

Wayves

World AIDS Day

by Daniel MacKay, photos by Anita Martinez



Billy Lewis: "What is the connection between Occupy and HIV?"

More than seventy people gathered at the Italian Cultural Centre in Halifax on December 1 for the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS' World AIDS Day Event. The tone of the annual event is upbeat and hopeful and is a contrast to the sombre reflection on the loss of loved ones at the

AIDS Vigil, which was held later in the evening.

"The year 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of the publishing of the first description of a gay-related disease—a number of patients with pneumonia and a rare skin cancer," said Dr Bob Frederickson, keynote speaker. "Aging with AIDS" was a natural secondary theme.

As in previous years' events, spoken word poetry tied the presentations together. Halifax's Poet Laureate for 2009-2011, Shauntay Grant, opened the evening by performing a piece from the 2010 "Grandmothers to Grandmothers Workshop", in which artists viewed photographs of women in Africa caring for AIDS orphans. Shauntay's piece Pictures described the grandmothers raising children, loving and living in an AIDS storm, while an indifferent world looks on. Her next piece, Life Lessons, was a call to action, to act as an adult and to live life fully.

Desiree Adams performed Love Yourself, about self-image, and the impossibility of making everyone happy or living up to any coherent set of standards while being bombarded with idealized media images, and January 7th about being HIV+ and choosing life and living over hate and discrimination.

Sophie Kaufman performed She carries a five gallon jug which again was written after the Grandmothers to Grandmothers workshop, about one woman turning the tide, maybe.

Valerie White, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors gave a



Keynote speaker "Dr Bob" Frederickson.

short presentation. "We have a rapidly aging population, and AIDS infections are increasing among the over fifty set. Seniors are, more than ever, socially, physically, and sexually active and we have to adapt. Snowbirds account for much of the growing HIV population in Florida; the myth about sexuality and drug use declining with aging is just that, a myth. These older people need to hear the messages about prevention and sexual health too. We need to work together to get to zero deaths and zero discrimination."

Mi'kmaq elder Billy Lewis spoke about the connection between Occupy and HIV: Occupy is about economic disparity and the corporations that control the world, including Big Pharma, which keeps the prices of HIV treatment drugs high. "Everyone should have access to these drugs," said Lewis, "the penalty for being poor should not be the death penalty."

The public face of HIV+ persons in Nova Scotia for decades, Eric Smith, spoke next

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The public face of HIV+ persons in Nova Scotia for decades, Eric Smith.

PFLAG Meeting Evolves Into Party



Eldon Hay at a recent Pride event.

Forty one people—young, old and in-between, students, workers, parents, of every conceivable sexual and gender identity, gay and trans—came in from the cold to the cozy United Church Parlours in Sackville, New Brunswick, on December 19th for the traditional PFLAG Sackville/Amherst Holiday Meeting and Party.

As the facilitator, I was looking forward to it because this year we were including something very special. After the first hour, like our regular monthly meetings, we decided to combine our holiday party with an 80th Birthday Party for Eldon Hay, the founder of our chapter.

Eldon turned 80 on December 15, and we thought, "What a good time to honour him for his dedication, to thank him and to celebrate his birthday big-time."

In addition to our own members, Cherie Macleod, the Executive Director of PFLAG Canada, attended, as did Moncton PFLAGers.

Chrystal, with her trusty sous-chef Carrie, baked a huge birthday cake. Kristen brought along her melt-in-your-mouth shortbread, and others came laden with sandwiches, mini-muffins, chips, guacamole, salsa, sweets, candies, cider and cranberry juice.

It was hardly any work for us. We simply invited people to come. What transpired could only happen in PFLAG! It reminded one of Bob Cratchit's home on Christmas Day--minus the goose.

There were so many of us that I could have used binoculars to see those on the other side of the room. I got a little nervous—usually our meetings host between 15 and 25 members, so 41 was really over the top. I wondered, "How will I ever help such a large group to feel intimate enough with each other that they will be comfortable sharing?" But intimacy happened naturally, not because of anything I did, but because of the wonderful people at the meeting. They were thinking not only of themselves, but of how their lives had been changed through knowing Eldon.

Eldon, his wife Anne and one of their sons, Alex, home for the holidays from Toronto, were part of the circle looking very, very happy. Eldon was almost looked like Santa Claus, bedecked

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Regular Columns



Groups & Services 9 • Kibitz and Bitch 4 • NSRAP Report 8 • The Sanctuary Garden 6 • (The 416er will return in March)



Deadline for March issue: Friday, February 3 (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

Northern AIDS Connection

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) commemorated AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day in communities throughout the region (Cumberland, Colchester-East Hants and Pictou Counties). NACS Board Members, staff and volunteers worked with various community partners to assist in the activities.

On Sunday November 27th, a section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt was hung in St. John's Anglican Church, Truro where Karen Kittilsen, NACS Executive Director had the opportunity to speak during the service, providing context for both AAW and WAD in Canada and Nova Scotia.

The Colchester-East Hants Library and the Royal Bank-Truro Branch provided space for informational displays and materials, while displays of sections of the AIDS Memorial quilt, distribution of ribbons and educational materials at the NS Community College Truro Campus, a candlelight Vigil in Amherst, NS Community College Stellarton Campus and the Pictou Library provided tribute and commemoration to those who have died of AIDS and those Persons Living With HIV/AIDS. Sobey's in Truro also hosted NACS with display space and the opportunity to distribute ribbons and information to the general public.

On World AIDS Day we were hosted by the RBC-Truro and staffed the display booth distributing ribbons, providing information and serving up hot apple cider. The evening NACS co-hosted an event with the Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health screening the film "Yesterday," having a candle lighting and quilt display as well as an opportunity to

speak to those in attendance.

Over 1,100 red ribbons were distributed throughout the region at NACS events.

Al McNutt, founder of NACS and secretary to the Board, in his capacity as Chair of the Canadian AIDS Society travelled to the Red Ribbon Gala held on Parliament Hill November 30-December 1st.

NACS's Open House was well attended. Staff lined the walls with news articles that document the history of the Society from its beginning in 1996. This display was an eye opener to those who attended as to the history of the organization, its many projects and successes.

Easier STI Tests

by Angus Campbell, Executive Director, Halifax Sexual Health Centre

Testing for Chlamydia and gonorrhoea has just become simpler and more convenient.

Now both are tested with one specimen. Men provide a urine sample (don't pee for two hours beforehand), which is an improvement over the dreaded urethral swab that kept some men from testing. A vaginal swab may be self-administered. Throat and rectal swabs can also now be easily processed.

There's been a Chlamydia outbreak in HRM for a few years now, primarily in the 15-24 year old female population. Hopefully the new testing protocol will encourage more people to get checked.

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea are common STIs and the majority of people will have no symptoms. Both are treatable with antibiotics. See your physician or medical professional for testing, or visit one of the following: the Halifax Sexual Health Centre

www.hshc.ca or call 455-9656 ext 0. Call prideHealth at 220-0643. The STD Clinic at the Dickson Centre 473-2272 provides drop-in clinical services on Mondays and Thursdays.

Condoms and dams help reduce the risk. If you do test positive, Public Health (481-5824) can inform your sexual contacts on your behalf without revealing your name.

ACNS RBC Challenge

The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) is hosting its 3rd Annual RBC Amazing Challenge for AIDS in Halifax this coming May, 2012. If you are looking for something fun for your group or business to get involved in, this may be just the event! Last spring, the Gaydiators of Menz Bar joined together with other teams for a day of fast-paced competition where they were met with physical and mental challenges all over the city. Glenn, Darryll, Renee, Mark and Meghan certainly kept their energy high throughout our adrenaline-pumping, mind-boggling, fundraising day. Menz Bar and the Gaydiators want to



Thanks to Remedy Spa for making everyone look so beautiful!

encourage new groups and businesses to get involved in this event in support of the programs and services of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

Doug Melanson, owner of Menz Bar, says, “as a business owner working and living in the GLBT community, we need to get out and support the work of our community, and if we don’t, who will? We are proud to



Menz Bar anxiously waiting to get ahead!

be an active supporter of ACNS and have been for many years.”

Each team of five has the challenge of raising \$3,000 in support of ACNS, and the earlier teams register the better, as ACNS can assist you in accomplishing your goal. This event is an amazing opportunity for groups, corporations and businesses to get together, have fun and build team spirit. Some of last year's teams, including the Coca-Cola Commanders, Chester Cheetahs and RBC Roaring Lions, are looking for new competition this year.

The 3rd Annual event will consist of 15-20 challenges taking place in various hot spots throughout the city, and will end with a dinner celebration. In the past, challenges have included acting at Neptune Theatre, dancing at In Essence Studio, biking at Cyclesmith, training drills with the HRM Fire Department, make-up application sponsored by Remedy Spa, and scavenger hunts at Pier 21.

The Chester Cheetahs won first place last year after an exhilarating day.

The winning team members receive a night out on the town to celebrate, at a venue of their choice! Gather your team and register online at www.rbcamazingchallengehalifax.com.

Syphilis Strikes Again!

by Angus Campbell, Executive Director, Halifax Sexual Health Centre
In 2008, two cases of infectious syphilis were reported in Halifax. The number continued to increase and an outbreak was declared in 2009. Since then, 56 more cases have been confirmed, primarily in the gay, bisexual, and queer population, and the number continues to grow.

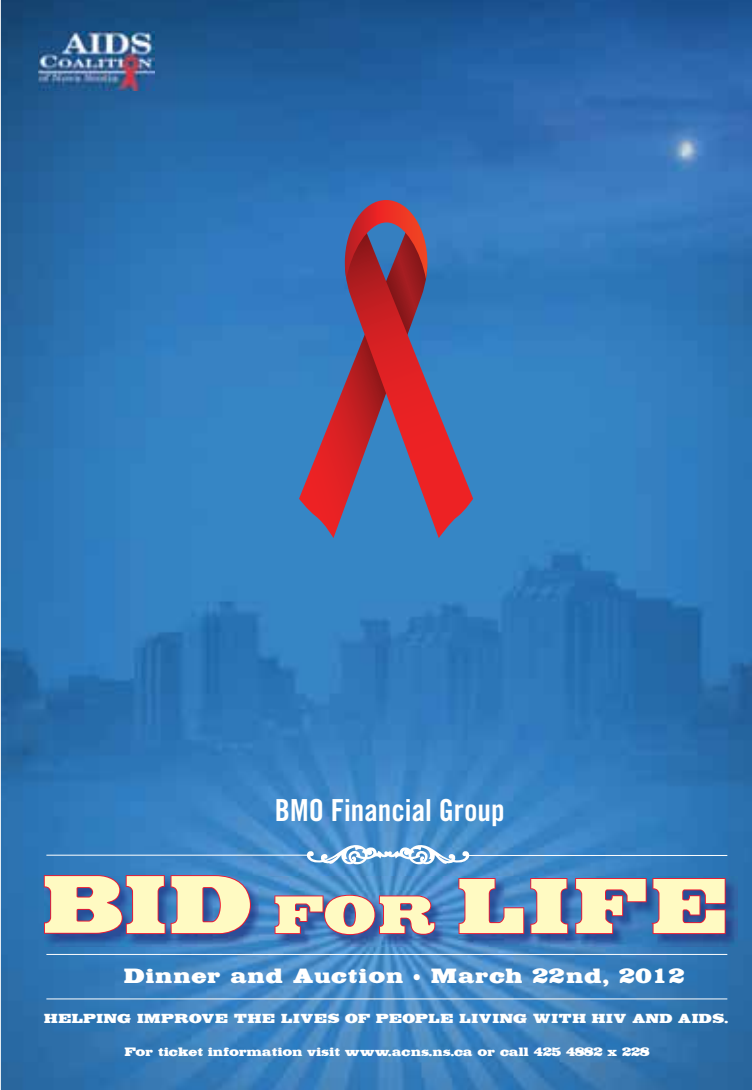
Syphilis requires “staging” by an infectious diseases specialist and Public Health follows up with infectious syphilis cases. Basically, syphilis is infectious, meaning that it can be transmitted from one person to another, usually during the first year of infection when the syphilis is in the primary, secondary, or early latent stages.. Most remarkable with this outbreak is the number of secondary stage diagnoses, which occur 2 to 12 weeks after infection, emphasizing the need for us, as a community, to take notice.

Awareness, knowledge and testing are key to reversing this trend.

Be aware. Syphilis can be dangerous if not treated—it can irreparably damage your heart, eyes, joints, nerves, and brain.

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Be knowledgeable. Symptoms are not always obvious and may appear from 3 to 90 days, although the average time is about three weeks. Often a painless sore or 'chancr' occurs on the penis, anus, scrotum, or inside the mouth, throat, rectum, or on the lips, which is infectious. Antibiotics can cure syphilis. Condoms help reduce the risk.

Be tested. Testing is done by a blood test, and can be requested by your medical professional. The Halifax Sexual Health Centre (www.hshc.ca) provides this option as part of the Anonymous HIV Testing program. See website for further info or call 455-9656 ext 0. PrideHealth also offers testing by calling 220-0643. The STD Clinic at the VG Dickson Centre (www.cdha.nshealth.ca or call 473-2272) provides drop-in clinical services on Mondays and Thursdays. If you do test positive, Public Health (481-5824) can inform your sexual contacts on your behalf without revealing your name.

Safe Harbour Christmas Dinner

by Bill MacKinnon

Safe Harbour's annual Christmas dinner, dedicated to the memory of Darlene Young, is one of the highlights of Halifax's LGBT year. So it was on December 17, 2011, when the feast and fellowship were respectively tasty and loving. Although this Metropolitan Community Church is



50-50 Draw. Photo by Bill MacKinnon.

scheduled to close as a regular place of worship, I'm sure the annual dinner will continue as long as we support it. This year's dinner was again at St. Andrew's United Church at Cobourg & Robie, but we were reminded of St. John's United Church's magnificent contribution to our community over the years and honoured by the presence, and words, of St. John's' pastor, the Reverend Linda Yates. There are so many who contributed their time, food and money to the annual feast that I hesitate to name names, but Gary Beazley was heralded as being the guy who once again was key organizer of the dinner, and the others who helped make the feast a reality included the regular stalwarts: a bevy of dedicated DQ's, a couple generous bar owners and all who donated food or money or bought 50-50 tickets.

What's next? Well by the time you read this, the Christmas Eve service and carols will be history and alas, maybe Safe Harbour will be, too, but attempts will continue for its resuscitation if financial support and a place of worship can be found. We must not abandon hope.

And let us not forget Manna for Health (429-7670), the referral food bank for those living with life-threatening illness, which has long been a Safe Harbour ministry. Manna for Health will go on helping others as long as the much-needed ongoing support of the LGBT community is sustained.

TransNFLD

November 20, 2011, marked the 13th annual International Transgender Day of Remembrance. An historic event occurred in Newfoundland, when, for the first time ever, members of the LGBT community formally booked an event on the property of the headquarters of the Provincial Government—the Confederation Building. Members of the local LGBT community and their allies came together for a candlelight vigil that was produced and emceed by Jennifer McCreath, co-founder of St. John's Pride Inc. and East Coast Trans Alliance.

Fighting wind and cold, a crowd of about fifteen gathered at 10 a.m. for an hour-long event which featured special speakers and events. All three major political parties took the time to write formal letters of recognition, which were read aloud. Also, statements were sent in and read by prominent national trans advocates Christin Milloy (the first openly-trans person to ever run for provincial political office) and Josie Harding (co-founder of ECTA and chair of Moncton Trans Peer Support Group).

The names of all reported-murdered transpeople were read aloud, candles were lit in their honour, and a moment of silence was observed. In addition to memorializing the victims, McCreath ensured that other issues were discussed at this event, especially since mainstream media was in attendance. Noah Davis-Power, the youngest Canadian to ever run in a provincial election (an NDP candidate who also happens to be an out LGBT Newfoundlander) spoke about the power of individuals being able to overcome adversity. Rob Sinnott, Chair of local PFLAG Chapter and a

Our Cover

Our cover design is by the lovely and talented Cam Mac-Leod, as usual, and a committee.

local LGBT youth group, spoke about the resources that are available in this Province for both youth and others.

The education system was challenged to step up to the plate and do its job—that being to educate our youth about the real world, a world that includes LGBT people. Jennifer McCreath spoke about the challenges trans people still face today in Newfoundland, including lack of recognition in the Human Rights Act, poor, out-of-date health care policies and services, and societal discrimination with regards to employment, housing, and harassment. She thanked Noah, Rob, and Egale Canada for their hard work lobbying the education system to better deal with bullying. Local musician Terry Rielly was also on hand to sing two new songs, one that he initially wrote for Pride Week, and one specifically for this occasion.

ISCANS News

Greetings to all those near and far! As I am sure everyone is busy this holiday season, so are the members of ISCANS. We have some amazing stuff coming up, like our annual Coronation Ball being held the first weekend in February. This year we are also host to the International Court System Parliament meeting as well—the first meeting of the ICS Parliament to take place in Canada.

We also have our annual awards show, The Rainbow Community Awards, being held on January 20th, 2012 at 8pm, at the Best Western Chocolate Lake Hotel. Every year ISCANS honours those in our community for their involvement in different aspects from, youth, entertainment, to even lifetime achievement. This year ISCANS is honoured to be awarding your very own Wayves guy, Dan MacKay with our Lifetime Achievement award. Hip Hip Hooray!

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Fridays: Feb 3, Mar 2, Apr 6: 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: Feb 6, Mar 5, Apr 9; help decide what goes in the next issue, 6:30 PM, at a Place to be announced in Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Feb 12, Mar 11, Apr 15: 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!

So come on out on January 20th and join ISCANS as we honour Dan and all the other recipients of this years' awards. Admittance is only \$10 at the door. From the ISCANS family to yours, have a safe and happy holiday season!

GSA Survey

Are you a youth, an educator, or a parent? Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning or allied? Are you interested in helping to tackle homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia in Canadian schools? If so, we need your help!

We're reaching out to ask if you'd be willing to talk to one of our team members about your experiences. If you're interested in helping, we would arrange a good time for to speak on the phone with you. The phone call will cover topics such as your background, your experience with Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) or safe space clubs, your experience and motivation for visiting the MyGSA.ca site, and ideally would take about 30 minutes.

As a thank you for your participation in this process, we'd be happy to send you a package of MyGSA.ca and Egale Canada resources to help you spread awareness and raise funds for LGBTQ inclusion at your local school.

To sign up for an interview, or for more information, please reply to Helen_kennedy@egale.ca.

The Youth Project



Matthew Ellis is a sixteen year old lover of the arts! Singing is his main passion, but he loves acting, dancing, and many other art forms. He recently had a role as 'Max Detwiler' in Prince Andrew High School's presentation of "The Sound Of Music." He credits his courage to get up on the stage and courage to be himself to the Youth Project. Matthew has been attending the Halifax Youth Project since he was 14.

He says of the Youth Project, "They are the most important thing in my life. I couldn't live without them. I would recommend to any LGBT youth to go to the youth project, because it's a place where you can fit in, meet people like you, and realize you're never alone."

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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P.O. Box 34090, Scotia Square
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Happy New Year, Tom!

Did you do anything special for New Year's Eve, some kind of Saskatchewan, prairie tradition like firing rifles into the night sky at midnight, or knocking back some local hooch while chowing down on gopher drumsticks? Okay, I know that is probably stereotyping and perhaps even offensive—especially since I've never been to Saskatchewan, although I did fly over it once—but if I can't insult an old friend it would just take the joy out of my life.

My New Year's Eve was very quiet, by choice. I spend so much of my work time around hordes of people that my alone time is quite precious to me. So I opened a bottle of champers and a can of smoked oysters, hacked some slices of no-name cheddar off the block, slid the cheese and shellfish onto some basil and olive oil crackers and slurped and munched my way into 2012 while watching silly end-of-year things on TV.

As for resolutions, my only one is to spend less time watching and listening to the news! On my commute to work I used to listen to what B. calls Inflammation Morning on CBC Radio. One day I realized that by the time I got to work I was so irritated, depressed and filled with a sense of dread and hopelessness that it was like a huge, dark cloud was hanging over me. Most irritating of all is the cheerfully delivered notion that the radio station, and by extension the semi-somnolent public, would like to hear the listeners views and opinions on the latest "news" topics. No! No, we would not like to have to endure the poorly considered attitudes of the misinformed, the poorly educated and the socially backward. Under the guise of democracy and free speech we give a platform from which callers can voice their opinions on whether or not there are cougars in Nova Scotia (the feline animal, Tom, not the sexually hungry women of a certain age). The cougar topic ran for days and days and brought forward such scientifically sound data as, "I seen one once and you can't tell me I didn't." Everyone has become an expert. Just as when you go to a flea market, everyone has suddenly become an antiques dealer. And as for experts—Says who? We meekly listen as our "national affairs commentator" or "financial expert" or "legal/political/food maven" puts forth their expert opinion while not a single soul ever asks where is the proof this so-called expertise? And at every election broadcast we see the same worn out group of haggard individuals assembled as a political panel, ostensibly to offer their insights into a political system that they all grew bored with decades ago. Self-appointed experts! It would be fascinating to go back and see how

many expert opinions, predictions and political prognostications actually came to pass. I would guess the percentage would be somewhat lower than the opinions offered on talk-back lines on radio about whether Christmas creep is a significant economic factor or whether cell phone towers cause gerbils to become hyperactive.

Don't get me wrong, Tom. I love CBC and I will fight tooth and nail to keep the Harperites from getting rid of it. I just choose to listen to Radio Two now, where cheerful voices tell me interesting things about musical selections—many of them from our era, Tom—so that I feel soothed and happy and calm as I drive to work. No harsh realities for me at 7:30 in the morning or manufactured news items about social trends or the latest in communication technology.

Ah, but maybe I'm just becoming a curmudgeon because I'm still fighting off the remnants of a cold that started weeks ago and it's made me cynical (ok, more cynical) about our ability to save the planet or help starving children or balance my cheque book.

SEX. I know you will probably only have skimmed over the preceding paragraphs so I thought I'd better present a word marker to get your attention back. I've met a younger man—30's—who is interested in exploring his non-heterosexual inclinations. He's good looking, has a great sense of humour, agrees with me totally about the radio and news—so obviously very bright—and has a wonderful enthusiasm for his pursuit of sexual experience. He also fills out his jeans very nicely—so nicely it was about two weeks before I noticed his eye colour. It is so gratifying to be able to pass along some of the knowledge and—dare I say it?—oral traditions of our generation to those that come after us, isn't it, Tom? Not that the relationship is just that of teacher and pupil, Tom. We've become... well, if not friends, then at least friendly, and he brings his life experience to meld with mine and so we create a very satisfying temporary partnership—at least in my opinion. As I said before, not all opinions are equal, but I think I can back mine up with some good hard data.

Love ya!



Rainbow Refugees Nova Scotia: Important Next Steps

by Hugo Dann

In the days leading up to our planned November workshop on LGBTQ refugees & Private Sponsorship, RRNS organizers had been updating our information, making new contacts, and keeping one nervous eye on the weather. Sure enough, November 23 dawned with wet snow streaking down in typical East Coast weather. With some attendees driving in from as far away as the Valley, and with the storm expected to be at its peak just as our guests would have been heading home, we had no choice but to cancel. Fortunately, that cancellation proved to be a blessing in disguise.

The Federal government, which is responsible for all refugee/asylum applications to Canada, is going through a massive overhaul of its programs, guidelines, and regulations. This is affecting private refugee sponsorship, including Groups of 5, the type of sponsorship that RRNS had been focusing on. The Harper Government is still sticking to its commitment to contribute \$1,000 towards groups engaging in sponsoring LGBTQ refugees, but those groups must work with an official Sponsorship Agreement Holder. We know, it's complicated—surprise, surprise! We won't even try to explain it here. However, RRNS may have some very good news about this to announce at our next meeting.

Canceling November's workshop gave us a chance to discuss Ottawa's changing policies and how these developments might affect future actions by LGBTQ Nova Scotians in sponsoring refugees to come here. We have also made some potentially rich connections with some local federal politicians and with OUTlaw, the LGBTQ students' organization at Dalhousie's Schulich School of Law. We decided that rather than simply reschedule the workshop, which was geared specifically to those interested in Group of 5 sponsorships, it was more important to take what we had learned back to the community, engage our newly interested parties, and consider taking the necessary steps to constituting a more formal organization dedicated to fostering awareness and serving as resource for all Nova Scotians interested in LGBTQ refugee and asylum issues, whether that is a political or social interest, or actually sponsoring LGBTQ refugees to resettle in Atlantic Canada.

Prior to that meeting, we'd like to take the chance to address some concerns that have been raised with us about LGBT refugees. Some people

wonder how the government determines if a refugee really is LGBTQ. Is there a risk that sponsors could end up being taken advantage of? Of course nothing in life is 100% risk free, however most people who work with refugees will confirm that while fraud may exist, it is very, very rare. Virtually all sponsored refugees arriving in Canada have already been given refugee status by the Canadian government. That means they have fled their native country to another country that will grant them temporary asylum, and where they then make an application to come to Canada. Again, nearly all LGBTQ refugees who are privately sponsored have also been accepted as refugees by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Whether they are Iranians who have fled for their lives to Turkey, or Ugandans waiting it out in Kenya, the Canadian consulate or embassy in that host country then requires they go through the whole process all over again. By the time a sponsored refugee arrives in Canada, they have likely already been vetted and approved at least three times. Canadian officials have shown themselves as far more likely to exclude people because they "don't seem gay enough." Refugees from Africa have been asked if they know when Gay Pride Week takes place. The more LGBTQ Canadians are involved at every stage in this process, the less likely it is that genuinely LGBTQ refugee claimants will be turned away, or deported to countries where they are genuinely in peril for being Gay, Lesbian, Bi, or Trans.

Another question that's come up is impossible to answer. Will the LGBTQ community in Nova Scotia really get behind this? We can't say. All we can do is present the community with the facts and offer some tangible opportunities to make a difference. As one person said at our first meeting, "You mean for a thousand bucks I can save a life? That's a no-brainer. Count me in!"

Wayves goes to press before we can announce details of when and where that meeting will take place, however we are looking at a Sunday afternoon meeting in either late January or early February. We will be updating our Facebook page (Rainbow Refugees NS) as information becomes available, as well as sending out invitations through our email list. If you would like to join this list, please email us at rainbowrefugee.ns@gmail.com.

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Penguins Only Get To Play in Back Stacks

by Jane Kansas

There is more news on the hard-times-for-queer-penguins front. Somebody in the cataloguing department of Halifax Public Library is a homophobe.

And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell (illustrated by Henry Cole) is a sweet picture book for kids, about Roy and Silo, two penguins who live at the Central Park Zoo in New York City. Roy and Silo do everything together. They swim together. Sing to each other. They see other penguin couples building nests; Roy and Silo build their own. They see other couples nursing eggs; Roy and Silo want to do the same. They find an egg-shaped rock and sit on that. The zookeeper sees Roy and Silo in their cold vigil; he gives an orphaned penguin egg to Roy and Silo. I don't want to give away the end, but the title is a bit of a spoiler. The cataloging information inside *And Tango Makes Three* is clear. It says the book is fiction; yet the HPL has chosen to shelve its nine copies not in the busy picture book section, but in the relative back waters of 598.47 R523t. Probably you will never find it by chance. Every other library system in Atlantic Canada: New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland, files *And Tango Makes Three* under juvenile picture books. As do Toronto, Ottawa and New York City. The Halifax Regional Library does not.

Hannah Colville is the Youth Services Librarian at the Halifax North branch of HPL. She says in an email, "*And Tango Makes Three* is a tricky title because it has a fictional quality with just a few little details that remind us it is a true story (mainly the author's note at the end of the story). But it could be catalogued either way—in fiction or non-fiction. In HPL it has been catalogued under non fiction under the Birds section, but it could just as easily sit with fiction, in my mind, given that the pur-

pose of the book is really to tell a story about family, and not necessarily to inform us about birds. But this is getting into questions of interpretation. It is probably true that the book is less likely to circulate in the non-fiction area. Generally, the fiction picture books are browsed more often."

Cynthia Gatto is the Children's Resource Manager for HPL. She writes in an email, "This book was published and purchased by our library in 2005, and I was unable to contact the cataloguer who made the decision. However, since the author's note at the back of the book states 'All of the events in this story are true', I can assume that she made the judgement call to put it in preschool non-fiction instead of fiction. While it does read as a story, the book is written in descriptive style. The author does not anthropomorphize the animals, for instance, telling us what they thought or felt, but merely described what happened, much as a journalist might do. It is simply written in a level that young children would understand and in a way that they would enjoy listening to. The title has circulated very well in its spot on the shelf, and of course is accessible by searching the title, author or subject in our catalogue, so it is easy to find."

Gatto has a point. If you are familiar with the Dewey Decimal System, or computer savvy enough to search at a computer terminal AND you already know the title or author of a book, you can find it. In that sense, all library books are equally accessible. But what if you're browsing? What if your three-year-old child doesn't use the library computer terminal? Doesn't know the title or author? What then?

Then you are one of the many parents who plop down in front of the picture book shelves with a delighted and energized child, excitedly choose books to take home, march to the

check-out desk, both of you with your arms loaded with the magic of stories and reading. But you will never find *And Tango Makes Three*.

You will, however, have found myriad other books, sitting on the picture book shelves, which are based on true stories. *Yoshiko and the For-eigner*, by Mimi Otey Little. *The True Story of Trapper Jack's Left Big Toe* by Ian Wallace. On and on.

The Halifax library system is known for its anti-censorship stand. Reading Out Loud, the Pride Week event where queers read from their favourite works, has been hosted by the Halifax Library for something like ten years, always with grace and warm welcome.

Yet, HPL has been able to pass judgement on Tango without seeming to censor it.

Exiling *And Tango Makes Three* to the boonies could be an isolated error. Could be, except, don't go looking for *Heather Has Two Mommies* in picture books either. Where do Ottawa, Toronto, New Brunswick, PEI and New York file *Heather Has Two Mommies*? In the picture book section. Halifax does not file that engaging sweet story by Leslea Newman and Diana Souza under J FIC NEW. In Halifax, *Heather Has Two Mommies* is hidden back in 306.8743 N553h.

Somebody in the cataloguing department of HPL is a homophobe.

Wayves — January/February 2012 — 5

No Penguin Paradise

by Gerard Veldhoven

Word from a Toronto zoo is that a Penguin male couple has to be separated so that they will mate with females to prevent extinction of that particular species. According to the zoo's curator, the penguins are not gay, but just decided to be buddies. It is strange how Tom Mason knows so much about Pedro and Buddy's sexual orientation. He insists it's not the way it looks—a truly amazing statement, unless he is the first human to have a heart to heart conversation with two love birds. He says the male penguins are just waiting for a chance to be paired with females. Apparently Pedro produced some offspring. Mr. Mason seems to indicate that Pedro cannot possibly be queer as the proof exists he was able to make babies. Well, guess what? So did I, and I assure you I am as queer as any person that may, or may not, have produced offspring.

Mason says, "Penguins are so social that they need that company." So, he feels strongly that the animal world, as we know it, is no place for queer birds or any other species. The fact Pedro produced offspring is hardly a reason to suspect he is straight. Pedro and Buddy are being separated and forced to have sex with members of the opposite sex. What happened to free choice and rights for all? Do we simply turn a blind eye to the animal world and deny them the same rights we enjoy? Some will no doubt disagree and feel that other species on earth are not similar to us. Guess what, we are all sexual beings and to deny these two penguins, or any other being, straight or queer, the right to express their true feelings is discriminatory and homophobic. This very action by the zoo administration is unjust and unfair. Why not show other species the same respect as all others? Perhaps if more stories such

as the fate of Pedro and Buddy come into vogue, this type of discrimination will be a thing of the past and queer species can live their lives as they are meant to be lived.

I can only imagine the furor if this was the case with queer human beings. We must wake up to the fact that our other animal friends have the same needs and rights as others, regardless of sexual orientation. The planned separation of Pedro and Buddy is cruel. African Penguins are on the endangered species list, but that does not mean queer penguins should be separated and be responsible for reproduction. Who has the right to act irresponsibly and judge whether any two beings in love must be separated? I also question the reason for two African Penguins making their home in a zoo in the first place. Should they not be in their own surroundings if they are becoming extinct? Pedro and Buddy are being punished for who they are, and I believe this act to be a pure incident of homophobia. Perhaps zoo officials are worried that Pedro and Buddy may display a bit of affection and that would be dead wrong in Mr. Mason's mind because these two are a same-sex couple. If was only Pedro and Margarita, then it would not become a world news item. One may only hope this attention will save a love affair from falling apart. How sad.

This news item just in regarding Pedro and Buddy. Zoo officials keep insisting this couple is not a same-sex couple as Pedro has mated with a female. Apparently Buddy is not so anxious. I wonder if there is a problem. Before any new same-sex couples arrive at the zoo I suggest the staff be thoroughly briefed regarding the existence of queer birds, or any other species.

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The Sanctuary Garden

by Bethana Sullivan

Post Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Kwanza, and New Year (my apologies for what may not be here). What does this new year mean for you? What plans, goals, surprises, birthdays, protests, moves, give-aways or any other life event are you preparing for? Isn't this the time to look back and look forward? From Roman mythology and religion we have Janus, the god of beginnings and endings, of doors and gateways. Roman mythology also gives us Cardea, goddess of thresholds. This month of January carries such significance for us. The time of celebration of giving and receiving, of storytelling and passages is over. The time of observation, contemplation, of looking back and looking forward is the now time. It is standing at the threshold, one foot behind, one foot forward, open to learning and understanding through the mistakes and successes of the past, and letting go into the future.

Thaliatook.com says Cardea's name comes from the Latin word cardo, which means hinge, and which also encompasses the wider symbolism of the pole or axis around which the earth spins. She is therefore a Goddess of the Center as well as the change that emanates out from that center.

To open to what the future holds, to where you need to be, starts with taking that first step from the past to the threshold, wherever that threshold is your life. Feeling your feet planted firmly on the threshold, breathe soft and slow into your center.

As I stand on the threshold, breathing into my center I reflect on the 99% movement, the suddenness of it, the joy of it, the power of it, the anger of it, the fear of it, and how it moved so many to actual participation, both for and against. I remember how many stood up and told their stories, reminding me of the consciousness raising groups of Hoagie Carmichael and the 1960s and early 70s. What is most meaningful for me is the strength of the movement and how it calls to many of all types to come forward. It recalls the non-violence protests of Gandhi and King; the organizing skills of the anti-war and feminist movements; the environmental concerns and practices of permaculture; the consensus-building and power-sharing ideals of the new paradigm. After the abuses and misuses of the 1980s and 90s and into the new millennium when I had friends who, like others, were despairing and fearful, planning for how to survive the fall that was to come, this was

a breath of fresh air. It was palpable, this mix of fear and hope—would this, could this, be different?

Standing at the threshold, I am aware of a change happening, one that is not driven by the movers and shakers, the lawmakers or educators. It is a shift to the one story, the one person coming together with diverse and similar others to call for justice and equality—be it human rights, civil rights, sexual freedom, gender equality, or distribution of wealth. It is big and focused and it carries a much needed hope. It is not new and it is being renewed, a movement that fits for today.

Prior to the 99% were all the protests of the middle east. The link below will take you to "The Path of Protest," an interactive website from the Guardian that provides the background to the Occupy movement. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2011/mar/22/middle-east-protest-interactive-timeline>.

In an article titled "Occupy's new grammar of political disobedience," Bernard Harcourt, (guardian.co.uk) writes: "What is striking—and successful—about this leaderless protest is how it resists the meanings outsiders try to impose on it." Resistance begins with making our own meaning!

Can you imagine how frustrating that must be for those who want to control and/or dismantle this movement? And isn't it a "times are a-changing" moment!

The significance of all this is to this time is to stand on your threshold and imagine into the future what meaning you need/I need/we need to create. Because this is a time of moving forward Buber's time of the I-Thou relationship into the I-We. Often in business the expression 'there is no I in Team' is used to subvert the individual into the group think, meaning what is best for the business. The 99% are envisioning and saying No to this.

As in any time of change, no matter how good or hopeful it might be, there is opposition, there are attempts at suppression, there are acts of harm. Be aware and protect, build resilience, and know when, as the goddess Cardea does, to shut the door on evil.




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PFLAG Party

continued from page 1

in his red sweater and a magnificent earpiece, which he says makes it just a little easier for him to hear.

The traditional part of the evening unfolded as it always does, with stories and sharing that were moving, funny, dramatic, ordinary, earth-shattering and everything else in between. The oldest member present was about 84, and the youngest perhaps 18. The words which broke silences were memorable ones. It was a pinch-myself-is-this-for-real? meeting for me—definitely PFLAG at its very best.

The break came a little earlier than usual. We could all see the gorgeous birthday cake out of the corners of our eyes. Everyone tried to limit their conversations to ten minutes, to load up their plates with goodies and cake, and to come back to the circle.

I looked across the room once and noticed that Eldon was dancing with twins. Good heavens! What next? Somehow we were all back in the circle in about 20 minutes, and then it started: the party for Eldon. The celebration of the spirit and deeds of this fine man who has dedicated so much of his life to LGBTT2IQQ persons.

There were songs, poems, stories and heart-rending moments when members who have been touched by Eldon shared their stories. Person after person stepped into the circle and simply stood, revealed before everyone, and told their story about how Eldon had helped them.

Through the words of others, Eldon emerged as a man who was never too busy to reach out to give a hand to someone in need. He helped people to see themselves with fresh eyes as persons who had worth, who were good, and who were important in the world. He had helped many to have courage, to hold their heads high, and to become strong leaders in our community. It was an hour and

a half of sharing laced with laughter, tears, irreverence and love.

No one wanted to leave and it was not until 10:15 that I turned the key in the church door lock and helped everyone to carry out the remains of the party to our cars. But all of those who were able to make it (like the car-full of Mount Allison University students, already on vacation, who drove up from the south shore of NS especially for the party) will never forget what happened here on December 19, 2011.

From the citation given in 2003 at Eldon Hay's investiture as a Member of the Order of Canada:

"With intelligence, integrity and compassion, this human rights activist has championed a more tolerant, inclusive society. Professor Emeritus of religion at Mount Allison University and a United Church minister, Eldon Hay has provided determined leadership to PFLAG, a support group for parents, families and friends of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons. The first president of PFLAG Canada, he also leads local chapters in Atlantic Canada, where he is highly respected for his thoughtful perspective on human sexuality. A pillar of his community, he has made a lasting impression on the lives of his students, parishioners and the community at large."



A poster seen at World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day

continued from page 1

with a mixture of sadness, anger, and humour: "I'm really shy. Except when it comes to tearing a strip off a government official!" Eric's talk again focussed on stopping living—because in the eighties, you were probably not going to live for more than a year or two. "You didn't have much life ahead of you," Eric says, "It was difficult learning to live again." Everyone also learned to make new family members, to bond with friends or strangers, as you took care of them because their family wouldn't. "In the early 80s you could not do anything without encountering discrimination. And now, we have a new challenge: long term care, living in an old folks' home, being HIV positive there, these are new issues."

El Jones' spoken word piece Boxes was an encyclopedic exploration of the issues related to the spread of HIV in the African Canadian community.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr Bob Frederickson, who was often the first, and often the last, point of contact with the medical community for many persons with AIDS in the 1980s and '90s. Bob reminded us that we should be exhilarated that we have this topic—aging with AIDS—to talk about.

"While we're recognizing the 30th anniversary of the publishing of the first description of a gay-related disease—a number of patients with pneumonia and a rare skin cancer—it wasn't until a couple of years later that we had a death in Nova Scotia. Since then we have dealt with fear and discrimination from government, insurance companies, and even funeral directors; we saw people denied insurance because their HIV test came back negative! We have survived hatred and scorn."

Dr. Bob reminded us of another thing that is thankfully gone: viatical settlement for AIDS patients—that is, the practice of selling insurance policies to investors, in return for some fraction of that. The sooner you died, the more money they made. Luckily,



A poster seen at World AIDS Day.

a lot of these investors lost a lot of money on those.

"We are now seeing increased HIV in aging and the youth," said Frederickson. "Twenty years ago we saw AIDS in the media almost every day, presented as a swiftly delivered life sentence. But now it is seen as a treatable chronic disease and is no longer in our faces. In the US, 22% of new HIV diagnoses are from black men who have sex with men."

"What else is new? We have long term survivor guilt from both the positive and negative survivors. We have financial difficulties resulting from people being away from their

jobs during the time when they would be advancing in seniority and pay; we have people who have not been able to work for a significant part of their life and now have very little CPP to live on at retirement age."

"Local nursing homes may be open to LGBT folk, but they have no idea of how many they have," he said. "Maybe we need a drag show at Northwood!" Also, because of sexual attitudes that changed in the late 1960s when these people were young, and Viagra, sexual behaviour among elders is increasing. "When you go into a nursing home, they just put your genitals on the shelf."

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Dating in Transition

by Lucy Wallace

As anyone who has ever gone on a date can tell you, it is not always roses and chocolates. Sometimes it leaves you flustered, frazzled and fumbling for some semblance of that calm and collected look. I'm the stereotypical slutty girl who lacks any of that. I blush way too much, laugh at all of the inappropriate moments and I am usually quite sick to my stomach before I set foot out of my door. Not just because this date could potentially lead to another (or even something far more serious like a husband), but because... I am not your average girl.

Looking at my photos many people can't discern a biological woman from myself. Therefore I can say I pass quite successfully. Once I set foot in the real world, the aid of angles, lighting and makeup disappears and I am left with my truth. I was born male and I have a long way to go before society considers me entirely female.

So far, searching for a soul mate at seventeen has led me down a perilous path strewn with rubbish and potential dangers. I've encountered people who merely wish to use my body to fulfill their fantasies derived from pornography. I've been on dates that have gone terribly and I've managed to make many ever so awkward. I have been stood up three, no wait, four times. (I sometimes lose track.) Oh, and I have been led on by many men who wish to find pleasure in mocking my loneliness. All of these have wound me up in tears, swearing I would never date again. Guess what? I realized that I am not what other people say I am. Regardless of the stigmas about transwomen people project onto us, I choose to ignore them and move on knowing that in the future it gets better.

Dating without the discussion of sex is unavoidable. Some people are drawn to me because of the sole reason that I have a penis. Others just don't really seem to be interested once they find out about my genetic defect. I'd like to think one part of your body doesn't define your entirety. In the dating world, facades are everything when you're seventeen. People seldom delve deeper than what is visible so as to avoid ridicule from peers or family. It all seems to be about how you look

on the outside, not how the other person makes you feel on the inside. Primal sexual urges abound. Love is secondary it seems when you are bent on fulfilling hormonal cravings.

Luckily for myself, I have recently started dating someone spectacular. After a string of absolutely wretched dating incidents, I've finally met a boy who I can honestly say treats me like a princess. He is everything I could ever expect or ask for in a partner; funny, adorable, kind, honest and loyal. I would be lying if I said I ever thought I'd find someone to love me for the person I am. I can definitely say that I have found someone truly amazing.

Maybe dating isn't entirely terrible. If it leads you where I currently am, maybe it is worth the tears, the stress and self-doubt. It really shouldn't deter you if it is rough at first. In the end, you will meet someone who makes the pain dissipate and fade. It really does get better.



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NSRAP Report

Name Change Rules Will Impact Trans People

by Kevin Kindred

How many times will government ask us to sacrifice our basic human dignity for the sake of increased security? That was the theme of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project's submissions to the Nova Scotia government on Bill 81 when we appeared at Law Amendments on November 28.

Bill 81 has attracted the attention of many transgendered Nova Scotians. This new law would require a fingerprint check before any citizen could legally change their name. The government's goal is to make sure that people can't escape their criminal records through a name change. But since a name change is a major part of any gender transition, the trans community would be particularly impacted.

A Law Amendments Committee hearing happens once a Bill has received basic approval from the House of Assembly. The hearing gives citizens a chance to give input about the proposed law. Politicians can then decide to suggest amendments to the law, support it as is, or oppose it.

NSRAP urged MLAs to oppose the Bill, questioning whether it was an overreaction to a relatively small security problem. We emphasized that no other law-abiding citizen is forced to provide fingerprints unless they are under arrest; trans people would be treated like criminals under the new process. We also flagged concerns about the privacy protections in the draft Bill and the need for any officials to be trained on the unique needs of the trans community. Two other excellent presentations drove these points home and suggested less intrusive options.

It's worth noting that, in spite of a little bit of partisan bickering between some MLAs, all the presentations were received with respect. Liberal MLAs Kelly Reagan and Michel Samson and NDP MLA Leonard Preyra were particularly interested in engaging with the speakers from

our community.

Ultimately, this Bill proceeded back to the House for a vote and, as of the time of writing, seems likely to pass without changes. That's certainly disappointing to us.

It would be tempting to see this as a defeat. However, there are small victories to keep in mind as well.

First and foremost, we laid the groundwork. There will be another chance to argue for exceptions to the new Bill and the government now knows the importance of consulting trans activists during that process.

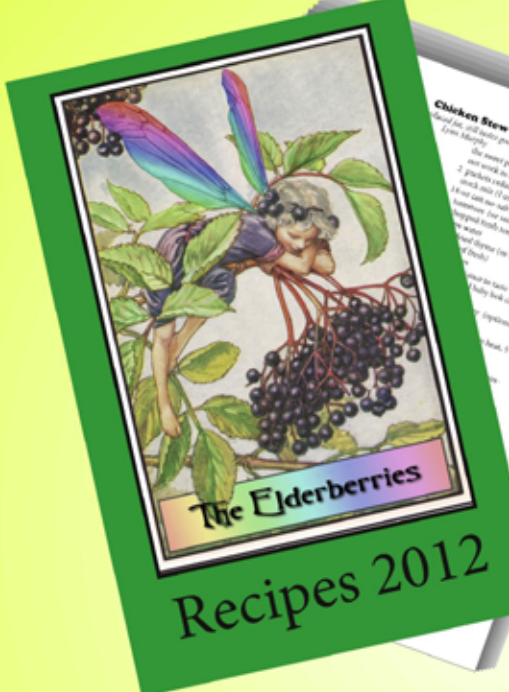
Second, several politicians pointed out that at least one part of the Bill will benefit trans Nova Scotians by lowering the requirement for publication of a name change. This shows some respect for the privacy trans people deserve in the transition process.

Third, several media outlets reported the concerns raised by the trans community. Such visibility is important to making progress for the community. Any time our voices are heard in the media, we increase awareness of trans issues.

Finally, we reiterated that trans Nova Scotians are a vulnerable group who face discrimination and possible violence. MLAs from all parties heard more about trans rights than ever before. This is an important step toward future changes, like human rights protections and funding of trans-related medical procedures.

NSRAP hopes there will be future opportunities to lessen the impact of the new name change rules on trans people. However, the simple fact that the trans community rallied around this issue and made its views known is a sign of progress. We're hopeful it will translate into bigger and better reforms down the road.

Kevin Kindred is a long-standing member of the NSRAP board and activist.



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

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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!)

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

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays: Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for 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, Âi please call) at 7:30-9:30pm, University of Moncton, Adrien-J.-Cormier Bldg., Room 302

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

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

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

Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

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

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

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

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBTQT2IQQ 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: aidsj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids saintjohn.com

Gay Men, Âos Supper Club: web: 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 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

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 „AûE News.Âu. 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.mccreath@yahoo.com (meeting times can be flexible to accommodate new runners.)

St. John's

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

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

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

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: stjohnsnl@pflagcanada.ca 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-registered non-profit Pride company for St. John's email: stjohnspride@yahoo.ca web: www.stjohnspride.org

Nova Scotia (902)

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

gram@HepatitisOutreach.com.

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

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

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

Amherst

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

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: menembracingmen@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@NS-SexualHealth.ca web: www.theShAC.org (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead.) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

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 muf=ÿfins before church to take into this service. 11 am service: Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. During the summer months, we have one 10 am service but occasionally during the year we change our service times for special occasions, so please call to confirm service times) 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-womynof-halifax/ (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.ca web: www.dalout.ca, meets 2nd Thursday, and 4th Thursday (from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.) at the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave., Room 321)

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

Gay 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, Counsellor, 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: hal-gal@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.integrity-canada.org, meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at All Saints Cathedral

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning „Acommunity.Âo. 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

Groups & Services continued

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. prideHealth- improving safe access to health care. 220.0643

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

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

Spirituality For Lesbians: We seek to deepen our relationship with God, know-

ing 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 GLBT-TQQI friendly organization. 695-3366 email: pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com web: www.pictoucountysexualhealth.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/2241849495>

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: sydneys@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. No meetings for June, July or August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

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

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

Tatamagouche

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

Truro

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

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

Hepatitis C Aware: a project of Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) working to educate members of the communities in Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants and Pictou counties on Hepatitis C. 1-866-940-AIDS email: nacs@eastlink.ca

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, diannefcc@eastlink.ca web: SWNovaPride.com (Check out our 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-pei-owner@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei at All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it’s an open list.

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

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

Charlottetown

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

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



WHERE HALIFAX MEN CRUISE

Free Full-Access With This Code: WANS



www.squirt.org

Halifax Cruising Listings • Live Webcam IM & Group Cam Chat • Halifax Profiles • XXX Pics & Member Videos • Try Squirt Mobile!

Lay Chaplaincy Services

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

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

weddings ♦ memorials ♦ child dedications ♦ other rites of passage

SEA DOG'S SAUNA & SPA

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Summer is for Sissies

In the summer of 2009 trrrrash productions produced a one night only showing of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at the Paragon theatre (formerly the Marquee) and sold it out. This year trrrrash is hoping for a repeat of its first success, only with a new original rock musical that they are calling on the internet to help them write.

Ian Mullan started writing *Sissydude* after frequenting a blog of the same name. John Webster is a Toronto artist who runs the Sissydude blog as part erotica and part art. This modern dandy has a unique style that's an equal mix of peewee's playhouse and John Waters that seemed ready for a staged imagining. "It's not about him, but the character of Jamie in the show would be delighted to meet him" Ian stated, and clarified, "as I wrote the show I always had the title *Sissydude* on the draft just to remind me the mood I was going for, but as I got farther into the process I found it more difficult to divorce myself from the name. It got to the point that I ended up contacting John Webster and asking if I could use *Sissydude* as the show's title." He agreed to it, and so the show had its name.

At this point Ian found himself in a predicament: the show's content was coming together, but he had always imagined it as a campy rock musical and Ian doesn't write music. "I had this idea that the show would be a musical where the characters perform music that's non-traditional musical content (Pop, Rock, Punk) but I had no idea how that was going to happen." Then, completely by chance, he received a message from local music producer Adrian Bruhm. Bruhm had just produced a run of *The Rocky Horror Show* at Reflections with his girlfriend, Sam Horak, who was inter-



Top to bottom: Jason Vautour, Ian Mullan, Sam Horak, and Adrian Bruhm. Photo by Timothy Richard Photography.

ested in doing other similar projects. It seemed like everything was just falling into place. "Suddenly I had two more passionate people on board; Adrian helps run \$Rockin 4 Dollar\$ every Monday and is well-connected to the local music scene, and Sam is a Dalhousie theatre student whose enthusiasm is infectious." The talent and skills the show needed to get off the ground were there.

But *Sissydude: a Dandy Rock Musical* was going to need more than just local support. "The show's concept began online, and so we were eager to see if we could continue that path."

Taking a page from other online collaborations, trrrrash has posted the script on their website (trrrrash.com) and anyone can read the most recent draft and engage in discussion. Most importantly, anyone can submit a song to the show. "We are looking for all styles. Adrian is working on a few songs for the show, but we're well-aware that a good rock musical is not all one style. The show needs input from other artists to make it the best it can possibly be." Already, Jason Vautour, who has worked with Rebekah Higgs and Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees among other local musicians, has come on board to help the process.

People visiting the website are urged to set dialogue to music, or write songs based on what they read, to either further the plot or say something about the characters. "Nothing that's been written is set in stone. We will edit the show to have a song replace dialogue or work with the song-writer to alter lyrics to make the song fit if we like what we hear." People submitting music are asked to either send in an mp3 or forward the link to a youtube video. "Although the final product will get the rock-band treatment, we're aware that can't always be managed from the confines of your bedroom. Also, this is for everyone. Maybe you don't write music but you know someone who does who lives in Saskatchewan, or Delaware, or Moscow. The internet doesn't have fences. When we say we're collaborating with the internet, we mean it."

People interested in *Sissydude: a Dandy Rock Musical* can visit trrrrash.com for more details and to read the script as it develops or get in touch with the trrrrash team.

Where Are All the Queers?

by Shaun Bertone

An article by Lucie Lawless in the Nov. 23, 2011 Brunswickan (UNB's student newspaper), asks the one question about the gay community in Fredericton that everyone asks: "Where are all the Gays?"

Some choice quotes:

On gay friendly Fredericton: "Fredericton may arguably be the most gay-friendly city in New Brunswick, but that's like telling your parents that you failed the least in your class."

On Boom Nightclub as the only place in town where you can find gay people: "Once you get through the glitter and the ecstasy high of the average Boom-goer, there tends not to be a lot there."

On the lack of gay visibility in Fredericton: "Where are the drag queens for Chrissakes?"

On Fredericton Pride: "We as a community should take time to be proud more than one day or week a year."

All of these are valid points that have been made by just about every gay person who has come from elsewhere to live here. It's been much publicized that Fredericton ranks at the top for cities in North America with the highest number of gay people per capita. (There's even a beer marketed to the gay community in Fredericton called "Per Capita.") Correction: Fredericton has the highest number of *closeted* gay people per capita in North America.

Besides being excessively closeted, there is no visible gay culture in Fredericton. Yes, there are lots of gay people here, but there is no gay culture and no gay visibility on the streets of our quaint town. The only place where you can find anything that laughably passes as 'gay culture' is at the one alternative lifestyles bar. Purple Night anyone?

Why is it so critical for the gay community to have a gay culture? Because without a distinct gay culture, there is virtually no difference between gay and straight people worth talking about. That's why when you walk down King and Queen Streets in Fredericton, you don't see any gay people—because they look and act just like heterosexuals. And the straights that run this town are a particularly prudish and uptight bunch. On the other hand, Fredericton also has one of the largest populations of artists per capita. I've heard from many artists in town, "What's wrong with the gay community here?" Artists from elsewhere connect gay people with a diverse, creative, visible queer culture. They don't understand why gay people in Fredericton are so closeted, straight-acting, and so afraid to be different. For their part, closeted gays in Fredericton have rejected the notion that they are different and abandoned any connection with a gay culture that really makes them different.

But there is one more point to make. Don't confuse being "out" with being "queer." Plenty of gay people in Fredericton are "out," but the lifestyle and personal demeanour they espouse looks in every detail exactly like their straight counterparts. You simply can't tell them apart. Why? Because there's a difference between being 'out' and being 'queer.' The real question to ask is "Where are all the Queers?" Queer is that visible gay culture that you are looking for on the street when you are looking for 'gay' people. Drag queens are queer, dykes who dress in mohawks, leather and piercings are queer, bois who pack and wear ties are queer, gay men who are flamingly femme or brashly bearish are queer. They are not interested in fitting into the heterosexual norm that prevails in this town. In fact, they quite enjoy being flamboyantly, flagrantly queer, talking, walking and acting queer. They know their queer history and culture, and quite frequently, they are the creators and promoters of queer culture. It's the queer element that's missing from Fredericton which makes one beg the question, "Where are all the Gays?"

baby-arm, boomstick, burrito, candle, choad, cum gun, deep-V diver, dick, drum stick, dude piston, dragon, eggroll, Easy Rider, flesh flute, fuck rod, fudgesickle, groin ferret, hog, jackhammer, John Thomas, joystick, knob, lingam, little Elvis, love muscle, lovestick, luigi, meat stick, mutton, old boy, one-eyed wonder weasel, pecker, Pedro, peter, Pig skin bus, pink torpedo, plug, poinswatter, princess sophia, private eye, purple-headed yogurt flinger, schlong, schnitzel, skin flute, Tallywhacker, thundersword, tinker, trouser snake, vein, wanger, whoopie stick, Wiener Schnitzel, wick, yogurt gun. **Let's talk cock.**

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