1,500 gay and bisexual men in Canada develop prostate cancer each year.

All PCCN support groups aim to help individuals and their families understand and cope with prostate cancer by providing up-to-date information and individual peer-to-peer support; providing men and their families a chance to share experiences and stories; providing a forum in which everyone can discuss concerns and have questions answered in a comfortable and confidential setting.

PCCN support groups are usually made up of the newly diagnosed, their caregivers and men who are living with or who have lived with, prostate cancer.

Group members provide emotional support to each other and demonstrate that one is not alone and that others share similar experiences and concerns. They can become a vitally positive influence in people's lives, as they have for thousands of those diagnosed with prostate cancer in Canada.

For more information contact Peter Mallette at (902) 420-9449 or peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca.

East Coast Trans Alliance Inc.

The East Coast Trans Alliance Inc. (ECTA) is a new, non-profit organization whose mandate is to provide services to the transgender community, and undertake educational, advocacy, and social networking activities. The organization will be here to serve trans people and their allies worldwide, however, the target is Canada's four eastern provinces. This appears to be the first of its kind, as an organization that is run by and for transpeople, and will be run by a coalition of trans community leaders from four neighbouring provinces.

Confirmed board members include NL representative Jennifer McCreath (founder of St. John's Pride Inc. and member of CPATH), NB representative Josie Harding (founder of Moncton transgender peer support group) and NS representative Aimee Menard (spokesperson and educator regarding trans and intersex issues).

McCreath says an organization of this nature has been lacking in society. "I find it alarming that many

organizations which claim to offer products and services for trans people seem ill-advised or outright ignorant towards trans issues. Furthermore it is a concern that many so-called LGBT organizations focus primarily on LGB issues."

McCreath hopes that the ECTA will serve as a Centre of Excellence that can advise many of these organizations how to better serve the wants and needs of the trans community. "We are not trying to replace other organizations. We are simply looking to take steps to ensure that gaps are filled." She also feels that having a peer support system run by trans people will help many closeted trans people feel more comfortable reaching out for advice, guidance, and friendship.

Finally, McCreath feels that having a formal incorporated non-profit entity will bring more respect and credibility, and will open doors for trans people to finally have a seat at the table during important government policy meetings that directly affect them, such as health care and human rights legislative amendment processes.

The ECTA has already been active in the community, as Josie and Jennifer collaborated to produce and deliver educational public forum events in St. John's, NL and Moncton, NB during both of those cities' respective Pride weeks. ECTA was also visibly present in said cities' Pride parades.

Courage Round-up

The 23rd Annual Courage Round Up was held from August 5 – 7 at the Unitarian Church in Halifax. The Round Up is a small intimate gathering of GLBTQ Alcoholics. There were 32 participants, with visitors from Florida, Maine and Prince Edward Island. Speaker meetings and workshops addressed recovery topics in the context of, "What it was Like, What happened, and What it is Like Now."

The next Round Up will be held August 10 – 12, 2012. Information can be found at www.halifaxgayaar-roundup.org.

New Faces at DalOUT

by Adam Sterling

Kimberly Vardon studies marine biology and disability management at Dalhousie University and has served two years on the executive council of DalOUT, an award-winning student society providing services for members of the school's LGBTQ community. This past spring, she was elected president of the organization.

Founded in 2002, DalOUT has become one of the most recognizable student organizations in Halifax. Throughout the academic year, the society hosts socials and fundraisers for local LGBTQ organizations and provides peer-counselling services.

"I couldn't be more excited," says Vardon. "I'm very proud of my involvement with DalOUT over the past two years, but I'm really looking forward to taking the society in a new direction. I think it's time to shake things up."

Growing up, Vardon was no stranger to homophobia. As rumours

about her sexuality spread throughout her high school, a local church where she volunteered informed her that they no longer needed her help. Her experiences, she says, have motivated her to become more active in the community.

"I'm well aware that I haven't faced the extreme prejudice that others continue to experience," she says. "But I still get disgusted looks from people when I walk down Spring

Garden Road, holding hands with my girlfriend. And if I expect that to change, I think I should do my part to make it change."

Joining Vardon on the executive council are Katrina Sellinger, Brittany Long and Sarah Rizzo. Former DalOUT president Justin LeBlanc will serve as an advisor.

"After two years of being president of DalOUT, I'm really excited to see some new faces on the executive,"

says LeBlanc. "All organizations run the risk of falling into a rut and I'm really glad that Kim is stepping up to make sure that DalOUT stays fresh."

A key focus for DalOUT this year will be community involvement. As part of that, the executive plans to introduce a lecture and discussion series this fall. The first lecturer will be Matt Numer, a professor at Dalhousie University and the chair of the

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*The Walk: 1pm, Amherst Oct 1;
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New Glasgow - Rob Marshall, 902.695.3460
walkcoordinator@eastlink.ca
Truro - Asuha Boehm, 902.895.0931
nacs@eastlink.ca

Northern AIDS offices:
33 Pleasant Street, Truro

General info:
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I Am What I Amherst

by Gerard Veldhoven

Small Event, Big Success



Gerard Veldhoven and Mayor Rob Small raising the flag.

Well, folks, welcome to autumn. By all accounts the queer celebrations went according to plan this summer. Amherst had one event, the flag-raising at town hall. The fact that no particular organization sponsored this all-important occasion had no bearing on its great success. About 40 – 50 people from the area joined guest speakers for a celebration of unity and recognition of equal rights.

Mayor Small had words of welcome and reiterated that the Town of Amherst celebrates and indeed welcomes all, regardless of sexual orientation. Cumberland North MLA Brian Skabar had words of praise for the community at large, saying that the area may be proud of its record in accepting members of the LGBT community. County Warden Keith Hunter praised the late Norman Carter and Gerard Veldhoven for bringing attention to new viewpoints regarding the queer community.

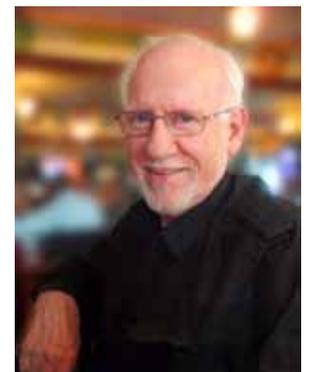
The always eloquent and dedicated ally to our community, Eldon Hay, was the keynote speaker. He

pointed to the last 40 years and the fact great strides have been accomplished. Hay expressed appreciation to the various positives that have occurred during the years in this area, such as: establishing a gay/straight alliance at Amherst Regional High; Trinity St. Stephen United Church opening its doors to same-sex marriage; the attendance of civil and provincial leaders at this flag-raising; the fact Darrel Cole and staff at the Amherst Daily News have provided a platform for news items and events for the queer community.

Eldon Hay also brought attention to the fact long-term care facilities have staffs that may not be properly trained to help senior LGBTs. Many in our community feel the prohibition of gays being blood donors is unjustified. Gays and lesbians face hurdles in immigration where cases are adjudicated by one person.

Another development that is catching attention is the fact the First Baptist Church in Halifax is cutting off affiliation with the Baptist Convention as the congregation voted in favour of same-sex marriage. Rev. John Boyd, the minister of that church, once served in that capacity at First Baptist Church in Amherst.

That's it from this border town for now but keep watch for further development, including what decisions will be forthcoming regarding a new LGBT group for Amherst. Remember, discrimination is the worst crime of our time.



Members of Amherst Town Council, MLA Brian Skabar, Mayor Rob Small and Cumberland County Warden Keith Hunter.

Atlantic News

...continued from previous page

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project. The executive is also planning to host sexuality and gender workshops throughout the year.

"Education is a really important part of being involved in the community. So we're looking to strike a better balance this year between activities that are educational and activities that are social," says Vardon. "We still want to have fun, but we want to make sure we're contributing to the community, too."

Vardon says the executive still plans on hosting social events like on-campus drag shows and DalOUT's annual screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Unlike previous years, however, the events will be open to all ages. Proceeds from the events will be donated to local LGBTQ organizations.

"DalOUT is almost ten years old. It has been a great resource for the university, but we're ready to take

it to the next level," says Vardon. "I think students at Dal should be really excited for this year—I know I am."

DalOUT will be hosting a Back to School BBQ on Thursday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. The BBQ will be held on Lemarchant Street, in the quad between the Dalhousie Student Union Building and Risley Hall.

For more information on DalOUT, you can visit its official website at www.dalout.ca.

OUR COVER this month is by Cam MacLeod. "Deep End" promotional photo by Lauren MacDougall. Randall Perry sat down in July with Brett Hannam and Rob Evong to discuss their Film 5 project. Story on page 1.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Fridays: Sep 2, Oct 7, Nov 4: 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: Sep 5, Oct 10, Nov 7; help decide what goes in the next issue, 6:30 PM, Blowers St. Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Sep 11, Oct 16, Nov 13: 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!

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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!

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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St John's Pride Week Report

by Jennifer McCreath



St. John's Pride Parade on the march.

Well, it was simply an exhausting but amazing week here in St. John's for Pride week. There was quite a bit of controversy and conflict among the local LGBT community, when steps were taken by myself and others to incorporate an entity known as St. John's Pride Inc., that would take over the role of overseeing the planning, management, and delivery of a Pride Week in this city, but things ended up coming together rather nicely.

The phone was literally ringing off the hook in the weeks leading up to July 18-24, as many different entities wanted to get involved and become a part of the celebration. Public stakeholder consultation sessions were called and attracted more people than any other Pride meeting that I can ever remember in this city. Members of the media who were LGBT were not only anxious to cover the stories, but become a part of the organization, which made media engagement, both before and during Pride Week,

much easier. Organizations such as Yuk Yuk's Comedy, Provincial Department of Tourism Culture and Recreation, and American Apparel, were willing to bend over backward to be involved.

Our week started with a busy slate of events, including a noon hour flag-raising and an evening reception at city hall. These events were very well attended, and featured more LGBT speakers than ever before. The decision to make the evening reception a "dry" event caused a little bit of controversy, but proved to be the right move, as there was no underage drinking, nor public intoxication, of attendees. This step also proved helpful in getting people out of City Hall on time and over to Chatters Cafe and The Grapevine, where further social events occurred.

Tuesday featured another busy schedule. The day started with an afternoon open house at the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and

Labrador, an organization that provides a variety of services, including AIDS education and awareness, needle exchange program, and men's shelter. Then it was off to the township of Logy Bay Middle Cove and Outer Cove for an historic flag raising event. This was perhaps the first time a small township has ever raised a rainbow flag in honour of Pride week. Then it was off to Middle Cove beach for a bonfire, which was very well attended, despite threats of rain.

Thursday started with the debut of a Pride self-defence class, which was delivered by one of the

most recognized and credible martial arts teacher in the province (Dennis White). Then it was a quick turn over to get ready for a panel discussion on health care issues facing the LGBT community. This was recorded by Rogers television in its entirety for future airing. Excellent speeches were given by representatives from Canadian Blood Services, Aids Committee of NL, Canadian Mental Health Association, Moncton Transgender Support Group, East Coast Trans Alliance, and Holy Trinity High School Gay/Straight Alliance.

The evening carried on over at Yuk Yuk's for a night of comedy from nationally-respected gay comic Richard Ryder, and local comic and singers Mark Day (from Canadian Idol fame), and Doris Anita Douche (Drag Idol).

A movie night on Friday followed; The Baby Formula was screened.

Saturday kicked off with a Front-runners run around the lake, then

a Photo Scavenger Hunt, which included several enthusiastic teams. A picnic in the park followed, which was highlighted by Zumba dancers, presented by PFLAG Canada. An estimated 500 people attended the picnic.

Then it was time to get down to business to set up the featured event of the week, the Variety Show at the 1,200-seat Arts and Culture Centre theatre. The dress rehearsal went very well for all attendees. The show got underway at 7:00 p.m. and featured emceeing by yours truly, singing from Denielle Hann, plate spinning from Vannie Woodford, drag lip sync from Roxie Cotton, dancing from the Burly Q Babies, improv from the PwG, and a comedy set from headliner Elvira Kurt.

Sunday's rally, drag race, parade, and BBQ went off very well, as all events saw more attendees than ever before. Gemma Hickey, and Federal MP Ryan Cleary spoke, local "Teddy Bear Man" Terry Rielly sang a newly-penned Pride song, and Roxie did a great job hosting a drag contest. The parade had a record estimated crowd of 600 people (and 23 dogs), more than double the previous estimated record.

In terms of sponsorship, there was a very high level of interest from local businesses, major unions, and national companies. While donations were small, this was at least a stepping stone to develop strong working relationships.

There were several firsts for St. John's during this week, as mainstream celebrities flew in for the festivities, including Richard Ryder, Elvira Kurt, and Wayves' own New Brunswick writer Josie Harding. It was also the first time the provincial government had not only recognized Pride week, but actively supported and sponsored it. It was also the first time a city grant had been secured specifically for Pride week. Finally, it may very well be the first time an openly-trans individual was Project Manager for a Pride Week project—which is very refreshing, given the various conflict between the LGBT and T communities in other Pride entities across the country.

In the near future, steps will be taken to build upon the week with public consultation feedback sessions, as well as corporate development projects to attempt to bring more people into the fold.

Benjamin Moore
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evan.coole@gmail.com

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General info:
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WEEKLY LINEUP

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TUE: **So You Think You Got Talent @ 10 PM**
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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 ...**
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SUN: **Happy Hour 3-9 PM, Drag Show 9-11 PM***

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

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Lesbian Soapbox Diaries

by L. Connors

Full Circle, Part One

*I'm sorry for the things mommy put you through
And all the times you didn't know what to do
I'm sorry that she had to go and sell those bags
That you had to keep busy till she checked in
You just wanted to be home with all of us
As one big family with love and bliss
And even though you tried to treat us all like kings
Your wife had a problem and she could not see
She died and left you there all alone
I'm sorry that you had to do it on your own
I'm sorry that I went and added to your grief
I'm sorry that I was too sad to be there
I'm sorry that I left home way too fast
I wish I would have listened and not be so bad
I'm sorry that your life turned out this way
I'm sorry that I have stayed away
I understand that there are some problems and I'm not too blind to know*

*All the pain you've kept inside you even though you might not show
If I can apologize for being wrong than it's just a shame on me
I'll be the reason for your pain
And you can put the blame on me.*

The call came in at 6 in the morning. I knew right away what it was, though I could not get to the phone before it went to voicemail. I had been expecting this call, had on some level been waiting for it. Somehow I knew that it would take my father's death to finally go home again.

For all that I have been through in my life and shared, I'm not really much of a crier. But the tears flowed freely that day. So much so that even through my big sunglasses, the drive-through attendant at Tim Horton's noticed them as I began my journey home. I had no words to answer her when she asked if I was ok. My nod must have been unconvincing, because as I went to drive away without

my order, she handed me not only my coffee, but also a something I had not ordered. She said this is for you as she handed me a bag containing a chocolate chip muffin. Never before have I believed more in the power of

journey. I felt as though he was with me. As terrified as I was that my cell would ring telling me it was too late, I knew that he would wait for me.

He had waited for me once before. It was before the time that everyone had a cell phone. He sat beside the land line, not knowing when I would call to check in, waiting to tell me that my mother was in the hospital on life support. Although he was not there when she was taken away by ambulance, he did not go to the hospital to see his lifelong love until after I called. Just as he had waited for me then, I knew he would not leave this earth without giving me an undeserved chance to say everything I had not. Little did I know that it would be us—my family and me—that would be left waiting, nearly a week wondering not only if he would live or die, but if he had suffered brain damage as my mother had so many years ago.

Last week my father was dis-

charged home from rehab. We were told we were lucky, that approximately one in twenty end up walking out. It might as well have been one in a million, we knew we were luckier than the doctors could ever quantify. My brother and I have our father back. But I have so much more than that.

They say you can never go home again. Usually "they" are right. In this case I think that it is just an excuse not to have to face who you really are. I faced both the possibility of losing my father and the painful memories I had been running from with no woman by my side to hold my hand. But I was far from alone. I learned was there is something very powerful about being surrounded by people who love you even when your roots have grown out to your ears.

Most especially your father.

"I knew he would not leave this earth without giving me an undeserved chance to say everything I had not."

a random act of kindness than in that moment. It was not only a small bit of comfort, but the only sustenance that I had on my twelve hour drive.

In retrospect I should not have driven myself. I was no more fit to drive than if I had been legally intoxicated. Somehow that thought had escaped me until I approached the Tobin Bridge in the final leg of my journey: a single, monumental obstacle standing between me and saying goodbye to my father, with no big, strong dyke to navigate my way. Surprisingly, I never felt alone on my

As they wrap up one project, others are already in the works. In late August Rob will head to South Korea to teach English for a year, taking with him a new camera to document his travels. Brett is at work on a feature for the Atlantic Film Festival's Inspired Scripts program.

Rob waxes philosophical: "You have to be passionate about your experiences. It's essentially what life is. You have to enjoy it as it goes."

"Deep End" will screen as part of the line-up at this year's Atlantic Film Festival, taking place from September 15 – 24. Check the festival's website at www.atlanticfilm.com for scheduling. Follow the film's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Deep-End-Short-Film/166710150047579.



Bailey Maughan contemplates the Deep End. (photo by Lauren MacDougall)

"Deep End"

continued from page 1

"One of the beautiful things about the program is that you get to shoot in 35mm, which can be very expensive especially these days when everything is moving to digital. The 'look' of film—nothing compares to it," says Brett.

"It's a very interesting time we're in, being able to shoot on film and then using the workflow of editing digitally," added Rob. "It's fantastic and it's quick, being able to take advantage of those two worlds."

"It's a wonderful kind of scary because of the potential [the program] represents."

"This is a stepping stone towards a career in making feature films," says Brett. "The people that we've met, the connections that we've made, the support of the community, it's all great. To top that off, of course, I'm very proud of the short film we've made. I think it will speak for itself."

Rob and Brett pushed themselves to the extent of their abilities and came away from the experience with a sense of pride and accomplishment. "To be really proud of our project is a wonderful feeling."

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Meaghan Waugh - 506.549.1215
meaghan@aidsnb.com (Bathurst)

AIDS New Brunswick offices:
65 Brunswick, Fredericton, E3B 1G5
270 Douglas, Bathurst, E2A 1M9

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Hey Tom

It's Back to School Days! As you will be quick to remind me, it's been a while since I was in school but somehow I still get a certain frisson when I walk by the displays of fresh pencils and crayons and scribblers. I was that nerdy kid who liked to smell his new books the first day of school, getting my nose deep into the book and inhaling that intoxicating mixture of paper and ink and book binding glue. Not the sort of thing that I generally share with the public at large. But, somehow it all seemed to indicate a fresh start. Many of my school years were less than idyllic—the evidence is clear when you look at the photos in year books. I always seemed to have a pained look as if I had just sat on the sharp edge of a math compass and was barely stifling my screams. Oddly enough, these photographic indications of my suffering were always the ones that friends would point out saying, Hey, that's a great picture, Crawf. Yeah, I know. Crawf! A diminutive of my name that is supposed to show camaraderie and close friendship. At least that's what my friends, Nico and Schwartz and Beluga always told me.

I wish I'd known you then, Tommo. Would we have been friends then do you think? Or would we each of us have been too closeted and shrunk away from what we intuitively knew about the other? I was never one of those kids who played at homophobic to cover up my sexuality. I was more of the shrinking violet type, mixed with a bit of a clown. I learned early on that people seldom hit people who make them laugh.

Nowadays I occasionally run into old "school chums" through Facebook. Interesting isn't it how the passage of time can blur the memory of some people? One guy that I knew—let's call him Paul—remarked when we reconnected that he was really nostalgic for our high school years which he recalled as "the best years of his life." First of all, we were not best buddies in school as he seemed to think. In actuality, aside from the fact that I went to a small town school where we all knew everybody, I barely had any interactions with him at all. Secondly, what I do remember about his high school years were hardly the stuff of dreams. Paul was one of those people who had zero social skills (Plus ça change....) and yet was rather desperate for friendship. On the sole occasion when I went to his house after class I remember his mother standing with a look of despair in the kitchen surrounded by laundry, while his father was shut away in his workshop and was "not to be disturbed." More Addams Family than Brady Bunch. Now, that I think of it, maybe Paul's school days were the highlight of his life.

The teen years are always quite angst-ridden anyway. No one was into the "goth" look in those days but certainly the dark sensibility was often prominent in my mentality. There I was making sure my friends didn't get too close lest they discover my "secret" which was in fact so secret I kept it from myself, including my lustful fantasies about the gym teacher, and the industrial arts teacher, and one of the student teachers for math, and a couple of the jocks from the basketball team and... well, you get the idea. Certainly not a period I would describe as the best years of my life. While my clothes may have been colourful (not quite rainbow—that hadn't come into vogue yet) inside I was draped in funereal black on many, many days. Yet, as the recent campaign says, It Gets Better. I guess I just went into survival mode, only looking at tiny glimpses of the physical, mental, hormonal, frontal lobe vortex that was swirling away inside. I dealt with as much as I was able.

Don't get me wrong, it wasn't all bad either. While I disagree with Paul about it being the best years of my life, it wasn't all terrible either. I did have friends, did go to parties sometimes—although not the prom; that was way too saturated with heterosexuality—learned to smoke cigarettes in a classmate's garage (the height of sophistication we thought), got slightly tiddy on liquor stolen from somebody's parents' bar once or twice. Most of these "bad boy" activities were to offset the "good boy" image I had obtained by being a good scholar. I liked school, I liked learning, I loved reading and writing. Like I said before, I was that nerdy, book smelling scholarly type who took pleasure in handing in neat assignment—properly researched and referenced—and who beamed with joy and pleasure at the faintest word of praise from a teacher.

Would I go back to those years if I could? Not a chance! I'll content myself with admiring the store displays, feeling the texture of loose-leaf under my fingers and buying some coloured pencils. Oh yes, and smelling new books.

Love ya!



LGBT Refugees: Coming to Canada (Part 2)

by Hugo Dann

On a sunny evening in late June, a dozen or so people met at the Halifax office of Immigration Settlement and Integration Services (ISIS). We were there to listen to a middle aged, LGBT activist named David Pepper, who had embarked on a cross-Canada journey to raise awareness about LGBT asylum seekers. By this time, he had already visited Winnipeg, Montreal, Fredericton, Saint John, Moncton, and Charlottetown. I had become interested in issues around LGBT refugees, talking with a young activist named Keith MacMillan (more about Keith and his first hand experience with homophobia in Uganda in part 3) and Sharalynn Jordan of Rainbow Refugees, a terrific volunteer organization based in Vancouver.

I confess that I arrived at the meeting feeling somewhat skeptical. My all too Canadian response was that a cross-country tour seemed like grandstanding. Who was this Mr. Pepper anyway, what were his credentials? David quickly disarmed all my doubts; he was charmingly self-effacing, and he'd clearly been fighting the good, queer rights fight for many years. He'd done his homework on the issue; he spoke simply and movingly of his own involvement with refugees and of the people he'd met on his journey. He chose to hold the meeting at ISIS in order to bring that organization into contact with the local community. I must acknowledge my debt of gratitude to David, both for inspiring me to think more about how something might be done here, but also for introducing me to Evelyn Jones of ISIS, a fount of information and enthusiasm. I encourage everyone to visit David's blog at northstartriangle.blogspot.com to learn more about his inspirational trip.

LGBT refugees arrive in Canada in different ways; some legally (as tourists, or on work visas), while some enter our borders... less formally, shall we say, and then make claims to refugee status based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Still others arrive in Canada after claiming refugee status abroad, usually through the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). Unfortunately, you can't just walk into a Canadian Embassy or UNHCR office in your native country and ask for asylum. First you have to go into voluntary exile, which for many means a desperate and dangerous escape, then find the nearest UNHCR office in a neighbouring country. Once they establish your refugee claim, you will have to go through the same process with immigration officials at the Canadian consulate. Most LGBT

Iranians flee to Ankara in Turkey. Ugandan refugees usually make for Nairobi, Kenya. Neither Ankara nor Nairobi are known for their support of LGBT rights. Canadian immigration officials in Kenya have taken up to five years to process refugee claims, and with the famine crisis in East Africa, these delays will only get worse. And for all that time you are waiting, still living in fear, perhaps in a refugee camp; unable to work, unable to go home, unable to move on. You are in a stateless limbo. You can only hope that there are LGBT people in countries like Canada who might care enough to get involved.

A Refugee Camp in the Heart of Your City: Save These Dates

There is a terrific opportunity for some of us in the region to learn more about the refugee experience in a very direct way. "Medecins sans frontiers" (Doctors without Borders, or MSF) is bringing a unique exhibit to St. John's (September 8 – 11), Halifax (September 15 – 18) and Moncton (September 22 – 25).

"The Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City" exhibit is an outdoor reconstruction of an actual refugee camp, where experienced MSF staff (doctors, nurses, logisticians) guide visitors through a 40 to 60-minute interactive tour explaining the crucial elements for survival in a refugee or IDP crisis. Each visitor will learn some of the challenges a refugee or IDP faces in trying to access food, shelter, water and medical care. You can learn more about this free event at www.refugeecamp.ca.

In Halifax, the camp will be set up on Garrison Grounds, and an LGBT group visit for Thursday evening, September 15, and/or Saturday or Sunday afternoons could be arranged. Also for those in Halifax, for anyone wants to learn more about LGBT Refugees and how we as a community can get involved, including learning about sponsoring refugees, there will be a community meeting on Sunday, October 2 at the Company House from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

If you would like to attend the Halifax Refugee Camp, or you just want to learn more about the issue, please e-mail rainbowrefugee.ns@gmail.com and express interest.

There is so much more to share with you about the LGBT refugee experience, including more information about Uganda and Iran, and what organizations like ISIS and the Halifax Refugee Clinic are doing to help refugees here and now. Until Part 3...

Hugo Dann has been an activist and a general Fag About Town for longer than he cares to admit.

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Antigonish LGBTQ people in Highland Games parade



C. Leah Cruise poses with the Highland Gaymes truck.



The Highland Gaymes truck and float, decorated by Jenn Laudadio and Betsy MacDonald.

On July 2, Antigonish LGBTQ people and allies marched in the Highland Games parade for the third year in a row. The Antigonish Highland Games celebrated its 148th anniversary and is the longest running highland games outside of Scotland. The streets of Antigonish were packed with spectators, making the parade one of the most important events of the year for LGBTQ visibility in town. The theme of this year's float was "Highland Pride," in honour of the activism of LGBTQ people in Antigonish as well as the ScotDance Canada Championship Series of Highland dancing that was held in Antigonish this year during the Games.

In 2009, the Rainbow Warriors (Antigonish's LGBTQ youth group) marched in the parade for the first time and begun an annual tradition that has grown each year since. Chris Frazer, LGBTQ Student Advisor at St.FX, and C. Leah Cruise, former Empress of Halifax and All of Nova Scotia said, "It felt liberating to be marching. The Highland Games Parade is perhaps the biggest event of the year in Antigonish. Practically the



Rachel Hurst.

entire community turns out to watch our parade. It is liberating because it reminds people that we are here and are part of the entire tartan that makes Antigonish. I was thrilled by the visible and vocal support we received from friends and allies along the route. It was a positive and uplifting and uplifting experience."

Jenn Laudadio and Betsy Macdonald made decorations for the float, and approximately thirty people came out to march in defiance of the (sometimes) torrential rain.

In addition to organizing an LGBTQ contingent for the Highland Games parade, LGBTQ people and allies of Antigonish are responsible for organizing an annual Pride Week in October, Priscilla, Queen of the Highlands (annual drag show in February), events for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in May, as well as informal reading groups and other social events.



LGBTQ contingent at Highland Gaymes parade.



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aidssj@nb.aibn.com

AIDS Saint John offices:
**#205-115 Hazen Street
Saint John, NB, E2L 3L3**

General info:
www.aidssaintjohn.com

Walk info:
www.aidswalkforlife.ca/SaintJohn.htm

Halifax Pride Activities, 2011

by Anita Martinez



There were a number of Pride fund raisers this year and in spite of a bit of controversy, Pride activities

leading up to the big week were very well attended. I got to many events, including an afternoon show, right in front of the Casino, with a number of our beautiful drag queens performing proudly. Even children watching the show cracked up with laughter at Rouge's routine.



The OUTBid auction was at Casino Nova Scotia, in a very lovely large formal room. The attending folks were dressed every way from casual to formal. The food was spectacular and there was plenty of it. The evening brought to mind the old chestnut: We have come a long way baby!

Fringe Festival goes Gay

Queer content abounds at the Atlantic Fringe Festival, which begins in Halifax on September 1 and runs to September 11. Works include:

"Short Skirt Butch" One queer person meets another queer person and they fall in love. Then this queer couple meets a third queer person and they all fall in love. Our queer couple is now a queer triad. But soon the honeymoon is over, they fall out of love, lust and all that goes with it. The queer triad goes back to being a queer couple, leaving our poor third queer brokenhearted times two. "Short Skirt Butch", a new play by Lee-Anne Poole ("Splinters, The Obedients"), follows Gean, the brokenhearted third, post break-up, in a one person show featuring Stephanie MacDonald.

"Karaokalyse!" Queer favourite Stewart Legere is scheduled to perform at the closing night event of the Fringe. Zuppa Circus Theatre treats us to an evening of apocalyptic sing-along songs. Hear lowlights of the Zuppa musical repertoire, and then join in if you are a karaoke star.

"Hello, change." Halifax poet Tanya Davis explores the concept of ever-changing identities and how we cling to them as if they are real, i.e., 'I'm a lesbian, I'm a christian,' and the ways we try to belong, the ways we exclude and include.

For dates, times, venues and admissions, consult www.atlanticfringe.ca or gay.hfxns.org/events.

Film Festival goes OUTeast

Ahead of the first OUTeast Film Festival to be held in Halifax in June 2012, OUTeast announces its partnership with the Atlantic Film Festival Association and its queer film series, That's So Gay!

OUTeast will host the final screening of the That's So Gay programming—Maryam Keshavarz's "Circumstance"—and follow it up with the That's So Gay-la, a party at the Atlantic Film Festival Lounge at Niche Supper Club, 1505 Barrington Street.

"Circumstance" is the beautiful and heart-wrenching love story of two teenage girls living in Iran, and was the winner of the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival. It will screen at Empire Theatres Park Lane on Friday, September 23 at 7:05 PM.

The first ever That's So Gay-la party will follow the film, kicking off at 9PM. The night will feature a DJ dance party, OUTeast's signature pink popcorn, drink specials, and appearances by some of Halifax's favourite drag queens. Admission to the That's So Gay-la party is included in the price of a ticket to Circumstance (\$11.50) or with the That's So Gay Pass(\$45 for all five That's So Gay screenings, available at the AFF Box Office). A limited number of party tickets will be available the night of the party at Niche, beginning at 8PM for \$10 For further information, email outeastfilmfestival@gmail.com or visit atlanticfilm.com.

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*Registration 12noon and
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Information, pledge forms, questions:
Kim Dawson - 709.637.5000(5492)
kimdawson@westernhealth.nl.ca

General info:
www.acwn.org

Walk info:
www.aidswalkforlife.ca/
CornerBrook.htm

It was the 10th year for Reading Out Loud, the library event where queers read from writing they have found to be important. Jane Kansas hosted again; the readers included Adam Reid, Candy Palmater, Michelle Mallette and Bryden MacDonald. The auditorium at the Halifax North Branch was filled. The library gave out free Pride reading buttons!



All Aboard! We sailed out towards the entrance to the harbour. The crowd was joyous—dancing and having a grand time.



It was a clear night, not too hot, not too cool, perfect, when the Pride Cruise started. I was oh so fashionable in a nice long black jersey dress and a jacket—proper and all for the cruise! (I mention that for a reason; back to it later.) The line-up started early; folks got to meet each other. The cruise was sold out, so it was a full vessel.



Then the lightning started, slow at first and then more and more often. Further away and then closer, closer: it was like watching fireworks, some of us oohing and aahing. We thought it was heat lightning. The wind freshened. The buzz of the crowd grew a little more electric.



And then, the deluge! A leviathan bucket of water washed over the boat. Everyone scattered, slip-sliding away to take cover. A roving reporter is always happy to have a water-proof camera and I stayed on deck. Just me and the Captain for a bit, alone against the elements, and then a few fellow cruisers reappeared (looking a little like soggy condoms) and then more, popping out of somewhere, still having a wonderful time.

The wind and rain went on for forty-five minutes and then stopped just as quickly as it came on. The dancing continued until it was over. Everyone disembarked. I had to carry the bottom of my nice long black jersey dress, which was now 3 feet longer than it was when I got on the boat. But I was happy—I had my photos.

The reports are in—this year's Pride parade was bigger better than ever!

NSRAP Report

Sexual Activism and Pride Around the World

by Lisa Buchanan

It is interesting to experience Pride as a tourist and see how the celebration differs from place to place. Depend-

national. The parade reflected both national and international influences. People from other European countries traveled to Budapest to

less corporate than many are used to in North America and less tense than the demonstration in Budapest, with police present only to clear the

route of traffic. Entries tended to represent community organizations and LGBTQ businesses, as well as a few beverage providers. Along with roughly thirty official entries, a massive crowd marched in the parade unaffiliated with a particular group. Near the end of the parade, the streets were more crowded than the sidewalks.

For NSRAP, Pride is a time to be activist and political, as well as celebratory. The theme for NSRAP's entry in the 2011 Halifax Pride parade was "Sexually Activist." Our signs focussed on sexual liberation and laws relating to sex. We wanted our signs to feel like old protest signs that would have been seen at many queer rights rallies in the past 40 years. While most spectators cheered us on as we made our way along the parade route, some of the reactions

to our signs were less than positive.

Community Herald columnist Brenda MacDonald took issue with some of the sex-related content of the parade and criticized one of NSRAP's sex-positive placards in particular. The phrase "I'm all for Pride, but..." is often followed by a comment related to sex. Sexual activism necessitates talking about sex, which unfortunately still generates controversy and discomfort among some who consider themselves supporters of the LGBTQ community.

Although our community is one, our movement remains fragmented. While great advances have been made in some countries, others remain behind. The contrast between Pride celebrations in Budapest, Vienna and Halifax reflects our community's need to move forward and act locally, while thinking globally.



NSRAP at Halifax Pride.

ing on the country, public response and the degree of activism varies. While on vacation this summer, NSRAP secretary Lisa Buchanan attended the Pride parade in Vienna, Austria. Meanwhile, NSRAP member Meredith Evans attended Pride in Budapest, Hungary where she was living at the time. Each parade offered a different perspective on the purpose of Pride and the response it receives.

Budapest Pride was strikingly different from Halifax's Pride celebrations. Instead of numerous floats from various organizations, the Budapest parade was simply people marching with home-made signs, accompanied by only a couple of floats: one from a Hungarian LGBT organization and another from Amnesty Inter-

join Hungarians in the parade, signs were in several languages and logos merged the Hungarian and Pride flags. Though the crowd marching in the parade was large, tension surrounded the event. Police in riot gear kept both extremist protestors and spectators alike from coming close to the demonstration. Despite the visible backlash of extremists targeting the LGBTQ community in Budapest and elsewhere in Eastern Europe, Budapest Pride has grown dramatically since its beginnings in 1997 and reflects the progress of the Hungarian LGBTQ movement.

Meanwhile, the Vienna Rainbow Parade marked its 16th year with attendance estimated at 110,000. Led by Dykes on Bikes, the parade was



Pride in Vienna.

Pamela Pachal at The Company House

Pamela Pachal appears at The Company House on September 2. Pachal is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, keyboardist, producer and engineer based out of Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Her genre is something very rarely seen, not because her music is a completely new genre, but because she writes in all genres. From blues to rock, to swing to jazz, to pop to heavy—each song brings a new twist while keeping the subtle distinctness of her fingerprint on it.

Pachal says, "I'm a bi-lesbian who has been fucked around with so many

times I lost count. I'm not saying I'm completely innocent—I've been a bitch too in relationships. Probably the reason why my songs are so good.

I capture all perspectives. All sides. All the shit that everyone else is too scared to talk about.

"I admit I'm flawed, but so is everyone else. I'm just one of the few people who can get away with it, 'cause I can manipulate it with a pretty voice."

Her new album, Chapter 2, is scheduled for release late 2011. See more at www.pamelapachal.com.





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5km & 10KM competition runs as well as a 5km walk along the Confederation Trail.

Registration 12 noon and the walk starts 1 pm!

\$10.00 (adults), \$5.00 (12 or under, or pledge sheet)

Information, pledge forms, questions:
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thewalk@aidspei.com

AIDS Coalition offices:
#2-375 University Avenue Charlottetown, PEI

General info:
www.aidspei.com

Walk info:
www.aidswalkforlife.ca/Charlottetown.htm

Youth Project's Summer

It has been the best summer ever at the Youth Project. We held our annual Queer Prom—with the theme “Zombies: Night of the Living Fabulous”—at the Hotel Atlantica. Youth from across the province packed the ballroom and danced the night away in zombie attire. All our proms have been great, but I think our youth board will be challenged to outdo themselves next year.

With the generous support of the First Baptist Church Halifax, the YP was able to hold Camp Coyote, our summer camp for trans-identified

and gender-questioning youth, named after Canadian author Ivan E. Coyote. It was a blast! Thanks to all our campers for being awesome; it was a privilege to get to know you at Camp Coyote and we have so many memories. We also had a great Pride week with a barbecue, talent-show coffee house (with some amazing performances) and a craft carnival. With the help of the Art Bikers, we made float props for our “under the sea” float. A big thanks for all the help.

The Youth Project has been for-

tunate to welcome our new Outreach Coordinator, Kristen Sweeney, and to have three summer students at work on some very exciting projects. Aaron is working on a resource that highlights the importance of recognizing homophobia and transphobia in bullying, with strategies for teachers and administration in combating bullying in schools. Adam is at work on a project that connects resources to new learning outcomes in the education system, so that teachers can easily find materials when they're working on lessons around sexual orientation,

gender identity and homophobia and transphobia. Amelia has been keeping our summer on track, organizing all our events. We're sad to see the summer come to an end, but we'll have amazing new resources to share.

We're also looking forward to a full fall season, with Making Waves 2011: A Gay/Straight Alliance conference. This November 5th conference is open to students across Nova Scotia who are in a GSA, or want to learn more about GSAs! Building on the success of last year's conference (Making Noise 2010), we plan to

have more speakers, more workshops, more fun! We are lucky to have Canadian storyteller and author, Ivan E. Coyote, as our keynote speaker. The YP also looks forward to hosting an event with Matt Alber, who will be in Halifax for NSRAP's gala.

In November we'll host our annual fundraiser brunch and auction at the Prince George hotel to raise some much-needed funds for our programs and building repair. Our board of directors and auction coordinator Lee-Anne are hard at work to make another amazing year happen.

History Made in Newfoundland Hinterland



Jennifer McCreath with Pride Inc. board of directors and other volunteers.

History was made this month as a special flag raising ceremony occurred at the Town Hall building for Logy Bay, Outer Cove, and Middle Cove, Newfoundland, a town of 2000 people. The event was organized by



Mayor with several local LGBT youths.

St. John's Pride Inc., a non-profit organisation whose mandate, among other things, is to oversee the planning and delivery of a Pride week in the city of St. John's.

A bonfire at Middle Cove Beach

and gender-questioning youth, named after Canadian author Ivan E. Coyote. It was a blast! Thanks to all our campers for being awesome; it was a privilege to get to know you at Camp Coyote and we have so many memories. We also had a great Pride week with a barbecue, talent-show coffee house (with some amazing performances) and a craft carnival. With the help of the Art Bikers, we made float props for our “under the sea” float. A big thanks for all the help.

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While raising a flag in front of 50 people may seem small, it certainly sends a strong message of visibility. Members of the media were on hand and an awesome article and photo

has been an annual tradition during Pride week, so it was decided that a symbolic flag raising event would add value to the perception of acceptance of LGBT community members, in what is generally known as a conservative part of the province. Pride Inc. received nothing but support from town staff and Mayor John Kennedy. Several other prominent members of society expressed interest in being a part of it, including Jennifer McCreath (event emcee), Gemma Hickey (former president of Egale Canada and PFLAG Canada) and Geoff Gallant (deputy mayor of Torbay and NDP Candidate for Cape St. Francis), who spoke in person. Premier Kathy Dunderdale sent along a special message to be read.



Jennifer with several local LGBT youths.

were depicted in the local newspaper, the Telegram, the next day. A video of the entire event is posted at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p2rNidgBpU.



Mayor with several local LGBT youths.

Looking Both Ways

An Experiment

by Sara Montgomery

This issue's column is an experiment. As I write this, I am residing at a cottage on a lake about 30 kilometres outside of Bridgewater. There are four women here: Michelle, Anna, Donna and me. We're all straight—with the exception of a nervous yours truly.

Yesterday there were fierce lightning and thunderstorms on the lake. The whole cottage vibrated with each angry peal of thunder. We temporarily lost our power and water. But after the air cleared we had a wonderful swim, as the sun managed to peek out while setting on the water.

Michelle and Anna have known for ages that I'm bisexual. Donna and I have been friends for fifteen years and she knows everything about me except for this one tidbit. I know it's hard to believe but that's just the way it is. I don't know why, really.

Anna is in the lake and Michelle and Donna are chatting on the deck just over my shoulder through a sliding screen door. I tap away on my laptop on the kitchen table and I'm just about to tell Donna now that I am, you know, not quite heterosexual.

I'm going to use the word “bisexual.”

Okay, here goes.

Donna responds, “Is this for the column you're writing?” Me: “Yeah, but it's in real life.” Donna: “Oh, dear.” Donna to Michelle, “Is this true?” Michelle, “Yes, it is.” Donna laughs. Donna, “Now, I feel guilty for finding you pretty!” Me: “So you don't think I'm pretty anymore?” Donna: “Yeah, oh yeah.”

I start recording the above to get every word while half listening to them discussing whether they have been attracted to women before.

Michelle was with one once she says but didn't like it. Donna finds women really interesting but not sexually (but she wondered before if she was gay).

Donna to Anna (who has just come up in her wet bathing suit and towel), “How about you Anna, are you bisexual too?” Anna, “No, I was shocked when Sara told me.”

The three of them are now discussing this and that gay person they know.

Very casually.

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Leonard Preyra
MLA, Halifax Citadel - Sable Island



Don't miss the final screening of the Atlantic Film Festival's *That's So Gay* series, hosted by OUTeast!

September 23, 7:00 pm, Empire Park Lane

Leonard Preyra Community Office
989 Young Avenue Tel: 444.3238
preyra@eastlink.ca, www.preyra.ca

SCOTIABANK AIDS WALK FOR LIFE
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The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

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The AIDS Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador

September 25 at
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Quidi Vidi Lake, St. John's

Registration 12:30 pm and
the walk starts 2 pm!

Information, pledge forms,
questions:

Jean Anne Gollop - 709.579.8656
jagollop@acnl.net

AIDS Committee offices:

Tommy Sexton Centre
47 Janeway Place
St. John's, NL

General info:
www.acnl.net

Walk info:
www.aidswalkforlife.ca/StJohns.htm

WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

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

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces.

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: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

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

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

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

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

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

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

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

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

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

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.com 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: <http://www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum/> (Group Meets Fridays at 5:30 pm (subject to change, see webpage for updates)) at University of New Brunswick - Fredericton Campus, Marshall D'Avry Hall, Room 235

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

Moncton

AIDS Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 506-859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com 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 (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday — please call) at 7:30-9:30pm, University of Moncton, Adrien-J.-Cormier Bldg., Room 302

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

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: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS Saint John: To improve the quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the spread of HIV through education and a needle exchange

program. Call the office for details. 652-2437 email: aidsnj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

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

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

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

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

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

Woodstock

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

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

St. John's

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

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

PFLAG Canada: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gammahickey@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: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.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: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous: Live & Let Live AA Group for LGBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: courage449@yahoo.com

com, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews United Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

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

BLT-Womyn of Halifax: Bi Sexauls, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ (Every second Sunday evening 6pm - 7:30pm) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Hope to see you at the next meeting!

DalOUT: DalOUT is the award-winning LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University. We pride ourselves on hosting fun, engaging and educational events for the entire Halifax community. email: dalout@dal.ca web: www.dalout.ca, meets 2nd Thursday, and 4th Thursday (from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.) at the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave., Room 321)

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

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

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

Girl-ish Productions: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. web: www.girl-ish.ca

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

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

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

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

Centre - entrance on the corner of Barrington & Salter Streets

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

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: momsquared.weebly.com

Mount Pride: LGBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@mountstudents.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 245) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Rose-ria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LG-BTQ community events to be involved with and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Middleton

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

New Glasgow

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

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

New Minas / Annapolis Valley

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

at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995>

Sydney

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

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

PFLAG: Peer support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. No meetings for June, July or August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

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

Tatamagouche

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

Truro

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wolfville

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

Yarmouth

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

Prince Edward Island (902)

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

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

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

Charlottetown

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

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



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The Last Word

by Randall Perry

All Good Things...

Happy Canadian New Year, all! In case you didn't know, the beginning of September—specifically, Labour Day weekend—has become known as an unofficial kind of New Year celebration in Canada. It's the long weekend where summer winds down, even though there are still a few weeks left before the official start of fall. Schoolbags are packed and ready to go. Vacation photos are mulled over. Final summer blow-out barbecue parties are held.

The year is two-thirds complete and there's a palpable change in the air. You can almost taste it.

When I was a kid I always looked forward to going back to school. When stores began posting their back-to-school sales in August I made detailed lists of what I might need, lists that were always heavy on the pens and paper. Even now, in our paperless age, I still compose my first drafts away from the computer:

there's an immediacy and intimacy to paper that the screen just can't capture. I no longer make exhaustive lists. An inexpensive sketchbook (with thick paper) and a disposable fountain pen (great on that thick paper) is all I use.

As I entered each new grade I was enthralled by the idea of the newness of learning, of discovery, of trying out the unexpected. I was always up for a new adventure and September was, and still remains, the beginning of a favourite time of year for me. As much as I love summer there's something about the impending change in the air I find energizing.

So it goes that all things change, I must make my own changes. This issue of Wayves you hold in your hands is my final as editor. This Last Word really is eponymous. From contributor and new Wayves collective member in 2004 to the editor's chair today, all in all it's been a great

time. I've met all kinds of interesting people, forged friendships, inspired some and pissed off others, read story after story, and touched innumerable words published in these pages over the long haul. In hindsight, the time has gone by too quickly.

I've also decided to make a leap of faith and make a move to Toronto, the place where I was born and spent the first eight years of my life. As I write this in early August I look across the living room and see my apartment is shambles, something I find rather disconcerting, because I'm one of those "a place for everything/everything in its place" kind of people. Even the cat, when she's not slinking around a few millimeters off the floor, has taken to spending most of her time under the bed. The movers are coming at the end of the month. It's all happening so fast and some days it's hard to believe that, at 44, I'm making such a drastic move, even though it's something I've

been looking forward to and planning in the back of my mind since my "summer of awakening" in 1988, when I walked down Church Street for the first time and suddenly my little gay world got mighty big.

It's all so exhilarating and so deathly scary. I won't be bored, guaranteed. I plan to return to my first love: writing fiction. It's taken a back seat for a number of years and it's time to re-energize that part of my creativity.

I've just refilled my coffee cup while listening to Annie Lennox. My iTunes sees fit to cue up her rendition of "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye." I'm a sentimental person by nature and I find myself tearing up, thinking back over my journey thus far: the ecstatic highs of accomplishment, the crushing lows of failure; the times with friends and loved ones; the lonely nights spent wondering about growing old in a world where youth is the only valued currency.



It's all part of my history now, to learn from and take with me as I move forward.

No regrets, just good journeys.

Some parting advice, then. Always keep precious our hard-won victories. Be good to others you encounter on your own journey. Remember to call your folks. Show your partner that extra little bit of appreciation. Give back to your community. Love yourself.

There's no love song finer, but how strange the change from major to minor, ev'ry time we say goodbye. Indeed. With a nod to Cole, this really isn't a goodbye. See you around is more appropriate. Until next time...

Letter

What Pride Is Really All About

Dear Wayves:

I am not a Pride fanatic. I actually think it is a tad obnoxious at times. However I do get annoyed with recent statements made in the Chronicle Herald in regards to the parade. I agree sometimes people push boundaries, however boundaries would never expand had we not the courage to push them... besides, who creates

societal norms if not society as a sum of its parts?

I do not agree with the Canadian Blood Services ban on blood from gay men. I believe it only lends to the stereotype that all gay males are AIDS/HIV carriers. Does the Canadian Blood Services not screen donations? Is there not a shortage? Is this not 2011?

Secondly, [as to] "straight pride": there was a letter to the editor that

claimed that as a straight Haligonian he/she should be entitled to a parade. Hats off to you. Should you want a parade, throw one but also recognize that there is a reason that LGBT groups organize a parade to show their pride of ability in living a life that was once not permitted. Have your straight day, but realize you have had 2011 years of straight pride as you have never been called a dyke walking downtown Halifax... no one has ever made your 20-year-old girlfriend cry because she thought it safe to hold your hand in a busy street.

Gay pride is not rubbing in society's face the fact that we are different. We are celebrating that at least on some level we are finally being regarded as part of society. Molly Spinney



Toute la gang at Randall's going-away party. From left, they are Leith Chu, Wil Murray, Dan MacKay, Gabe Saulnier, Richy Perry, Terry Boswell, Pam Mills, Darrin Boudreau, Patrick Casey, Jon Sylliboy, Nick Honig, Miss Vickie, and in front, Tuma Young, Angus Campbell, and Randall Perry. (Photo by Anita Martinez)

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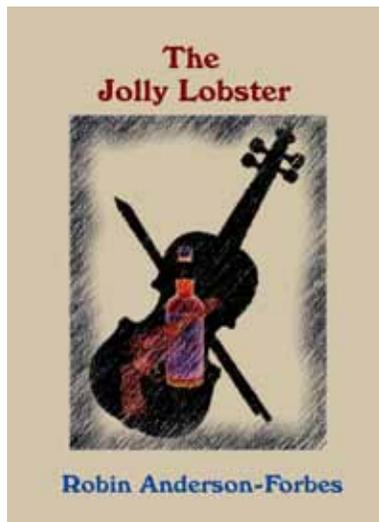
The Jolly Lobster is a very gay adventure featuring rum runners, speakeasies, brothels, life and love in Halifax, Nova Scotia during Prohibition, now available for purchase as a Kindle e-book.

It's the summer of 1920 and Edward (Ed to his friends) Stevenson, is lost and flat broke in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Fortunately for Ed, his lover Charles Sinclair, who had served with him during the war, has been searching for him in all the local juice joints, speakeasies and blind pigs. Reunited, the two prepare to embark on the new life together they planned during their time in the trenches. Little did Ed know that in order to earn a living, he'd end up working in a speakeasy; but this was not any old speakeasy, this was The Jolly Lobster.

The Jolly Lobster was one of the more popular speakeasies in Halifax, catering to all types and run by two lovable women trying to make ends meet; Dorothy and her large lover, Rose. Dock workers, fishermen, university students, and colourful men and women of the homosexual persuasion all mixed and mingled at The Jolly Lobster, in order to sate their thirst for rum, whiskey, suds, and to have a bowl of The Jolly Lobster's famous lobster chowder; not to mention to partake in the many pleasures that awaited them in the rooms upstairs. They also came for the music provided by the beautiful and talented Bobbie Smith, a mean fiddle player who loved to dress in the fashion of the flapper, play bawdy songs on her fiddle and also play with the men upstairs in the brothel.

All in all, The Jolly Lobster is a close little family type business; and like many family businesses there's bound to be a few secrets and intrigues; which there are, and in plenti-

ful supply. And given that they're in the booze business during Prohibition they find their little operation hav-



ing to stay one step ahead of the law and a few more steps ahead of the competition.

The Jolly Lobster's chief competitor is a banished crime boss from Montréal, by the name of Pierre Dumont, whose instructions are to take over the booze business in Halifax. Dumont executes his instructions ruthlessly and soon takes over most of the joints in Halifax in short order. The Jolly Lobster and its family are made of tougher stuff though and it takes all of Dumont's cunning to bring about their downfall.

Things begin to look quite grim for the hard working boys and ladies of The Jolly Lobster; it's going to take an army to get rid of Dumont and his gang. Fortunately, there's no shortage of volunteers.

Author Robin Anderson-Forbes was born and raised on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. After visiting Nova Scotia, he and his husband were so entranced with the province, they moved there along with their cat into a big old house on the south-western shore. You can find out more about the novel at www.jollylobster.ca.

Meander with Leander

by Angus Campbell

As part of Pride Week, Menz Bar was fortunate to attract the talents of singer Leander Mendoza who specializes in Broadway songs and popular music. Leander and his partner Lorne are new arrivals in Halifax and about 70 of us were privileged to witness the performer's Atlantic Canada debut.

The first act focussed on Broadway tunes, which are always the main attraction for me, but the entire programme offered something for everyone. Opening with "This is the Moment" (from *Jekyll & Hyde*), "Tonight" (*West Side Story*), and "Music of the Night" (*Phantom of the Opera*) were great choices as they introduced us to his world and set the tone for an evening of entertainment.

Everyone was impressed when he accompanied himself on the piano for "Home" (*The Wiz*), and "Corner of the Sky" (*Pippin*) which is an old favourite that I hadn't heard in many years.

Next came *Company's* show-stopping "Being Alive." At the end Leander asked the crowd if anyone knew who wrote it. Being a self-proclaimed Sondheimite for 30 years I had to raise my hand and respond "Stephen Sondheim"—which was the beginning of the interactive and successful crowd trivia questions that punctuated the evening.

The first act closed with the theme from *The Way We Were*, and "Any Dream Will Do" (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*) and the crowd roared for more.

After a short intermission, Mr. Mendoza opened the second act with a bouncy rendition of Tom Jones' "It's Not Unusual," quickly followed by Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love." The audience loved the pop songs which included well known standards by Michael Bublé, Il Divo, Barry Manilow, Leonard Cohen, and Josh Grobin.

I was very pleased to hear another oldie but goodie, "The Impossible Dream" (*Man of La Mancha*). Not only is it a largely forgotten treasure, but this song more than any other highlighted the full, deep register and vibrato that Leander Mendoza possesses. The crowd was extremely enthusiastic with "Bring Him Home" (*Les Miserables*) and everyone was brought to their feet with his finale "I Am What I Am" (*La Cage Aux Folles*).

It was obvious to all that Leander Mendoza is more than comfortable belting out Rogers and Hammerstein or crooning a Frank Sinatra number. Welcome to Atlantic Canada and thanks for donating a portion of the admission to Pride.

Leander will perform in Charlottetown September 16 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Call Cindy at (902) 367-2160 for tickets or www.leandermendoza.com.

Tories Proud At Last

by Bill MacKinnon

The participation of the Honourable Jamie Baillie, leader of the Conservative party in Nova Scotia, in the Halifax Pride parade on July 24 is a significant first for Nova Scotia and maybe for Pride parades in Canada.

As Bob Dylan sang: "The times they are a changin'." For years both federal and provincial politicians from the NDP and the Liberals have marched in the annual celebration, including Premier Darrell Dexter and Liberal Official Opposition Leader Stephen McNeil. Municipal councillors also take part and although Mayor Peter Kelly does not usually



Jamie Baillie and some supporters. march he's always around passing out pins or whatever and he's supportive of the LGBT community.

But never any Tories. For a Conservative politician to show up is definitely different. Jamie Baillie did not come alone, either; he brought a bevy of young supporters all wearing blue t-shirts with PC Pride in rainbow coloured lettering, and there were as many PCs as the NDPs or Liberals. Jamie also brought his family and he explained to me why he thought it important for his kids to be there. Halifax has many parades each year but the Pride parade is the largest and it's bigger than the one in Ottawa, a city three times the size of Halifax.

So Tories are now officially involved in the LGBT world in Nova Scotia. What's next?

Tony C. Amoud

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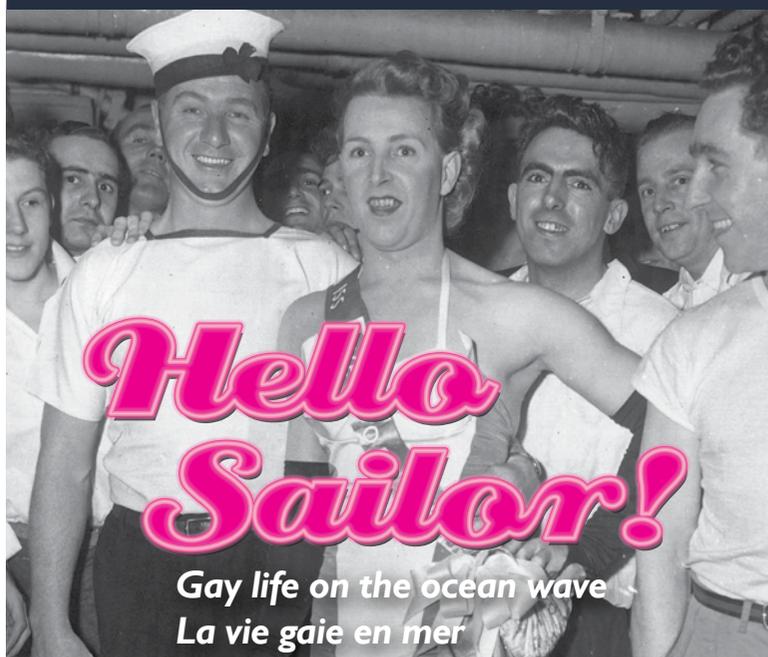
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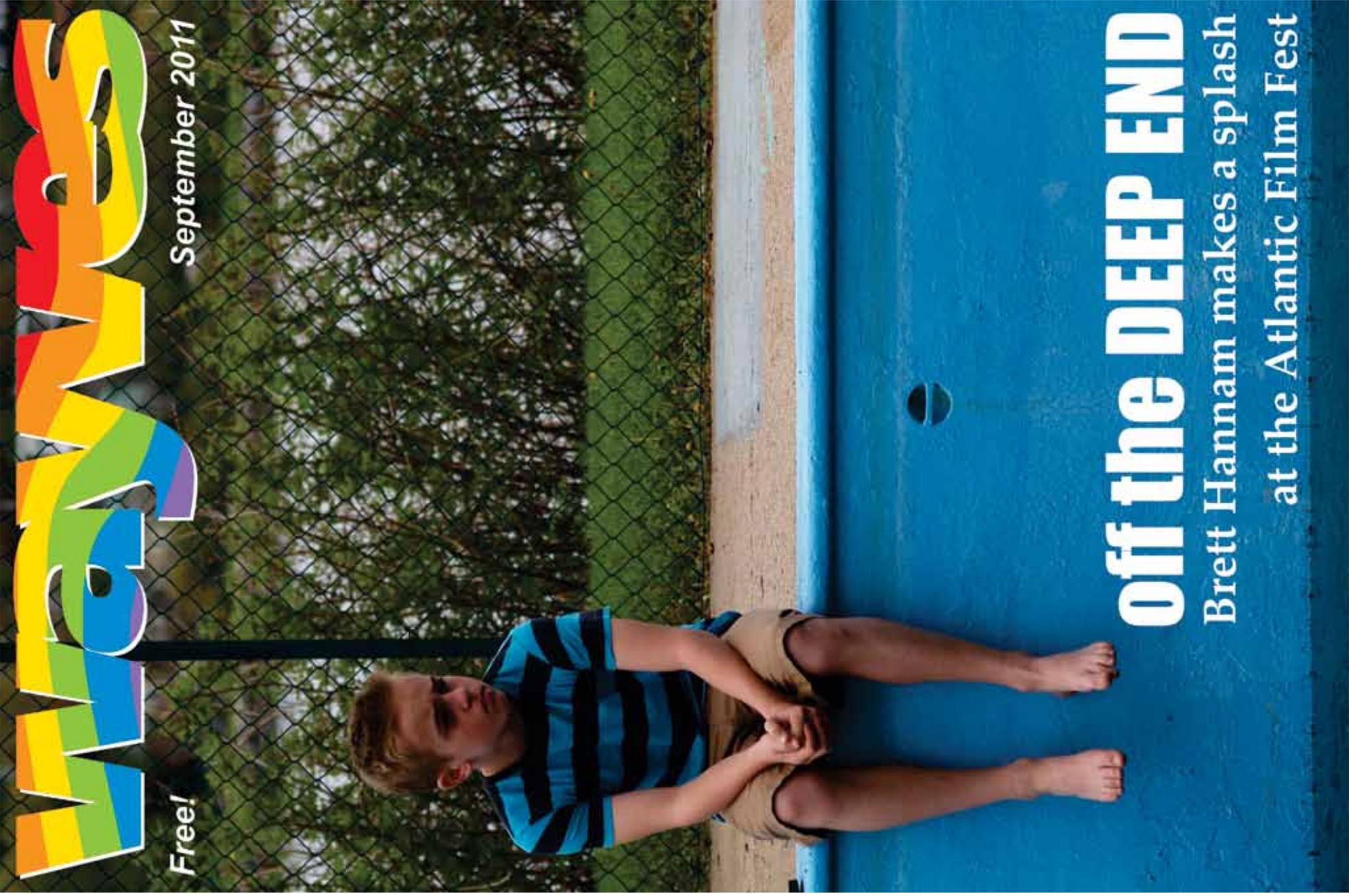


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