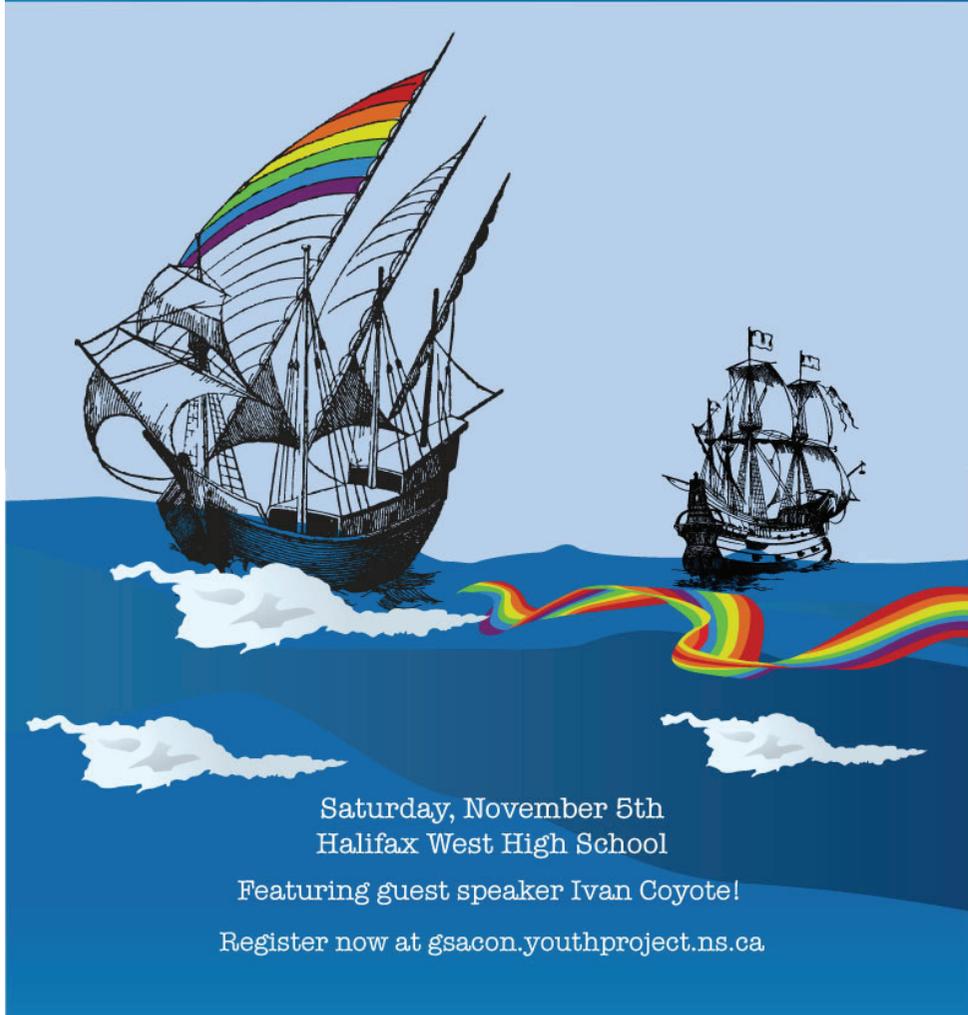


Wayves

Dare to Stand Out
Making Waves 2011
A Gay/Straight Alliance Conference



Saturday, November 5th
Halifax West High School

Featuring guest speaker Ivan Coyote!

Register now at gsacon.youthproject.ns.ca

Youth Project Making Waves

The latest stats from EGALE Canada's school climate survey are of no surprise to some of us: Three-quarters of LGBTQ students feel unsafe in at least one place at school. Half of straight students agree that at least one part of their school is unsafe for LGBTQ students. 95% of transgender students do not feel safe at school, and over half of LGBTQ students do not feel accepted at school—almost half felt they could not be themselves (compared to one-fifth of straight students). LGBTQ students can face a lot of homophobia and transphobia in their schools and communities—Gay/Straight Alliances are a powerful force in counteracting these negative effects and creating positive change. They can allow LGBTQ youth to be leaders, and for allies to support their friends. It's also important for them to meet each other, stay connected and build a support network throughout the province. That's why the Youth Project is excited to host Making Waves 2011: a Gay/Straight Alliance conference!

Making Waves will bring together junior high & high school students from across Nova Scotia who want to create safer spaces in their



Ivan C Coyote

Bullying Case Not Being Addressed: Riverview, NB Father

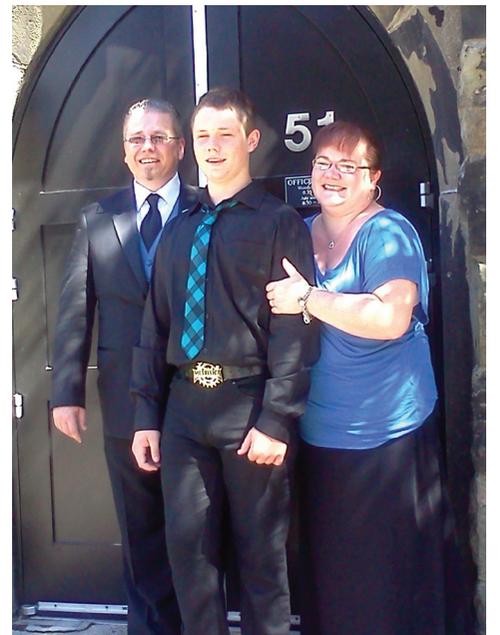
BullyingCanada, the national anti-bullying charitable organization, is once again hearing from parents who don't know where to turn in order to get support for their bullied child.

Donald Terry contacted BullyingCanada looking for support for his son.

"My son, who is now 14, started Grade 10 at Riverview High School. He was walking home after the second day when he was pelted with rocks and apples, and was called faggot and pussy by several students who were threatening to kick his head in. I went to the school twice, explained the problem and asked if they could remove my son from the same classes as the bullies, but to no avail. The harassment continued, even after they agreed to separate the two students," explained Terry. "I went to the school to get the issue addressed and to pick up my son, and the next thing I know I had 2 boys in my face telling me they were going to kick the shit out of my son and there was nothing the cops, school or I could do about it, and they had plans for me as well and I better go home before I get hurt too."

"I'm incredibly concerned about this case, and we will be working with the Terry family in order to get this issue resolved as quickly as possible," said Rob Frenette, Co-Executive Director of BullyingCanada.

"I immediately went to the RCMP; they told me that there was nothing they could do as no physical attack or direct threat occurred," said Terry. "I sat with my wife and we decided to transfer my son to another High School. After what I had seen and heard from the two boys that got in my face I knew what my son dealt with on a daily basis, and the way the school acted. My son was not safe remaining at Riverview High," added Terry. "I am still waiting for a call back from the School District, Riverview High School, as well as the Codiac



Happier days: Don, Tristen and Christie Terry emerge from the church after a friend's wedding.

RCMP—they all said they would call back by end of day Friday. That call has yet to come," concluded Terry.

In the meantime, BullyingCanada will make contact with the Codiac RCMP, School District 2, and the Administration at Riverview High School to offer support from BullyingCanada in the form of workshops and material, along with support for the involved parties.

Mr. Terry is willing to speak with the media to schedule an interview. Please contact Rob Frenette at the number below.

For comment from BullyingCanada or Don Terry please contact:

Rob Frenette Executive Director, BullyingCanada Inc. Office: 877-352-4497 EXT 203
E-Mail: Rob.Frenette@BullyingCanada.ca

schools, support each other, and tackle issues around homophobia and transphobia. It's open to students and staff who are in GSAs—but also to those who aren't and want to learn more. Jumping off from last year's successful GSA conference (Making Noise 2010!), we're back and we're bigger & better! We are thrilled to host a variety of workshops and feature Canadian author and storyteller Ivan Coyote as our keynote speaker.

In partnership with The Youth Project, the generous sponsors of Making Waves are: Jer's

Vision, RBC Foundation, First Baptist Church Halifax, the Department of Education, Halifax Regional School Board, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada's Social Justice Fund. We're very happy to have a diverse group of sponsors who care about making schools safer for LGBT students and their allies! Let's make some waves!

Making Waves 2011. Saturday, November 5, Halifax West High School, 283 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission & registration free. More information and registration at gsacon.youthproject.ns.ca.

Regular Columns



Groups & Services 12 • Kibitz and Bitch 6 • NSRAP Report 10 • Les Pains de Paul 10 • Lesbian Soapbox Diaries 11



Deadline for December issue: Friday, November 4 (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

GSA Week in Antigonish



StFX students and students from the Dr. J.H. Gillis Regional High School marching in Antigonish.

by Chris Frazer

After many years of struggle, students at the regional high school in Antigonish finally won the right to form a Gay-Straight Alliance. This exciting news prompted the Antigonish Pride Committee to organize a week in support of the GSA, October 11-14, featuring a postcard campaign, a march through town, a concert featuring Ryan MacGrath and Molly Thomason, and an all-ages dance.

HS students down Main Street to show their support; that evening they gathered at St. James United Church to be entertained at a concert which featured Ryan MacGrath (who hails

from area) and Molly Thomason (a rising star in the NS music scene and a founder of the GSA). The week ended on October 14 with the first-ever all-ages LGBTQ dance at StFX.



Molly Thomason performing at the concert on October 12.

The regional high school is the largest secondary school in the jurisdiction of the Straight Regional School Board. Until now, the regional high school has also been the only one without a GSA. Previous efforts to form a GSA always ran into homophobic resistance or fear by administrators of a conservative backlash. In the absence of a GSA, high school students received support from the LGBTQ community through X-Pride at StFX and the establishment of an off-campus youth group known as the Rainbow Warriors.

Things changed last year with a new principal at the high school who has been open to the idea of GSA and began working with LGBTQ students.

GSA week began a campaign to collect hundreds of signed cards supporting the formation of a GSA. On October 12, several dozen StFX and

Youth Group—St. John's Marks Fourth Anniversary

October 2011 marks the fourth anniversary of the LGBTQ Youth Group—St. John's! The social group, for youth ages 16-25, is coordinated by volunteers and staff of Planned Parenthood - Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre.

We have met many wonderful youth over the years, many of whom have also gone on to participate in Camp Eclipse: OUT in the Woods, a leadership retreat in NL for LGBTQ and allied youth, and yet others have become leaders in the community.

Group has been a place of sharing, and helping to make space for others and connections. We offer a monthly social event, and we have organized such events as bowling and pizza nights, movie nights, hula hoop and belly dance instruction, Tarot readings, trips to art galleries, coffee nights, art-based activities, snow-shoeing, sliding, origami and sushi night—the list goes on! We aim to be a group for youth, by youth,

inviting input on the focus and shape of things.

The group came into being from recognition of the need for a safe space where youth can meet other LGBTQ and allied folks. Youth get to be who they are and have fun! We have been fortunate to receive funding from many organizations over the years, which allows us to offer events at no charge and to always provide some refreshments—food is important! Community organizations have been kind in donating space to meet as well.

The LGBTQ Youth Group—St. John's continues to take shape and form, as part of the Making Queerness Visible Project at Planned Parenthood - Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre. We are celebrating 4 incredible wonderful years!

For more information on the LGBTQ Youth Group—St. John's please contact Rob Sinnott at lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org or 709-699-0509



Gambling in the Rainbow Community asked for your help in learning more about gambling habits and attitudes in the LGBT community, and your participation was amazing!

- An on-line survey ran from May 22 through August 31 and in-person surveys were gathered at Pride events in Halifax and Sydney.
- 228 surveys were completed – exceeding all of our expectations!

To learn about the results of Gambling in the Rainbow Community watch for our launch during Addictions Awareness Week on November 16th, 2011, at the RBC Theatre (Halifax Infirmary, 1796 Summer Street, Halifax) from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Look for updates at Out! Alive on Facebook or email us at outalivens@gmail.com.

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Out!Alive is composed of citizens concerned about drug, alcohol, tobacco, and gambling issues within the Rainbow Community

Valley Pride: Long on History, Short on Volunteers

Valley Pride, formally known as the Valley Gay Men's Coffee House, has been going strong for the past decade.

Over the years many have come and gone, either moved away or lost interest in going out, and of course, aged to the point where it is nice to just stay at home and relax. In the beginning, the dances started as a suggestion, and we held our first dance at the hall in which we had our meetings. The numbers have continued to grow over the years and the dances have moved to the Middleton Lions Club in Nictaux on Highway 10.

There have been the faithful who continually come out month after month to support Valley Pride in Stride, to make the dances strong and fun events on a monthly basis for the valley community. It gives us great pride in all the hard work that has been put in over the years by all the volunteers in setting up for the dances and of course, staying after to take it all down at the end of the evening once everyone has gone and departed for their homes.

New volunteers are needed! Volunteering does not always mean your time but could also mean your suggestions and comments, which are all greatly appreciated. Suggestions and comments can be emailed to us, posted on our facebook site or mentioned at a dance. All suggestions are taken into consideration. Attendance at the dances is much needed in order to make some suggestions possible because they will require the dollars which are not now available.

The continuation of the Valley Pride dances depends on your patronage. We do totally understand there are times when people may not be able to attend, but if possible by any means it would be nice to have you with us celebrating pride with ourselves and our community at large. Car pooling is a great idea when coming from the same area; I know with the high price of gasoline these days it can be very hard to make things meet.

In saying all of this, Valley Pride wants to thank the many people—those from over the years and the current ones as well, for your patronage to these events on the first Saturday of each month (except for November). All notices of dances and events are sent by email and posted on Facebook to all that we have contact with.

If you would like to be part of these notifications please contact us at menembracingmen@hotmail.com or join Valley Pride on Facebook. If you would like to volunteer, by helping set

up, by taking things down after the dance is over or by putting up posters, please do. Spreading the word and inviting your friends, is appreciated.

Thank you so much everyone for your friendship and all the good times that we are having together at Valley Pride.

From all of us—Doug, David, Steve, Garry, Rob and many others. Thanks again.

Call 902-363-2055 for more information. Valley Pride weekly meetings on Thursdays; call 902-825-3197 for directions. Dances held on the first Saturday of Each Month at the Middleton Lions Club in Nictaux from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. More information at www.valleypride.ca.

River of Pride Flowing Smoothly

by Stephanie Arseneau

The time of year has arrived for the foliage in New Brunswick to change hues, along with the faces on the River of Pride executive board. A warm September evening saw a surprisingly passionate and energetic turn-out at the Annual General Meeting, hosted graciously by La Teraz. Both new and familiar faces sat around the tables, and for the first time in many years, an executive board was voted in at full capacity. Inspirational and powerful words were spoken, along with gratitude shared for the former board, whose goals for the previous year were achieved and surpassed.

This year's board of executives includes an eclectic mix of individuals representing a wide variety of our community. Ed Oldford brings many years of community involvement and experience to the table as Chairperson, while Wayne Richard as Vice Chairperson, also with many years of community involvement, brings innovative ideas for the upcoming year. Josie Harding, also as Vice Chairperson, brings a much-needed and warmly-welcomed voice for the transgender community. David Spear accepted the position as secretary, and Ben Theriault as treasurer; both of whom have diverse experience that will be assets to the board. Stephanie Arseneau brings her extensive experience with social media and attention to detail as Media Coordinator, while Shayne Grainger brings a fresh voice from the West as Volunteer Membership Coordinator.

Goals for the upcoming year will be discussed and shared in coming weeks. All members of the new board look forward to the exciting challenge of continuing to build on the powerful foundation that was constructed by the executives of former years, as well as continuing to promote diversity, acceptance, and most of all: Pride.

A Transperson Welcome?

by Josie Harding

As another summer has come to pass and the morning fall air begins to chill your fingers, those hot days of the 2011 Moncton Pride Festival seem so far away now. With the announcement for the River of Pride in Moncton's Annual General meeting on September 28, it became apparent that the year was now over and it was time to start the process once again. With these pleasant memories

of a very successful Pride in mind, I rushed to the meeting last Wednesday to hear the proceedings.

As I sat quietly listening to the yearly report, I looked around the room to see what I have always found at any Pride function here. Smiling faces, helpful personalities, and a figurative welcome mat at my feet. It's no wonder I have always felt good coming here, I mean who wouldn't? Isn't that feeling of acceptance and affirmation present at EVERY Pride org?

Sadly, NO. One does not have to dig deep to find many transgender groups in Canada expressing their disapproval of their local pride movements. Many of the major cities in Canada seem to have that constant battle of the "LGB and no T." The struggles they speak of seem so heated and mean. Sadly, I had heard these rumours before ever attending a pride event here in Moncton, and expected that things must be the same here too.

But that has never been the case for me here in the hub city, and the reality is they even went and outdid my usual welcome. Because as the new year Pride council elections began, I was about to get an awakening I had not seen coming. With a Vice Chair seats up for grabs, I was suddenly nominated for a vice seat by none other than Ed, our new Chairperson who had just accepted his new position moments earlier. That's right, all my Trans brothers, sisters, and ze's,

they nominated the only transwoman in the room. The nervous one. The silent one. The one who came only to watch. The shock of this nomination gave me my most educated public response I've made to date. It was something like this, "I-uh-I-uh-I-I-I-I-WOW!" And within 5 minutes of that pivotal line, after a vote by the persons in that room, most of whom I had never seen or met before, I was crowned with a shiny new hat! A new executive position was bestowed upon me to the cheers and clapping hands of the room.

It's been two days since then, and this transwoman has still not been able to settle the whole idea into my head yet. I find my thoughts keep racing to the upcoming year ahead and all the people I will meet, work with and serve in this community that I call home. And I just can't stop telling people this great news; especially all my trans friends; that here in Moncton flows a River of Pride. And just like water, it encompasses, surrounds, and occupies every space it is introduced to. This river does NOT discriminate!

To those of you in attendance that night, my sincere thanks to you all and I hope to do this city proud. Because with your sincere acceptance of the LGB and T, there is much here to be proud of.

Josie Harding is the new co-vice-Chairperson for Moncton's River of Pride. 2012.

Our Cover

This month shows the winners, and runners-up, of the "No Talent" Talent show at the Labour Day weekend Two Spirited Gathering at Liscombe Lodge. We ran an article about it by Denise Cole last month, and have another by Gabe Saulnier this month on page 10.

From left to right: Fyre Jean Graveline in "Tricky Dickster Coyote" regalia. Fyre Jean is a new columnist—page 6, and new advertiser—page 15. Debbie Randii Michelin: Jane Kansas interviews her on page 5. Jeremy Dutchers, who just completed a sold-out run as bad guy Benny in *Rent* in Halifax, and Two Spirit Gathering poster boy—poster on page 10—Michael Dennis. Jeremy's traditional Mi'kmag peaked cap is usually made of leather or fabric, but was made of ash strips during the conference by Terry Young.

Photo by Daniel MacKay, cover design by Cam MacLeod.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Fridays: Nov 4, Dec 2, Feb 3: 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: Nov 7, Dec 5, Feb 6; help decide what goes in the next issue, 6:30 PM, Blowers St. Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Nov 13, Dec 11, Feb 12: help build the paper—no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours, helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

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

Wayves On Line!

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

Wayves

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

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

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Pride's Annual General Mayhem



Halifax Pride Annual General Meet-ers. Photo by Rebecca Rose.

by Rebecca Rose

It was a big year for Halifax Pride: big festival, big controversy and big crowds at their community and annual general meetings.

Approximately 40 members of Halifax's queer and trans community attended Halifax Pride's Annual General Meeting, held October 12 in the Residence Inn Downtown in Halifax, and voted to increase community involvement in the organization that runs Atlantic Canada's biggest pride festival.

The meeting was the first general meeting since members of the community packed the Youth Project for a Halifax Pride community meeting this past June. The meeting was the most well attended community meeting of the year and followed a Halifax Metro article where Halifax Pride Chair Ed Savage was quoted saying that the Halifax Pride strives "to make it [Pride] less promiscuous than other Prides across the country." Concerns were expressed regarding the use of the language "promiscuous" and "family friendly" as well as the extent of corporate sponsorship and influence in Halifax Pride.

After the meeting, the Board issued a statement that partially attributed the controversy to a combination of poorly chosen words and quotes taken out of context. "Running an event like Halifax Pride, we can sometimes feel over-worked, over-criticized and under-appreciated," the statement read in part. "Sometimes it's hard to hear constructive criticism. But, when we as a Board reflected on all the feedback, we realized how inspiring it is to work with a community who cares as much as this one does."

The general meeting got started with the approval of the minutes from the last general meeting followed by a verbal report from Savage.

Savage noted that Halifax Pride 2011 was the biggest Pride yet, and gave a nod to the issue of corporate involvement in Pride. "It is always difficult to find a balance between community and corporate needs from Pride," said Savage. "We tried to obtain this [balance] through community involvement, community input, sponsor input, and the involvement of many community partners."

The major item on the agenda was the new bylaws put forward by a committee of Halifax Pride. Leading up to the meeting there was a great deal of confusion regarding which bylaws Pride was operating under and at the meeting it was made clear that the current bylaws were from 1999 as

the interim bylaws passed in 2008 had not been registered with the province.

Proposed changes to the bylaws included: reducing the maximum size of the Board from 15 to 12, reducing the amount of mandatory community meetings from four to one, charging a membership fee of \$10 and requiring members to register 30 days before the general meeting (in order to vote and run for the Board), and moving the general meeting to a month and a half after the festival.

A motion to move the discussion and approval of the bylaws to a later date was put forward by Kaley Kennedy. "I understand that a lot of work has gone into the bylaws but I also know people have a lot of concerns," Kennedy said during her motivation.

Some members of the Board expressed concern with delaying the passage of the new bylaws. "There is a lot in there that is out of date and doesn't work for us now," said Board member Paul Forrest.

Many community members spoke passionately about getting community feedback on the bylaws, especially on membership and community meetings. "You're listening to the community now. They want to be heard, they want that voice," said Michael Davies-Cole. "The community runs Pride, not the other way around."

The motion to table the bylaws passed.

The room also approved a committee, composed of no fewer than four community members and one Pride Board member, to organize a community meeting to discuss and get community input on the bylaws, and compile recommendations for a general meeting. The motion also stipulated that Pride hold a special general meeting in the spring of 2012 to discuss and pass a new set of bylaws for the organization. The new Board will be issuing a call-out for members of the community who would like to sit on the committee.

Seven members were also elected to the 2011-12 Board of Directors (joining those who have not finished their current terms) including: Tami Meredith, Adam Noble, Eric Sangster, Ken Murray, Tam Vivian, Blaire Chapman, Jenna Nelson, Frank Bezanson and Kathy Walsh. Savage was not re-elected and the Board has yet to select a new Chair.

The meeting ended with big laughs when one of members running for the Board proclaimed that she was so new to the queer and trans community she had that "new lesbian smell."

If you would like to see the minutes from the 2011 General Meeting, or other meetings of Halifax Pride, you can view the hard-copy versions in the Pride Halifax office, which is currently located in Menz and Mollyz bar on Gottingen Street.

Safer Sex Ed for Native Inmates

by Julie Thomas, Community Health Educator, Healing Our Nations
Did you know...? According to the office of the Correctional investigators, male Aboriginal offenders make up approximately 18.5 percent, and female Aboriginal offenders make up approximately 30 percent, of the population within the walls of Correction Service Canada.

This is attributed to early drug and/or alcohol use, physical abuse, parental absence or neglect and poverty in their family backgrounds. Twenty-eight percent of Aboriginal offenders had been raised as wards of the community, and 15 percent had been sent to residential schools.

Did you know...? According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, almost 2 percent of the inmate population is infected with HIV/AIDS and over 30 percent of the inmate population is infected with Hepatitis C.

Healing Our Nations (HON) is working in partnership with Corrections Service Canada on prevention, harm reduction and peer education. HON is conducting workshops/training called "Circle of Knowledge Keepers" inside two correctional facilities, in the Atlantic Provinces, per fiscal year. The training is a 6 day session on Peer education that covers tough subject such as: gender roles, sexuality and sex, but also basic HIV/AIDS facts, risky behaviours and Aboriginal health promotions. At the end of the training HON and the Elder in the institution will work together to choose one offender (paid position) to be the peer educator for the Aboriginal population. Aboriginal offenders can take the training for their own use, to teach others or to be a support/care person. Once the knowledge keeper is chosen they become an advocate for other Aboriginal inmates. The knowledge keeper will be in close contact with the nurses in the institution and help organize the yearly AIDS Walk,

contact guest speakers for additional training, and work with the Aboriginal Liaison Officer and Elder to get important information to the other offenders who don't feel comfortable asking the corrections staff.

I strongly believe education is a right, not a privilege, and Aboriginal offenders have the right to the information they need to protect themselves while inside, but also their family when released.

I look forward to my next session with the offenders and I can't wait for them to get their learn on!

Youth Project Says: Save This Date! November 20

On Sunday, November 20, The Youth Project is hosting its 7th annual fundraising auction and brunch at the Prince George Hotel. This event is the Project's biggest fundraising event of the year and it's just in time to get some holiday shopping done while supporting The Youth Project at the same time!

With the support of many local businesses and individuals, the Project raised more than \$20K at its auction last year. The Youth Project is busy preparing for this major annual event and hopes you want to be a part of that too! The event is hosted at the Prince George Hotel in downtown Halifax and features a fabulous brunch, a silent and live auction (featuring auctioneer Neville MacKay of My Mother's Bloomers!), and a chance to hear from youth who have been helped by the Youth Project.

Auction items range from jewelry and art work to restaurant gift certificates and other entertainment fun to the latest in technological gadgets (check back closer to the date for a list of available items!). There is something for everyone. Funds raised go to helping the Youth Project

continue to provide comprehensive programs and services to youth all over Nova Scotia.

This event has become very popular with approximately 200 Project members plus supporters of our LGBT community attending every year. Book your tickets early; this event is sure to sell out! To book your tickets simply call The Youth Project at (902) 429-5429. It's an afternoon filled with good food, fun, and pride that our community has pulled together to build a sense of family across a wide section of our population in HRM and beyond. We hope to see you there! The Project sends out a special thank you to the Prince George Hotel for its generous support each year in hosting this great event.

Save The Date! Sunday, November 20, noon. The Prince George Hotel, 1725 Market Street, Halifax. Tickets: \$35. More information: (902) 429-5429.

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Debbie Randii Michelin set to go

by Jane Kansas

Singer/songwriter Debbie Randii Michelin is on the phone from her home in Goose Bay, Labrador, and she is laughing. “Every lesbian I’ve ever been with thinks song number two on the album is about her.” Michelin is talking about “Keeps Me Flying” from her disc *Spirits Dance*.

The first day I saw you, you came up to me, you told me you loved me, but I couldn't see, the love that I needed, was in front of me, and now that I found you, you're all that I see.

Your love keeps me flying, it keeps me trying, it keeps me hanging on. Cause when I know you love me, you fly above me, in your arms I found my home.

Spirits Dance brought Michelin a nomination for best female artist at the 2004 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, and another for best Aboriginal recording, at the East Coast Music Awards. She went to the ECMAs in St. John's. “I had a beautiful jacket made by an Inuit woman,” she says, “with ulus and dancers.”

She was born in Northwest River, Labrador fifty years ago. It's a one gas station town of about 1,000 people. “Home,” says Michelin, “is who I am.” Her family is mixed; although she grew up knowing her birth family, she lived with another. Michelin does have music in her genes: Shirley Montague, a cousin on



Debbie Randii Michelin in her Inuit jacket.

her mother's side, and her uncle, Byron Fiddler Chaulk, are considered to be two of the best known song writers in Labrador. She remembers being around when her Uncle Byron was writing songs with Gerald Mitchell.

Michelin is retired from government work in Ottawa and now volunteers as vice chair of Friends of Grand River/Mistashipu, a group in Newfoundland looking into the proposed Lower Churchill Hydroelectric project. “In damming the mighty Churchill River,” says Michelin force-

fully, “we are going to be on the hook for billions of dollars in this province. I believe it will be destructive to our way of life and if the thing ever breaks we'll be all dead.”

While Michelin was working in Ottawa she was exposed to CO₂. A gas leak was discovered in our apartment,” she says somberly. “A guy in the basement did die. I became very ill and came home as part of my retirement.” Michelin ended up taking a break from music for five years, to get her health back on track. And now she is ready to go. “I do have plans,” she says, “to work on the next album.” It already has the title song, “River of Dreams.” As with her first album, it will be recorded in Nova Scotia, and then she'll tour with it. The work is coming along. “It's very healing being home,” she says happily.

“It's therapeutic.”

Michelin's album *Spirit Dances* is available from Mokami Creations, P.O. Box 625, Stn. B, Happy Valley, Labrador, NL A0P-1E0. Email Michelin at Mokamicreations@hotmail.com.

Gay Halifax Filmmaker Thom Fitzgerald Nominated for Creative Nova Scotia Award

by Cameron MacLeod

Finalists for the sixth Creative Nova Scotia Awards were announced October 20, and Halifax's award-winning filmmaker Thom Fitzgerald was on the list.

Fitzgerald has an extensive film and television career with stints as director, writer, producer and actor. He is most well-known in Canada's LGBT community for his first two feature films, 1997's *The Hanging Garden* and 1998's *Beefcake*. He has also dealt with HIV/AIDS, in the films *The Event* (2003) and *3 Needles* (2005).

His new feature *Cloudburst*, starring Olympia Dukakis, has recently completed production. *Cloudburst* follows a lesbian couple who escape from their nursing home and head to Canada to get married, picking up a young male hitchhiker along the way, portrayed by newcomer Ryan Doucette.

“Nova Scotia has a proud tradition of creative excellence,” said Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister David Wilson. “This year's finalists continue that tradition and are helping to make life better for families in communities throughout the province.”

An independent panel of artists reviewed nominations for the Portia White Prize and selected the finalists. The Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award and the Established Artists Recognition Award finalists were selected by separate independent committees.

The prizes were awarded at the gala, presented by the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council, on Oct. 28 at the Cunard Centre in Halifax. Prizes were awarded just after this issue went to press.

Third year for Camp Eclipse

by Costa Kasimos

For the third summer in a row, youth from across Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia came together for four days of empowering workshops and leadership training. Hosted by Planned Parenthood – NL Sexual Health Centre, Camp Eclipse: OUT in the Woods is a leadership retreat open to all youth interested in learning about the issues faced by queer communities. Camp empowers youth to implement positive changes to help end discrimination in their schools and communities.

More importantly, Camp offers a safe place where youth can find support, and feel truly accepted. “I think everyone who went to camp not only gained a better understanding of themselves, but also we gained something more magical and unique,” says a Youth Camper. “We gained a community, a sense of belonging, to sum it up a family and that matters, just, so much.”

“The most significant thing that I witnessed at camp was the warmth and caring shown between campers,” says Susan Green, Camp Eclipse 2011 Adult Mentor. “There was a real sense of belonging and nurturance.”

“Camp Eclipse is the safest place ever,” says another Youth Camper.

Held at the Environmental Education Centre in Newfoundland, this tranquil forest setting provides youth a unique opportunity to socialize, share experiences, and exchange ideas with like-minded youth and community leaders. Camp Eclipse focuses on building and nurturing youth leadership, and developing personal resiliency. It builds confidence and teaches youth how they can make

their schools and communities better for themselves and others

“Camp Eclipse provided a positive, safe and healthy environment for youth participants,” says Dave McConkey, Adult Mentor. “The future for Atlantic Canada's LGBTSQ communities looks bright given the presence of such capable, dynamic and gifted youth. The representation and peer support for and by youth identifying as trans was at par with

“The most significant thing that I witnessed at camp was the warmth and caring shown between campers. There was a real sense of belonging and nurturance.”

youth who identified otherwise. A very worthwhile program worthy of community support.”

Through various workshops, youth learned about various issues faced by queer communities. Workshops included such topics as the basics about transgenderism, how heterocentrism helps perpetuate inequalities, how to be an effective advocate, creating Queer Straight Alliances in schools, offering support to others, and sexual health issues. Youth were also given the opportunity to take part in a talent show, nature hikes, creative writing, and camp fires.

“Camp Eclipse is an incredible experience that helps you learn a lot, heal, and grow, all in a healthy and safe environment,” says a Youth Camper.

Camp Eclipse creates a safe space where information and ideas are exchanged, and dialogue is encouraged. All participants, including both

Adult Mentors and Campers, are recognized for their unique experiences, knowledge, and skills. The role of an Adult Mentor is to help create a space where this knowledge can be freely exchanged

“I feel very fortunate to have been involved with Camp Eclipse for 2 years,” says Tony Brathwaite, Adult Mentor. “To witness the growth that is made possible in an open and accepting environment is inspirational.”

“Being a new Adult Mentor I thought going to campfire meant singing songs and having s'mores but it turned into so much more,” says Cindy Murray. “We started a sharing circle of our day one experience at camp which was so overwhelming and very fulfilling for me. The youth were open, thoughtful and very caring of each other.”

“It was such a thrill to see youth using their voices and to witness them just really being comfortable and feeling safe to express themselves as they are. Hearing comments like people at Camp being an additional ‘family’ warmed the heart and highlighted how important Camp is,” says Rob Sinnott, Adult Mentor. “The youth bring such wonderful energy, stories of resiliency and strengths to the transformative experience of Camp – youth and adult mentors alike grow and change from the sharing!”

Planned Parenthood would like to thank the many Adult Mentors and supporters who help create this magical experience. To find out more about Camp Eclipse, or to find out how you can give a youth the opportunity to attend, please visit nlsexualhealthcentre.org.

WEEKLY LINEUP

MON: Pool Tournament @ 8:30 PM*
Moosehead Draught Special (till midnight)!

TUE: So You Think You Got Talent* - 10PM • 2 Drinks for \$9**

WED: KARAOKE* - Win up to \$500 • 32oz Pitcher Specials!

THU: No Cover w DJ Legacy* • 32oz Pitcher Specials!

FRI: Shitz & Gigglez Comedy Show* @ 9PM, \$5 Cover
NO COVER Student Night *** • 2 Drinks for \$9**

SAT: Happy Hour 3-10PM • HOUSE DJ @ 9:30PM
Sing Along Show Tunes with GaRRy in the Music Room*

SUN: Happy Hour 3-9 PM, Drag Show 9 PM*
32oz Long Island Ice Tea \$13

* Check the events calendar on our web site for details. **Dom. Beer, Well Shots or 20oz Draught
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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hi Tom,
So Mr. Spock is gay! Well, not Mr. Spock, as in Leonard Nimoy, I mean young Spock, Zachary Quinto from the movie, Star Trek. It didn't actually happen on Coming Out Day, it was a few days later, but I think it is still significant. So, between George Takei as Mr. Sulu and now Zachary Quinto, do you think this represents a trend? On the other hand, how come there are gay actors but never any gay characters in any of the Star Trek versions? Is it because gay characters would instinctively know that those futuristic Capri pants were just wrong no matter what century they happened in, or was it the fear that the holodeck would become an interactive porn studio? It's odd to think that in a story line that included everything from interspecies sexual contact to polygamy, there would be prejudice against gay crewmates. And what about those butch daddies, the Klingons? Or the Romulans with their Joan Crawford padded shoulders and Liza Minnelli haircuts?

Science fiction has often been in the forefront of social justice and freedom. The works of Marion Zimmer Bradley, for example, feature strong roles for women and a variety of sexual possibilities for humans and non humans. By contrast, Orson Scott Card, another sci-fi writer, has written a modern version of Hamlet in which all the villains are gay and are pretty much the reason for all the evil in the world. Sigh.

When I've had conversations about LGBTQ issues with people under 30, their attitude is much more "laissez-faire," more inclined to roll their eyes and wonder what this has to do with them. They know something about the history of fighting for queer rights—and I don't mean to imply that they don't care about anti-gay bullying in schools etc.—but queer history for them is what World War II was for me growing up: I knew it had happened but I wasn't there so it was not part of my personal history. It was real—theoretically, but not actually... in my view.

And I think they are less inclined to accept restrictive labels on their sexuality, hence the greater acceptance of the word queer—it is more general, less specific. Point in fact; I've had several emails from youngish men—shut up! I am not bragging—asking if I'd be interested in getting together for an intimate encounter. Sometimes what activities would be included in such an encounter are laid out—stop snickering—in considerable detail. On occasion the detail demonstrates an intimate knowledge of porn movies rather than an acquaintance with how unlikely, messy and tricky to perform without medics standing by, such activities might be. Even more surprising to me, at first, was how almost invariably these emails

were sent by men whose profiles indicated that they were looking to meet women. When questioned about the discrepancy between their public profile and their private interests, most gave the electronic equivalent of a shrug and said, Well, I am looking for a woman but I like getting together with men too. Like I said, not interested in being pigeon-holed—okay, that was on purpose, you can giggle all you like, Tom.

About a year ago, I received such an email from a young man proposing that he and I spend some quality naked time together. After chatting a bit further and exchanging pictures, I met the young man—let's call him Tim. Tim and I enjoyed ourselves—twice!—and then chatted a bit—he was not a cuddler but he did like to relax and talk in a friendly way after the "act." Finally, he glanced at the clock—partly obscured by his undershorts which had inexplicably landed on top of the dresser—and exclaimed, "Oh, I've got to get going. I've got to pick up my fiancée." Gaping at him like an idiot, I repeated, "Fiancée?" "Yes," he said, as he zipped up his jeans. "We're getting married on Saturday and tonight was her bachelorette party. She'll be in no shape to drive." His nonchalance at having sex—twice!—with a man only days before marrying a woman was either, I decided, evidence of supreme sophistication, or the basest, most selfish act of pleasure seeking I had ever encountered.

Sometimes too much thinking makes my head hurt, so I changed the sheets, took an acetaminophen tablet, forgot about it and went to sleep. It was not until the next morning that I realized that the briefs he grabbed when he was getting dressed were my Calvins. And, before you ask, and I know you will, No, I have not heard from him since, so I was relieved of the dilemma of deciding what to say if he did contact me again. However, I still have his tighty whiteys, freshly laundered and ready for him... just in case.

So I think it is still very important for people like Zachary Quinto to come out publicly, but perhaps it is just as important for people like Tim to act according to their nature in their private lives without worrying too much about which letter of LGBTQ refers to them.

Love ya!



Try Healing Art For A Change

by Fyre Jean Graveline

As a two spirited lesbian I have had a lifetime struggle with abuse, marginalization, and self hatred. Some days I am on top of it, and can recognize a put-down, no matter how subtle, and address it. Other days, I just take it in, and end up holding it against myself. I have learned that too much holding it in results in depression, anxiety, and self harm. I can isolate myself, lose touch with others, and it can become a struggle to find the energy to care for, care about myself and others.

Sometimes, I care for and about others, or commit to social causes too much, or for too long. In these situations we all experience burn out. Some symptoms can include: being grouchy, tiring easily, running out of patience in situations that normally you would cope with, feeling like judging and blaming the people you are trying to help wanting to desperately withdraw and hide out, or getting sick. Does this sound familiar? I have learned to revitalize myself, empty my garbage, take care of myself through Healing Art. And I want to share that with the LGBTQ community.

For most of us, core issues can be lodged within from past traumas, and continually resurface in each intimate relationship or any source of conflict. For members of the LGBTQ communities, conflicts with family, church and state can be a daily ongoing lived experience, leading to internal conflicts and confusion. Healing Art can assist individuals, couples and families to move quickly and safely to core issues, like abandonment, separation, trust, gender identity. Healing Art can help people understand themselves better, release stress, become more balanced and change their lives. Healing our life wounds does not have to be an exceedingly slow and painful process; it can be fun.

Healing Art is not about interpretations or questions. People are not treated as problems. You will be

respected and engaged in a co-creative process. Some people are worried or afraid to try Healing Art if they are not "an artist." While artists learn to focus on particular techniques and look for specific products (like masterpieces or what can sell), Healing Art is about the process of personal growth and change. We are all born with the urge to create. Our creative energies, like our life forces, have been blocked by discouragement, stress, and trauma.

A session will usually begin by chatting about what you would like to work on. Taking the lead from you, both in terms of content of the session, and the processes you are comfortable using, some suggestions may be made about materials and methods you may like to try. Depending on the setting and the issues being explored, a range of art materials will be offered, from dry ones—like markers, chalk or pastels; or collage materials like magazines, photographs, old books; to wet ones—like paints or clay. Some people prefer a self directed session, where they engage in art making of their choice. Others will want to explore some Healing Art techniques, like: scribble art; one-color art; imprinting; paint cries; anger/stress release; real and ideal; or storyboarding. People can share about themselves and their art while they create; others will dialogue about their process and their art pieces once they are done.

Creativity is contagious. Once we begin, we will often be drawn to continue. Healing Art, once learned, can be used as a self-help strategy, DIY whenever conflict erupts internally or externally. Sometimes you will like the results of your process, and hang them on the wall and other times they will be stored or discarded: it is your choice.

Fyre Jean Graveline (RSW, PhD, DVATI) has 25 years experience, working and living within the LGBTQ communities, helping people recover from stress, trauma and illness.

"Creativity is contagious. Once we begin, we will often be drawn to continue."

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Trans Family Pride Picnic



On Sunday, July 24, Trans Family Nova Scotia held its annual Pride Family Picnic at the Dartmouth Common. Picnic-goers enjoyed their choice of beef or veggie burgers and hotdogs and cold drinks. The food, games and facepainting were provided free to participants and sponsored by the 2011 Halifax Pride Board. Turnout was up from previous years' picnics and feedback was very positive. Looking forward to seeing you there with your family, next year.



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 Curator: J.J. Kegan McFadden



Untitled (trapdoor), 2002 / chromogenic print, 2008, 24" x 24"

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NSRAP Gala

by Anita Martinez

The Gala took place at the beautiful Marriott Harbourfront in downtown Halifax on Saturday, October 22. The Meet and Mingle kicked off the evening at 6:00 p.m. We met, greeted and hugged friends both old and new.

We then entered the beautiful dining area/ball room, overlooking the Halifax Harbour on this clear balmy Saturday evening.

Mistress of Ceremonies was Candy Palmater, who, as usual, did her wonderful job of making everyone feel very relaxed and happy throughout the evening. Later in the evening she invited everyone there to be in the audience for the taping of The Candy Show.

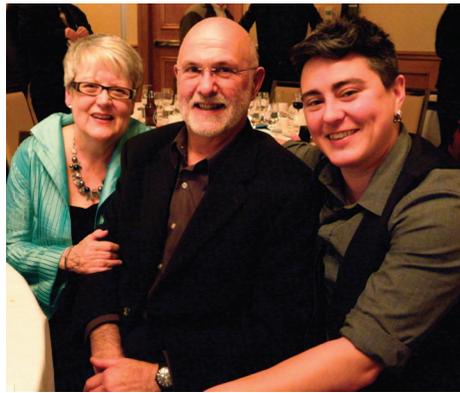
Early in the planning of the event, NSRAP had announced several new awards, but these were reduced to just the Reverend Darlene Young Community Hero Award, which was given to Maggie Haywood, the operator of Venus Envy. Maggie graciously thanked Shelley Taylor (the woman who first opened Venus Envy), her employees, and most of all her parents who have always been an inspiration and totally supportive.

This year, a new award is given and it is the NSRAP Corporate Stewardship Award. This award is given to the Northwood Care Inc. Northwood is the largest non-profit long term care and community outreach in Atlantic Canada. Northwood has a community of over 7,000 Nova Scotians on a daily basis, and is the only seniors centre publicly committed to embracing the LGBTQ community at this time. Josie Ryan gave the a very heartfelt, touching speech for the Northwood team. They were a great group of fun folk. I got to sit with

them and we certainly learned even more from each other.

The keynote speaker and entertainer was Matt Alber, who is a gay American singer/songwriter, an avid supporter for organizations who provide services to the LGBT homeless youth, and also strongly supports and has been involved extensively with the LGBT elder community. Matt, prior to launching his own solo career, was involved with the Chanticleer, a professional classical men's ensemble.

NSRAP organizers thanked the many people involved with the evening festivities who worked hard and long hours to make sure all went well. And it certainly did. The food was fantastic, the service was friendly and accommodating, the view was beautiful. Most of all, connecting with old friends, learning and meeting new friends and well, what can I say—everything was perfect. Thanks once again to the Volunteers and organizers, and board at NSRAP, for the great evening.



Maggie Haywood and her parents.



Gerard presents Northwood team with award.



Alana+Gabe+Dan=FUN!



Candy Palmater and wife Denise.



Keynote Speaker Matt Alber.



Dan and buds.



Matt Numer and Gerard.

The photos here are by Anita Martinez; more photos should appear in SNAP Halifax, as their photographer was there.



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HALIFAX PRIDE, fundraiser for 2012 “Out Golfin”

Photos & Story by Anita Martinez

This was Pride's First Annual Golf Tournament. I had the wonderful opportunity to be at this great event: a day of 18 holes, fun and exercise, and an evening of food, drinks and prizes (closest to the pin, hole in one and longest drive). No one left without a prize, including myself, who got some great shots and had a fantastic day.

We met at the Penn Hills Golf course on a warm misty Friday, September 23, 2011. This golf course took my breath away, as it is one of the more beautiful areas of Nova Scotia. The Main area is set on a hill overlooking a breathtaking view of the Shubie River and surrounding rolling hills. The atmosphere equaled in every way this amazing area, which the camaraderie between the participants, the volunteers and the employees of the golf course also reflected. Everyone was so warm and friendly, it was only when they started setting the table and serving dinner that I could kind of figure out who was who.

Shortly after I arrived, Krista Snow, one of the Pride board members, had worked it out that I was to be picked up and escorted around the golf course in one of those little golf carts. I had a fantastic time, and not only did we stop every time we saw someone play golf, the driver of this fancy little cart gave me a complete history lesson as we drove of the golf course. By the way, not only have I not been on a golf course since I was ten years old, I certainly had never been on a golf cart. I would love to get me one for driving around town (in the bike lanes, of course). But I digress again. This driver told me the history and introduced me to some wonderful old timers that played golf for years. It was fantastic and I got the photos I came for, plus.

As dinner progressed, the trophies were handed out to everyone that had such a fantastic time all day. I will quote Marion Steele here and say, "Congratulations to the AXA insurance Team that took home the Tournament Cup! RBC fought hard and came in 2nd place! Great day, great golfers, great prizes and a wonderful dinner at the Links at Penn Hills Golf Course."



Jocelyn "JOY" Smith, the winner of the trophy.



TD team pose for a quick photo.



Pride volunteers worked hard to make this very successful event.



Sue Uteck with her team stopped for a brief photo.



Krista Snow with two of the winners and their prizes.



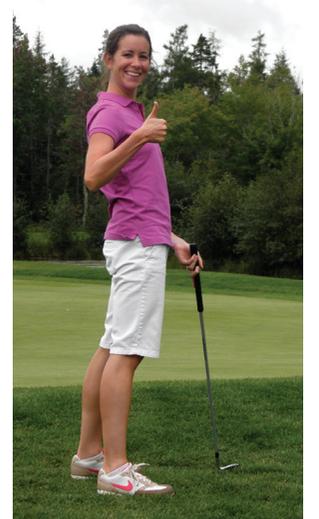
Sue Sangster and team pose for a shot.



A wonderful trophy was one of the prizes.



Many people who were there on the course that day were very anxious to win some of the amazing prizes that were given out by the Pride Committee.



Thumbs up from a very happy person, enjoying the perfect weather for a great game and day.



Pride Board's Krista Snow trying for that special hole in one.

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Les Pains de Paul

by Paul Nicholl

How to be your own Grandmother

What could be better than coming indoors from a walk in the crisp autumn air, than to be greeted by the aroma of fresh baked bread? Bread is a staple of our culture and making bread need not be feared. In addition to ingredients, time and patience is required. The process cannot be rushed.

The recipe that follows is a basic white bread that Grandmothers made in the past (and some still do). The recipe can be embellished slightly to offer a more savoury accompaniment to a feast. It will yield 2 large loaves or a large loaf and a dozen rolls. Pass the butter, please.

Ingredients:

- 250ml warm water
- 6 grams sugar (about ½ tsp)
- 10 grams dry yeast (a little less than 1 tsp)
- 365ml water, lukewarm or room temperature
- 1020 grams unbleached white flour
- 6 grams salt (about ½ tsp)
- 35ml sunflower or corn oil (about 2 tbsp)
- 5 grams (about ½ tsp) Italian seasoning, and/or ¼ cup sautéed onions—only if you want a savoury bread

Method

1. Bloom yeast with first water and sugar in mixing bowl (5-7 min).
2. Using the dough hook of a mixer (or spoon if by hand), mix in the remaining ingredients for about 2 minutes. Adjust the hydration by adding more water or flour to get a

moist mixture. Continue mixing by machine for 6 minutes or by hand for 15 minutes. The finished dough should be soft and pliable.

3. Let rise in an oiled bowl, covered, at room temperature for about 2 hours until double in size. Punch down the dough halfway.

4. On a lightly floured surface, divide the dough into 2 halves (about 820 grams each). If making rolls, further divide one half into 12 smaller pieces about 60 grams each.

5. Pre-shape the dough into round balls and allow to rest 5-10 minutes to relax the gluten.

6. Meanwhile, liberally grease the baking pans or line cookie sheets with parchment.

7. Shape the dough into its final form; a tight torpedo for loaves or tight balls (like ping-pong balls) for rolls. Place the dough in or on the appropriate pans.



Paul Nicholl owns and operates Dobbie Bakehouse, a small artisan bakery in Musquodoboit Harbour, N.S. The bakery is open seven days a week, year round, and can also be found on Sundays at the Musquodoboit Harbour Farmer's Market. Paul offers Break Baking courses in the fall and winter months. Phone: 902-889-2919.

8. Allow to rise one more time until almost doubled in size, in a draft-free place covered so it stays moist (approx.30-50 min).

9. Bake 375F in a pre-heated oven, about 30-40 minutes for loaves and 12-15 minutes for rolls. The internal temperature should be 195F.

Two Spirit Gathering: a new outlook on how we lead our lives.

by Gabe Saulnier

Greetings. I am a two-spirited Mi'kmaq man originally from the Bear River First Nation, I now call Kijipuktuk (Halifax) home. I attended the two spirit gathering held on the Labor Day weekend at Liscomb Lodge. I attended the last two spirit gathering in Rexton, NB 16 years ago, and that gathering had a lasting impression that still guides my life. To say the 2011 gathering changed my life journey is an understatement. This gathering had nearly 50 two-spirited persons meet to share their joys, sorrows, dreams and mostly their knowledge. Everybody had something to contribute and share with everyone.

During the gathering there were many tears shed, not necessarily tears of sorrow, but also many tears of joy. Individuals who attended the gathering were looking for familiarity and that was found in abundance. Some individuals came out of curiosity, some came as a "last chance" to find out who they were, and a lot came because they felt they would benefit from meeting others like themselves, and they did. Many new friendships were forged during this time of celebration.

I witnessed many "eureka" moments during the gathering, ranging from seeing participants' walls that were constructed by the society which shuns them crumble and seeing the person being reborn, to the simple act of listening to someone's journey. During the Sacred Ceremonies, we honored the many two spirits that had gone to the Spirit World. It was a humbling time. Those Ceremonies and sharing circles will remain with me and others for a lifetime.

Sharing was an integral part of the gathering and was greatly



enhanced by the Elders which were present. Some Elders expressed that they had never felt so at home and accepted than at that time. The Elders taught the group how to play Waltes, an ancient Mi'kmaq game, and the story behind it. We were honored to have Terry Young, a master basket maker, teach others how to prepare the wood to make baskets and the basket making process.

At the gathering we were very excited and honored that Grand Chief

of the Mi'kmaq Nation, Ben Sylliboy, had given us approval to mount and harvest an eagle that had been euthanized because of irreparable damage. The eagle feathers were harvested from the carcass and the talons were mounted to become talking sticks. The eagle head was mounted on a staff and was decorated by everyone at the gathering. The eagle staff was then used in the Grand Entry at the two spirit powwow held there.

The powwow was one of the most amazing events at the gathering. It was called the "No Talent Show," yet another understatement. The show was filled with music, a slide show, singing, drumming, readings, jokes and lots of applause and laughter. It was an amazing event. We crowned our "Princess and King" at the show.

At the beginning of the gathering, I was confident that my partner, Dan, and I would come back with a few new friends. Never in my wildest dreams had I thought we would return with a whole new family! I am proud to be part of the two-spirited people of Wabanaki. Wel'alin.

(If you are two-spirited and want to join the Wababki two-spirited alliance, check us out on Facebook.)

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NSRAP Report

Still Working on Trans Rights

by Regina Lohnes

How would someone's life be different if they grew up under the new federal Trans rights rather than without?

That's another what if question: what if I were a girl instead of a boy, what if I were a prince instead of a toad? Actually the question shouldn't be difficult for the Transgender community. We have all lived as one gender with all the rights and privileges afforded to it; why should it be so hard to imagine it any different as a member of the changed gender or as gender variant?

But it is different, because under the Federal and Provincial Human Rights Acts, the proposed legislation says "gender identity, gender expression," and so far does not afford the same basic rights as the life we had previously. To understand this you must see the actual excerpts of the acts, keeping in mind that the federal act only affects federal entities (see list below) and these are from the original legislation before amendments.

The Canadian Human Rights Act of 1977 says the Purpose of the act is to ensure equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination in federal jurisdictions. The idea behind the act is that people should not be placed at a disadvantage simply because of their age, sex, race, or any other ground covered by the act. That is discriminatory and is against the law. It protects people who are lawfully present in Canada or legally entitled to return to Canada against discrimination by the following regulated employees or service providers: federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations, chartered banks, airlines, television and radio stations, interprovincial communication and telephone companies, buses and railways that travel between provinces,

First Nations and federally regulated industries.

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Act states the purpose of the act is to: 2a: recognize the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family; 2b: proclaim a common standard for achievement of basic human rights by all Nova Scotians; 2c: recognize that human rights must be protected by the rule of law; 2d: affirm the principle that every person is free and equal in dignity and religion; 2e: recognize that the government, all public agencies and all persons in the province have the responsibility to enshrine that every individual in the province is afforded an opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life and failure to provide equality of opportunity threatens the status of all persons; and 2f: extend the statute law relating to human rights and provide for its effective administration.

Unfortunately under both acts they feel it necessary to list the different types of people or societies to have rights which then precludes the rights of all individuals. In my opinion, which is it: all or some? The truth is, if there is a bigot who does not like what you are or what you represent, all the human rights don't mean anything when you're just a memory.

Having said that, I am a Transsexual Lady of extended years who has the privilege to live in a region of the world where for most of my life I never had to worry about my human rights. Unfortunately, I am now fighting for the rights of the Transgender (even though I may never personally have to invoke them) to allow the younger and less privileged members of our society to grow up in a dignified realm.

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A federal first: NDP Queer Critic Dany Morin



Quebec MP Dany Morin, NDP associate critic for LGBTT issues, speaks with the Youth Project during Halifax Pride Week 2011, as part of an eastern Canada tour of queer communities. Photo provided by the Youth Project.

by Raymond Taavel

Newly elected MP Dany Morin, the NDP's Associate Critic for LGBTT issues, recalls June 15, the day he stood in the House of Commons to ask his very first portfolio related question: "Mr. Speaker, the latest statistics show an increase of 18% in hate crimes against the gay and lesbian community. While most other hate crimes are committed mainly against property, over half of those committed against gays and lesbians involve violence. This is unacceptable. What measures does the government intend to take to combat the increase in hate crimes against gays and lesbians?"

In the scrum of a normally choreographed Question Period, where the opposition vaults questions and the government quickly volleys back a response, there were sounds of silence. It took thirty seconds for the government to decide who would respond before Government House leader MP Peter Van Loan rose with a generic, pat non-answer.

Morin says for him the single episode perfectly captures how disconnected this current government is on LGBT issues, and represents the challenge the NDP faces over the next four years.

The 25-year-old chiropractor rookie MP for Chicoutimi-Le Fjord, QC was on a visit to Halifax this past summer during Pride week on invitation of Halifax MP Megan Leslie. Morin's weekend visit included a meeting with the Youth Project and the Pride Parade. The visit was part of a cross-country tour of queer communities he and counterpart critic BC MP Randall Garrison embarked upon in an effort to familiarize themselves with the constituency they represent, and also communicate an ambitious Official Opposition agenda.

Priority issues for the NDP over the next four years will be to strategically advance a few pieces of legislation: adding protection of transgendered persons in the Human Rights code, strengthening anti-bullying laws, price reduction in AIDS drugs in developing nations, and relaxing blood donor policies as it pertains to gay men.

None of this will be easy, says Morin, with a Conservative majority in Parliament. The introduction of private members' bills are one way to advance some of these issues, however, in the lottery system set up for MPs (order of presentation), it could take a while to have the opportunity to

Lesbian Soapbox Diaries

by L. Connors

Full Circle Part 2

*I'm sorry it took so long to see
They were dead wrong trying to pin it all on me
I'm sorry it took so long for me
To realize I was still in love with T
I'm sorry for the hand that she was dealt
For the pain and embarrassment that she felt
Just an old flame trying to find love
She should have never walked out when we were young
I'm sorry that she got shut down
I'm sure she'll do much better next time around
How was I to know it was way too late
You never get over your first love they say
Why doesn't anybody wanna take blame
Many backed out disgracing my name
I'm just a writer trying to entertain
But I can no longer take all the blame*

When I returned from my trip home, I felt lighter. Not only because my father was alive and well, but because I had let go of so many unresolved issues. Before I left I had no idea how much carrying around the weight of the world was literally holding me down. I had known that I needed to let go of so many things, but I could never seem to figure out just how to do it. Deciding to just let go was not enough.

During my stay at home I received so much acceptance, love, and support from friends and family that I had not seen and/or spoken to in years. I was granted unwarranted forgiveness without ever having to ask for it. To say that it was a humbling experience is an understatement.

For most of my life I have analyzed and agonized over the pain I have caused myself and others. I took the blame for my mistakes and theirs. I not only let others hold my mistakes over my head, most often I willingly stood there with my arms stretch above my head holding it there for them. And I held it there for long after they had ever given it a second thought or glance back. Sometimes I even took on guilt/pain from others that they either did not blame

me for, or, had nothing at all to do with me. I had unknowingly become a martyr. I presented myself to the world as eternally flawed and convinced myself that I was unlovable.

Sometimes in life we are granted forgiveness without ever having to ask for it, other times you could be denied it even if you beg for it. *But no one can take away your ability to forgive yourself!* In the borrowed words of Wilson Phillips "Someday somebody's gonna make you want to turn around and say goodbye, till then baby are you gonna let them hold you down and make you cry?" Life is hard enough without owning everyone else's crap as well as your own.

I have walked away from, or held at bay individuals who love me unconditionally because I didn't think I deserved it. This is my problem and I own it. If I can forgive myself for my mistakes and learn from them instead of wearing them like a badge, then maybe I can begin to trust myself. If you can't offer these things to yourself, you will never believe that you deserve it from anyone else either.

There are also individuals that I have allowed into my life that either don't deserve to be, or really don't want to be a part of it. I refuse to feel badly about that any longer. The fact that they have had significance in my life, or still hold a special place in my heart does not make me a bad person. My inability to hate those that I have truly loved is one of my greatest attributes. If anyone does not treat me with love and/or respect, that is their problem. And it does not mean that I am not worthy of it either. The only thing I can do about it is to offer myself the love and forgiveness they cannot, or will not.

I am the sum of my mistakes, but I am so much more than that. I have made too many mistakes, and I know that I will make more. That does not make me eternally flawed or unlovable, it makes me human. Today I carefully and lovingly cut the threads off my scarlet letter. I don't need it anymore.

introduce them.

Nevertheless Morin is undeterred: "We want to continue the progress" made over the last several years. Morin believes it will be an uphill battle; however, there are some open minded Tory MPs and the NDP plans to talk with them on many of these issues to build support.

What kind of feedback has Morin been getting on his community visits? Many members are expressing some alarm at the current government's trajectory on queer issues. "Threatened," is how Morin describes it. "We have to be vigilant."

The 416er Arrives in December

by Randall Perry

A few months ago, fed up with my going-nowhere job and generally frustrated with life, I packed up and moved to Toronto. Six weeks from the job offer to moving day: definitely a quick move, but not an impulsive one. I had been thinking of moving for awhile.

Did you know I was born in Toronto? My parents moved here in the 1960s, part of the great wave of Maritimers who decided to go "down the road" to make their fortune. As it turned out, my parents just made me, so in 1975 they decided to return to their home village in P.E.I., and apart from a summer job in 1988,

I've always thought about returning to the big smoke. All I needed was a job.

Now that I'm here, I'd like to share my experiences with you. Gay life—life in general—in Toronto is very different than gay life down east, but in many ways it's still very similar. Things that affect us here affect us everywhere. Starting next month you can read about my transition from Maritimer to Torontonion: the ups, the downs, the issues, whatever comes to mind.

It's all still very new and the reality is that living in Toronto is much different than visiting. Care to join me on the journey?

the416er@gmail.com

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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 Transsexuals. email: gender_expressions@hotmail.com (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Healing Our Nations: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. 1.800.565.4255 email: ea@accesswave.ca (Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 31 Gloster Court, Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X9

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.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

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

discussions impacting the GLTBQ community. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: 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, 'Ai 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.caweb: 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.)

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: aidsstj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

Gay Men, Aô'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, 'AuE News, Au. 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 - St. John's NL Chapter: Monthly Chapter meetings, support and information for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons and their parents, families and friends. 699-0509 email: stjohsnl@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca (We will aim to hold Chapter Meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Please check www.pflagcanada.ca for schedule and any changes.) at Community Connections, 9 Cathedral Street, St. John's NL.

St. John's Pride Inc: The officially-regis-

tered non-profit Pride company for St. John's email: stjohspride@yahoo.ca web: www.stjohspride.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.cfsi.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: cumberlandpride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Monday (7-9 PM)

Annapolis Valley

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: Meets Thursday evenings at 7pm for coffee and socializing and host a gay/lesbian/bi and all genders 19+ dance on the first Saturday of each month from 9pm-1am.No Dance in November in leu of two dances held in October. 825-3197,363-2055 email: men-embracingmen@hotmail.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@NSSexualHealth.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.

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, 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 Online Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ (No Meetings at Present! Please call if you have any questions, 499-0335 sue) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Cancelled at the present time.

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.caweb: 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 Men's Prostate Cancer Support Group: Prostate Cancer Canada Network is launching a support group for gay men and their families. Our meetings are informal and provide a forum for personal discussion with prostate cancer survivors, those newly diagnosed and their caregivers. For more information or to become a member contact Peter Mallette at 902-420-9449 or peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca 902-420-9449 email: peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca at Prostate Cancer Canada Atlantic 5121 Sackville Street Suite 101 Halifax B3J 1K1

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.girlish.ca

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

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: 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 'Àcommunity,À. 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 last Monday (at 2:00pm.) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Roseria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LGBTQ community events to be involved with and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join. Also, join the "Mount Pride" Facebook group!

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 Malette 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. pride-

Health- 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: Providing comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in a safe, confidential and non-judgemental manner for women and men of all ages. PCCSH

is affiliated with the Nova Scotia Association of Sexual Health and the Canadian Federation of Sexual Health. They are a pro-choice and GLBTQQI friendly organization. 695-3366 email: pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com web: www.pictoucountyselxualhealth.com

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

New Minas / Annapolis Valley

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

Sydney

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

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

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

Pride Cape Breton Society: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: info@pridecapebreton.com web: www.pridecapebreton.com(Dances on the last Saturday of every

month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

Tatamagouche

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

Truro

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wolfville

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

Yarmouth

South West Nova Pride: We are a social group for SW Nova Scotia. All GLBT people of any age and in any stage of coming out are invited, we have a monthly gathering at Sobeys community room on Starrs Rd. in Yarmouth at 7:00 PM on the 2nd last Wednesday of each month. We create a monthly calendar of events for such things as pool, potluck parties, day trips or what ever members like to do. So come join us have fun and meet other GLBT people. 645-2914/749-0977 email:jackanddan@eastlink.ca or diannefcc@eastlink.ca web: SWNovaPride.com (Check out our facebook at South West Nova Pride.)

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@arcpei.com web: www.arcpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)



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5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1J8
uuchurch@eastlink.ca
902-429-5500

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

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Editorial

Bullying: Our Next Big Challenge

Jamie Hubley, a gay 15 year old teen from Ottawa, commits suicide. We are losing too many (even one is too many) teens to suicide. These young people need to know that there is help out there for them and that they are not alone in their struggles. Jamie is just one of the many teens that have taken their lives because of bullying over the last several years. It's very saddening to know that, unless things change quickly, the list will continue to get longer, and more hearts will be broken of those who love and know them. Bullies are terrorists, your fear is their weapon. The difference between terrorists and bullies is the scale and that terrorism is more organized, but both are wrong, immoral and illegal, and by working as a community we

can stop it in its tracks.

You may think, "Well, I am only one person, how can I make a difference?" It's much simpler than you might think. Start by making the people around you aware of an issue you are passionate about. By showing your passion, people around you will take it more seriously, and may possibly want to get involved as well. One person may not be able to fix all the wrong in the world, but one person can contribute something. If enough individuals do what they can, those efforts add up and yes, they do make a difference. We all need to keep reaching out and moving forward. There is still so much work that needs to be done, but if we can get enough people passionate about the same issues, even

if it only helps one person, that is one less person who will have to suffer!

I remember reading an article from a blog awhile ago. It was about a teacher named Edward Reuben. A student once asked him why he was so passionate about his work at the school where he taught and why he was so involved in organizations within his community. Mr. Reuben replied, "If I can convince five of you to make a change, and each of you convince another five, and so on, we will have a better world." We need strong and courageous people to stop the bullying. If we stop one bully, and then another and then another, we will gradually change the world.

I have put a lot of time and ef-

fort into the community of greater Moncton, as vice-chair on River of Pride and now as a representative of Wayves Magazine. It is very difficult to get the community involved as a whole to tackle these issues, but if I can get just one person to listen, and if it helps someone to look at an issue with a different point of view and want to take a stand, then it has been all worth while. If you have any questions or concerns or are a victim of being bullied and would like to share your story, please contact me, I would love to hear from you.

Nathan Adams
Bureau Chief – Wayves Moncton
nathan@wayves.ca

Letter

Dear Wayves,
Bravo Australia for recognizing transgendered citizens and making passports inclusive.

But the Information Morning program on Halifax CBC Radio One used the news to make a tasteless joke. Suggesting that "Australia, transgender and down-under" be used as joke punchline is offensive, especially when broadcast over public radio. Such perceived bias was part of the weekly news roundup. After the laughter faded, the hurting began! I felt like I had been broadsided by a slick delivery, worse than the ones used to spread hurt and stereotypes face to face. But wait a minute, maybe the hosts and contributor do not know better. They should!

Canadians expect better from their public broadcaster. Shame on you CBC.
In Solidarity,
Brian Buchanan
Halifax

OUT! Alive learns more about Gambling in the LGBT Community

LGBT Nova Scotians participate in a variety of gambling behaviours and a lot of us know someone who has had a gambling problem, though we are not aware of services to help someone with a gambling problem. This past spring, Out! Alive proposed a study to investigate gambling habits and attitudes in the Rainbow Community across Nova Scotia.

With a grant from Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia (GANS), Out! Alive Gambling hired Project Coordinator James Shedden to develop a survey that could be administered to participants at Pride events in Halifax and Sydney throughout the summer. "We were surprised at the results," says Shedden, "with 104 surveys completed in person and 124 completed on-line. The response to our advertising through Facebook, Kijiji, and partner networks and media articles from Wayves, the Chronicle Herald and Global Maritimes shows our community is interested in the topic and extremely tech savvy."

Gambling in the Rainbow Community: A Community Needs Assessment was a unique community partnership that worked with a number of supporting organizations to get the word out about the survey and use a variety of on-line network resources. Out! Alive Steering Committee member Patrick Daigle liked the methods that were employed: "The needs assessment allowed us to reach members of the LGBT community in urban and rural areas, in person and on-line, those who may be active and out in their community and those who may still be struggling to reach that point. We are very happy that people provided a voice to make this research a success."

So what did the survey results tell us? Some of the findings are listed below.

Demographics:

Gender and sexuality:

- Slightly more females answered the survey than males, 2% of respondents identified as transgender, 43% responded as gay.
- 50% of respondents listing their age between 25-44 years.

- 74% of respondents indicated they had participated in some form of post secondary education.

- 73% of respondents came from Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) or Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) and 72% said they lived in a community of more than 10,000 residents.

- 85% of respondents reported that their health was 'excellent' or 'good.'

Involvement in Gambling

- Just over half of respondents (56%) infrequently purchased charity raffle tickets and 50/50 draws with 43% buying scratch tickets every few months. On a weekly basis 16% participate in lottery draws, scratch tickets (6%), and 50/50 draws (4%).

Gambling Habits and Attitudes

- 25% of respondents scored at any level of risk for problem gambling while 73% scored at non-gambling or non-problem gambling levels. This contrasts with the results of the Nova Scotia Adult Gambling Prevalence Study (NSAGPS) that indicates only 6% of the general population score at any level of risk for problem gambling and 94% of the population score at no risk of problem gambling. Gambling in the Rainbow Community was designed to provide comparison to the NSAGPS.

- 21% of respondents had ever used a bank machine/ATM card to obtain more money while gambling, 14% of respondents had gambled with money intended for another purpose and 15% had lent money to someone else for them to continue gambling.

Gambling Support Services

- 61% of respondents answered 'yes' or 'unsure' of knowing someone in the LGBT who has been affected by problem gambling and 30% are still affected by problem gambling. The most common products included VLTs, casino slots and scratch tickets.

Education and awareness opportunities

- More than 80% of study participants indicated any level of interest in more information on problem

gambling, greater awareness campaigns on problem gambling for the LGBT community, more research on the subject and more opportunities to discuss the impact of problem gambling in the LGBT community.

Gambling in the Rainbow Community concludes with findings that suggest levels of problem gambling are more prevalent in the LGBT community. To better understand this community needs assessment, further scientific study is warranted on the impact of gambling in the LGBT community. LGBT Nova Scotians are interested in more research, education and support about gambling and agencies and institutions that

work with LGBT Nova Scotians need better access to supportive environments when it comes to problem gambling. Patrick Daigle sums it up well when he says, "This is a large area of study that until now has gone unnoticed. Our committee's initial thoughts were not that gambling in the Rainbow Community was an issue; but we were unwilling to simply make an assumption that a problem did not exist when research shows that alcohol, drugs and other risky behaviors are more prevalent in the Rainbow community. This study has opened a door and it is our hope that the Gambling in the Rainbow community needs assessment will

continue to better identify the needs and supports to serve LGBT people."

Gambling in the Rainbow Community will be launched to the Public during Addictions Awareness Week. A public 'Lunch and Learn' will take place at the RBC Theatre (Halifax Infirmary, 1796 Summer Street, Halifax) on Wednesday November 16, 2011 from 12:30 – 1:30pm. You can also find out more about the final results by checking out Out! Alive on Facebook or email at outalives@gmail.com. Thanks to Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia and all of our community sponsors for their support.

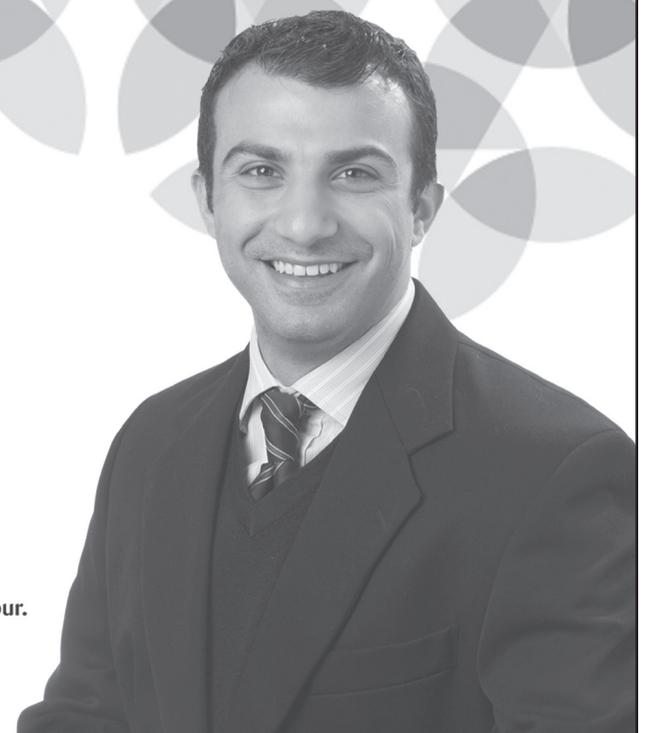
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History made in Nfld!



This photo that was taken shortly after the Pride Week flag raising ceremony in St. John's in July: Lorraine Michael, Provincial NDP Leader; Jennifer McCreath, co-founder of St. John's Pride Inc. and East Coast Trans Alliance; and Gerry Rogers is on the right.

by Jennifer McCreath

History was made on October 11, 2011, as Newfoundland joined the ranks of provinces who can boast having an out member of the LGBT community elected to their provincial legislatures. Prominent local film-maker, business owner, and out lesbian Gerry Rogers was elected into office as a member of the NDP party for the riding of St. John's Centre. For good measure, in the process she beat an incumbent who was cabinet Minister for Natural Resources.

Shortly after announcing her intention to seek the nomination to run as the NDP Candidate, Gerry accepted an invitation to speak at the Flag-Raising Ceremony for St. John's Pride Week in July, where she spoke about how proud she was to be a lesbian and to be a member of the NDP team. Gerry is perhaps best known for her work as a film-maker

for her Gemini Award-winning documentary on breast cancer, entitled *My Left Breast*. She is also a co-owner of a local business called the Travel Bug, which proudly flies a rainbow flag outside its flagship store on Water Street in downtown St. John's. She also played a key role in lobbying the Conservative Government to create and implement the Cameron Inquiry, which looked at whether Eastern Health was at fault in the reporting of erroneous and delayed test results to breast cancer patients between 1997 and 2005.

What might be considered the best part of this news story is that Gerry's sexual orientation never appeared to be an issue during her campaign at all. She was elected on the merit of being a strong candidate and for being aligned with a political party that had strong support in the city. Newfoundland now joins Ontario,

Quebec, and British Columbia, as what appear to be the only four provinces to elect an out member of the LGBT community to their provincial legislatures. Gerry's election is a strong sign of acceptance of LGBT people in mainstream society. It is also a sign that Newfoundland has come a long way and is now playing a leadership role in terms of LGBT acceptance across the country.

Gerry was actually one of at least six out LGBT people to run in the Newfoundland Provincial election, a list that also included an out pansexual, and at least two candidates who ran in rural ridings. To have a prominent member of the LGBT community win a seat, will finally give our community a first-hand voice in the legislature. We finally have someone who has first-hand experience with the many issues our community faces.

It's been a milestone fall this year in Provincial elections across the country as far as the LGBT community is concerned. In addition to this great victory for Gerry, history was also made in Ontario when Christin Milloy became the first openly-trans person to run for office in a provincial election, when she ran as a candidate for the Ontario Libertarian Party. As co-founder of East Coast Trans Alliance and St. John's Pride Inc., it is my hope that these two milestones will open doors for more members of our diverse LGBT community to not only become motivated enough to seek involvement in politics, but to gain acceptance as candidates by parties and by voters. As an adopted Newfoundlander, I am extremely proud of Gerry and the NDP Party, and the Voters of St. John's Centre, for putting their faith in Gerry, who I know will be an excellent provincial politician.

Bullying And Transfolk: Some Changes Needed

by Gene Campbell

For 22-year-old first-year St. Thomas University student, Michelle (Mitch) Rayner, bullying has been a way of life. For the better part, it has passed with little, or no, attention. However, an incident back on September 13 has changed things dramatically.

Now in the early stages of becoming a man, Rayner has always known: "I was in grade two or three the first time it happened. I don't know if they knew, or if it was just because I was different. I always had short hair. I've always been different.

It just happened countless times. Whenever I came to a public washroom, it is just now a question of when it will happen. I've taken flack all my life."

The latest bullying incident for Rayner has captured national media attention, even receiving a letter of support from as far away as Ireland. Rayner said he was struck in the face in a woman's washroom on campus. A female student became irate when he entered the washroom. "She asked me to leave," he said, and he went on to explain that he was, in fact, biologically a woman. "She got irate and took a swing at me, called me several derogatory names, and she just caught me in the lip. So, I staggered out."

Rayner didn't make the bullying incident public for several weeks. "I didn't want it to be about me, just this one student. This is a bigger deal than people actually realize." When he did go public with it, "It wasn't about my own vendetta, but rather a matter of information. When it comes right down to it, it is all about education. We haven't actually got

down to the social issues. We want people to stand up, get them more involved. It's all about education. It's all about privacy." That is where the Prince Edward Island native is taking the matter—to the public—so it will become more informed on the matter of transgendered people.

There are several things the bullying victim would like to see done. "First, at the very least, I would like to see at least one wheel-chair accessible, gender-neutral washroom in every building on campus. It should be labelled 'gender-neutral,' and have the signage [as to its location] in the building."

Rayner said that, currently, those who are transgendered have no support. "That doesn't surprise me," he said, adding, "I would like to establish a larger LGBTQ community on campus. What we are trying to do is to make it a long-term issue on campus... STU seems to be very receptive to that." STU has about 15 gender-neutral washrooms across campus, though there are none in Sir James Dunn Hall, where the incident took place.

Rayner said that, when it comes right down to it, "It is all about education. We haven't actually gotten down to the social issues. We want people to stand up, to get them more involved and get the University involved. It's all about privacy." He added, "There is a committee on campus trying to see if they would provide information and support for people on the issue of trans-gender."

Rayner feels the media attention the matter has been given is important. "A lot of people have no idea as to what is going on. I have been contacted by other transgendered students who are giving me their support. There are also others on campus who I haven't met but I've received their support." He said STU staff wants a statement on the matter: "They want a proposal as to what I would like to see on campus, and also testimony from others in the community, as far as being transgendered goes. I've been looking for other like-minded people so I can talk."

Rayner said that as far as Fredericton goes, even though the community is big, there is still a lot of ignorance. Fredericton has one of the largest gay populations, per capita, in the country, but there is still a problem. He hopes the media attention the matter has been given will make people more aware of the problem and the issue.

For anyone interested in contacting Michelle (Mitch) Rayner to learn more about the matter or to offer support, he can be reached at rayner_mr@live.ca.

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