

Wayves

Trans Rights Being Fast Tracked In NS

by Chris Aucoin

Transgender Nova Scotians' right to equality and fairness will be made clear with proposed amendments to the provincial Human Rights Act. The amendments, tabled on Nov. 20—Trans Day Of Remembrance—by Justice Minister Ross Landry, will add “gender identity” and “gender expression” as protected grounds in the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. The bill is being fast-tracked by the provincial government, with the bill heading to Law Amendments Committee for just one day of public hearings seven days after first being introduced. The speed with which the government is moving on this raises the possibility that it may be passed before the legislature breaks for the holidays.

“For too long, transgender Nova Scotians have faced discrimination, threats, insults and physical violence. This is not acceptable, and we will not tolerate it,” Mr. Landry said at the Legislature press conference. “Making this change is the right thing to do. Transgender Nova Scotians deserve the same legal protection that the rest of us take for granted.”

Under the proposed law amendment, Nova Scotians denied an apartment or job because they are transgender will be able to file a human rights complaint on that basis. Before now they could have filed a complaint based on sex or

disability as a matter of interpretation, but that interpretation isn't carved in stone and could change. As well, without explicit coverage, some transgender people were not even aware that they could file a complaint. To have protection explicitly covered clears up that uncertainty, and also sends out an educational message to each of the transgendered community, and to the public at large, that transgendered persons are valued as equals under the law.

“We know that trans people face harassment and discrimination, and also that fear of such discrimination holds people back from leading full and healthy lives,” said Kevin Kindred, chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project which has been lobbying for the proposed changes. “Affirming that trans discrimination is illegal will go a long way to alleviating that fear.”

NSRAP Treasurer and transgender woman Kate Shewan said people's attitudes toward transgender Nova Scotians are improving, and that the amendments will help. “Transgender people are often worried that a gender transition could lead to rejection by friends or family, or the loss of their job,” said Shewan. “My hope is that this will lead to changes in public attitudes and greater acceptance in society. For a long time we've felt very marginalized and now this makes us feel that we're part of the whole community.”



Transgendered woman Kate Shewan speaks at the press conference to announce a Bill to include gender identity and gender expression in the NS Human Rights Act. Photo by Simon Thibault

To date, only Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories have specific references to gender identity in their human rights legislation. Presently an NDP opposition bill to add gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act has passed second

reading. Federal human rights law prohibits discrimination in areas of federal jurisdiction (this includes the federal government itself and all federally regulated businesses and industries) and provincial human rights law pertains to areas of provincial jurisdiction (just about everything else).

“Cloudburst” Opens December 7th At Park Lane

Halifax filmmaker Thom Fitzgerald's milestone lesbian romance opens commercially in Halifax on December 7th.

Cloudburst stars Oscar winning actresses Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker as an elderly lesbian couple who drive from the U.S. to get legally married in Canada. The film marks the first time two Oscar winning actors have played a same-sex couple onscreen. Since winning the Audience Award for Best Film at its Atlantic Film Festival debut, *Cloudburst* has been a big hit on the worldwide film festival circuit, garnering another 25 Best Picture Awards from such exotic locales as Athens, Atlanta, Barcelona, Hannover, Milan, New Zealand, San Francisco and many more. The crowd-pleasing film took festival prizes from coast to coast across Canada, here in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta



Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker in a scene from *Cloudburst*.

and British Columbia. GLBT and mainstream audiences alike have responded to the film's feisty humour and universal story of an aging romance.

Critics have been full of praise for the new

film, calling *Cloudburst* hilarious and heartfelt, particularly lauding Dukakis's lead performance as a cranky 80 year old butch who fights hard to keep her family together.

Dukakis is an icon in the gay community for her groundbreaking starring role as a transgender woman in the controversial PBS series *Tales of the City*, the mother of a man with AIDS in *The Event*, and camp classics like *Steel Magnolias* and *Moonstruck*. She more recently co-starred in *Away From Her*. Fricker won her Oscar for *My Left Foot*, and has starred in hit films like *A Time to Kill*, *Home Alone 2* and *The Field*. She recently played a supporting role in the gender-bending *Albert Nobbs*. *Cloudburst* also stars Nova Scotian Ryan Doucette as a young hitchhiker that disrupts the lesbian couple's plans.

Fitzgerald is known for his indie features *The Hanging Garden*, *Beefcake*, *The Event*, the HIV/AIDS global pandemic drama *3 Needles*. With *Cloudburst*'s festival success, his films have garnered over a hundred prizes over his fifteen year film career. He recently was bestowed the Portia White Prize, Nova Scotia's highest award for artistic career achievement. Fitzgerald is also known locally for his work in theatre, including the original stage production of *Cloudburst*

which won him a Merritt Award for Best Nova Scotian play of 2010.

Word on the street is that Dukakis and Fricker will both be in Halifax in December so keep a watchful eye for possible live appearances at the cinema.

Fitzgerald Wins Portia White Prize

For second year in a row a gay man has taken what is perhaps Nova Scotia's top arts award. On Oct. 26 filmmaker and playwright Thom Fitzgerald has won the Portia White Prize. The prize, named after the famed African Nova Scotia singer and trailblazer, recognizes cultural and artistic excellence on the part of a Nova Scotian artist who has attained professional status, mastery and recognition in their discipline. The prize includes a \$18,000 prize for the winner, and a \$7,000 protégé prize for a deserving organization or up-and-comer as chosen by the winner. Fitzgerald announced the Atlantic Fringe Festival a recipient of the protégé prize.

“I make movies and theatre, which are art forms that are completely and totally collaborative.” Said Fitzgerald. “I am nothing without many many people and so many people in this room who take my ideas and lift them, enact them and exact them and make them so much better than I could ever do myself.”

Fitzgerald's latest film *Cloudburst* stars Oscar-winning actresses Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker as Stella and Dot, an aging couple who escapes from a nursing home in Maine and drive to Nova Scotia on a quest to be legally married. It has won multiple awards including people's choice at the Atlantic Film Festival.

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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 on line 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. 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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Wayves

P.O. Box 34090, Scotia Square
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3S1
submissions@wayves.ca
www.wayves.ca

Our cover

was designed by Chris Aucoin, with the participation of 188 other people.

Atlantic News

Queer Community Members Receive Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

by Dawn Sloane



Darren Lewis accepts the medal for Raymond Taavel.

On November 13, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia J.J. Grant presented 28 Haligonians with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Several well-known members of Halifax's Queer community were among the recipients including: Kevin Kindred, Allison Brewer, Patricia Doyle-Bedwell, Simon Thwaites, and, posthumously, Raymond Taavel. Raymond's long-time partner, Darren Lewis, accepted Raymond's medal.

The beginning of the ceremonies included the Vice-Regal Salute and National Anthem. Each of the 28 reciprocates were called to the front of the Grand Ballroom of Government House to receive their medal. A brief description of their contribution to our society was read aloud by the Lieutenant Governor's Aide to the friends and family members invited to this prestigious event.

The medal was created to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne. Each Member of Parliament was given 30 medals to present to constituents who have made significant contributions to their communities.

Each recipient accepted their medal, had a brief photo opportunity with the Lieutenant Governor & the Federal Member of Parliament for the area, and then returned to their seats for remarks.

A full list of medal recipients can be found at meganleslie.ndp.ca/post/diamond-jubilee-medal-recipients

Wayves Goes Live Online!

by Wayves Staff

Dear and Gentle Reader: Wayves is extremely pleased to announce a major step of in our publishing history. This July we have launched our new facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Wayves-Magazine/219479941508148), allowing us to communicate with you as Wayves, while keeping the site accessible to you. Readers are still welcome to post articles of interest to our community.

Now we want to introduce you to our new website (www.wayves.ca)! We hope this new publishing venture will enhance the ways in which we as LGBTTIQ Atlantic Canadians communicate with each other. Wayves wants to increase opportunities for us to share our stories, build bridges across provincial, regional, and cultural boundaries, and bring a whole new generation of readers and writers into the Wayves family.

One significant change we'll all be adjusting to meet, readers and contributors alike, is that Wayves will be able post stories and respond to events much more quickly. Essentially, we will be switching from an 11/12-month news cycle, to something much closer to a cycle of 52/52 weeks.

The new site is very much a work in progress. We will continue working on the design and function over the months ahead. We'll be adding new

features and enhancing the way in which we display photographs. We'll be changing menus and tags so you can target your interests, whether they're regional, cultural, political, or reflective of your personal identity within our rainbow community.

We want you to share your ideas and thoughts with us as we continue to make improvements. You are also a part of the process! We're excited about this; we think it has great potential for all of our communities. We hope you like it too, and we thank you for your patience as we continue to work on improvements.

Northern AIDS Connection Society

Colchester Youth PhotoVoice started again for a new year. What is PhotoVoice? PhotoVoice is commonly used in the fields of community development, public health, and education which combine photography with grassroots social action. Youth participants are asked to represent their point of view by taking photographs, discussing them together, developing narratives or titles to go with their photos. Thanks to a Canadian AIDS Foundation grant Northern AIDS Connection Society is able to take the highly successful Colchester Youth PhotoVoice Project as a six week program to Springhill at the Junior and Senior High School and the community of Pictou Landing First Nations. There are many engaged youth at each location and in addition to the creative component of photography youth will be going through learning modules including HIV/AIDS, Hep C, Self-Esteem, Internet Safety, the Hypersexualization of Young Women and topics identified by each group. Also upcoming is the Youth Healthy Decision Making Fair at the Cobquid Education Centre.

Check out our evolving website! www.northernaidconnectionsociety.ca. We would love to have your feedback. Also on the site is a link for 'Message Board'. You can log on and ask questions or post comments we're happy to reply. There is some great dialogue happening don't miss out. Also on our website or through our office we have a NEW Gay Men's Health brochure.

Recently held was the ScotiaBank AIDS Walk for Life. September 23rd in 3 locations: Truro, Amherst and New Glasgow. Teams that raised \$100 or more we gave back 50% to

do AIDS or STI work in the group's area. Such a positive was the increase of youth and more teams in the walks this year. A big thank you to Sobey's for their annual sponsorship of this event and to our board members organizing the walks in their area we couldn't do it without you.

Some of the upcoming events during AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day include displaying the quilt at the Dalhousie - NS Agricultural College campus, the NS Community College, Truro Campus and having a booth at the Truro RBC for the week with staff being at the branch on the 30th pinning ribbons and serving hot apple cider. Again - check us out on Facebook or on our website for more information.

Join local community stakeholders at NACS's upcoming Annual Open House on Monday December 17th, 2012, from 1-4 pm. Everyone is invited to tour our facility, review organizational history and find out about new programming, refreshments will be served.

Feel free to contact our office at any time: 902-895-0931 or nacs@eastlink.ca.

Fêtons... dans la péninsule

by Rénaud Maillet

We, the gays and lesbians living on the Acadian Peninsula, want to thank you for your support and participation to our "Extreme Weekend" held on August 31st, September 1 and 2. We made a profit of \$260 on that weekend, bringing our activities fund to \$661. It will provide the means for future parties, activities, and yes, fun. For those who could not attend the weekend of activities, we hope to see you at our upcoming parties or the next "Extreme Weekend." We have a lot of ideas and plans for our the coming parties which are usually held every last Saturday of each month. A New Year's Eve party, December 31, 2012, will be held instead of the end of month event. The New year's Eve party will start with a traditional dinner at 6:00pm. For \$20.00, the dinner will include: strawberry salad, turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, a surprise dessert and coffee or tea. Holiday season music will be played during the dinner. Tickets for this event will be available at our November 24, 2012 party. You may contact one of our community members to

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The First Ten Years Of Wayves

To help celebrate our transition from paper to web, we've made up a list of the first ten years of contributors to the GAEZETTE, the previous name of Wayves Magazine. To make up this list of names, we scanned The GAEZETTE archives for names. In those days, many articles were signed with initials only, for reasons of anonymity or possibly modesty. There are of course many people who worked on production and distribution whose names never appeared and, for those proud and unnamed few, we salute you. As has been our style in Wayves for the last couple of decades, the names are presented in reverse-first-name order.

Wilson Hodder	Ron McIntyre	Pam Pike	Lynn Murphy	Ken Belanger	James Shedden	GLC	Dan Hart	Brian Doucette
Wayne Thompson	Ron Garnett	Patricia Martinson	Lorne Izzard	Keith Butt	James Martin	Fr. Mike MacDonald	DB	Brenda Began
Wayne Trites	Rodney Lawrence	Norval Collins	Lori	Katie Wright	James Gill	FDW	Cindy Ilsley	Brenda Barnes
Wayne Devlin	Robin Metcalfe	Norm Paddock	Liz van Berkel	Kathleen McLean	JD James Duplessis	Erin Goodman	Chuck Baker	Brandon Matheson
WB	Robert White	Nancy J Logeman	Lesley Barnes	Kathleen Howell	J.J. Lyon	Eric Smith	Chris Aucoin	Blair DuGas
Troy Langille	Robert Stoodley	Nancy Goss	Les Duffy	K Hall	J.E. McAllum	Edward MacInnis	Chloe	Bill Romkey
Tracie Dickey	Robert H. Thompson	Moraige	Leon Chubbs	Julie Sims	J.C. Collette	Edgar Z. Friedenburg	Charlene Vacon	Bill Atley
Tony Tracy	Robert Allen	Molly Bloomfield	Leith Chu	Julie Lewis	HM	Duma Young	Cathy McDougall	Ben Kozak
Tom H	Rob Thompson	Micheal Riordon	Lee Christoffersen	Julian Castle	HB	Douglass Lapierre	Carol Adams	Barend Kamperman
Thomas Parsons	Rev. M. McDonald	Michael Wile	Lee Anne Martinez	Judith A.M. MacKenzie	Gordon Davie	Doug Dixon	CMR	BB
Terry Richard	R.D. Little	Michael Weir	Lee Ann Arsenaunt	Josef Tratnik	Gordon Bradley	Don Murchy	CB	Auntie Dion
Terry Parker	R.B. Moore	Michael Sean Morris	Lago St. John	John Allen	Gloria Borden	Don Evans	C.J. Foster	Arthur Sniders
Terry Martin	Peggy Tramble	Michael Charland	LR	John & Bill	Geraldine Dawe	Dawn Holt	C.F. Thorn	Anthony Ryan
Terry David Goodwin	Paul Gelinas	Maura Donovan	LMP	JoAnn Martell	Ger Hazelton	David S. Crawford	Bruce Wallace	Andrew Peck
T.C. Farler	Paul Gardiner	Mary Stewart Petty	LC	Jo Leath	Geoff Goodfellow	David Macfarland	Bruce Moore	Andrea C
Shonna Lee Leonard	Patrick Crowley	Mary Ann Mancini	LB	Jim Genge	Gary Woodroffe	David Butler	Bruce Gooding	Alison
Shirley Lambert	Patrick Barnholden	Marilyn Lamb	Kristen Jay MacRoberts	Jim Dey	Gary West	Darlene Young	Bruce Gilbert	Alexa McDonough
Sam Archer	Pat Dingle	Marilyn Lamb	Kim Vance	Jeremy Rudel	Gary Kinsman	Darlene Levy	Brian W. Beazley	Alan W. Bustin
SM	Pamela C. Chase	Margaret Hamilton	Kim Lewis	Jeff Weatherhead	Gary Hanrahan	Darl Wood	Brian Mombourquette	Alan Ready
Ross Boutillier	Pam Leaming	Marilyn Kellough	Kevin Crombie	Jane Kansas	Gary Brooks	Daniel MacKay	Brian Hicks	Al Stewart
Rosemary Landry	Padrick Brake	M.L. King	Kevin Cassidy	Jane Allen	GP	Dan Smith	Brian G Callaghan	AG

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get your dinner ticket earlier. For those who want to attend the dance party only, there will be a cover charge of \$5.00. For those who would wish to spend the New Year's Eve night in one of the cottages or in a motel room close to the dance hall, please make your reservation request in advance as there may not be any available at the last minute. For a cottage or motel room(s) reservation, please call 506 336-4919.

We will still be having a 50/50 draw during our party nights, and our canteen will also be open with finger licking good seafood snacks.

The events are held at Centre Plein Air of Inkerman at 361 Route 113, Inkerman NB, but this site is not available on GPS. Directions: From Pokemouche, on Route 11 (half way between Tracadie-Sheila and Caraquet) take the exit to Route 113 and turn towards Shippagan. Drive 1km and after the radio station CKRO, you will see the Centre Plein Air sign on your left. Take the dirt road 'till the end and you'll be at the dance hall. To contact one of the organizers for additional information, phone BW 506 344-5557, CA 506 336-8038, CR 506 393-7044, MLB 506 336-4608, EC 506 336-4818, RM 506 344-8231 or 506 218-0209.

Manna for Health

This month marks an anniversary for Manna for Health and St. John's United Church, Halifax: it has been one year since we began our partnership. Manna's link with St. John's allows it to provide a charitable tax receipt to donors; it also provides the support of a caring congregation that quite literally "walks the walk" to show that support, with strong contingents in The Gay Pride Parade in the summer and the AIDS Walk in September. On behalf of the St. John's-Manna For Health Team, Bruce Hayre (aka Mz Vicki) and Pat Brennan enthusiastically accepted the award for the partner team that raised the most money for the Scotia Bank AIDS Walk in Halifax. The Manna for Health food bank is staffed entirely by volunteers, many from the days when Safe Harbour MCC was functioning, but increasingly from St. John's congregation. There is much to celebrate this year including a very generous unsolicited gift from ACE Bakery. Truly a Happy Anniversary, thanks to all our supporters and donors!

Call For Male Couples

If you are gay men who are over 18 years of age, live together and have been a couple for at least two years, you may be eligible to participate in a research study of the Hold Me Tight program. Couples are invited to participate in a 12-session program from January-April, 2013. The program will take place on Saturdays 1:30-4:30pm at the Saint Mary's University campus in Halifax.

The Hold Me Tight program is a twelve session couple enrichment program for those interested in enhancing the quality of their relationship. This program is not intended to be a substitute for individual couples therapy with a trained professional therapist. The format of the program

includes: 1. short presentations by the facilitator; 2. the viewing of a DVD to illustrate different conversations for participants and encourage group sharing and discussion; 3. structured, in-group exercises that each couple does together and then discusses with the group; 4. homework exercises are offered and can be discussed at the beginning of the following group session.

Hold Me Tight is based on the Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) approach to working with couples and a book by the same name by Dr. Sue Johnson. The group will be facilitated by two experienced psychotherapists trained in the approach, Robert Allan (Co-Investigator) and Erica McGill. Each couple will be required to complete four questionnaires over an eight-month period and complete two interviews with the principal investigator Dr. Russell Westhaver.

If you are interested and want more information please contact Russell Westhaver at 902-491-6278 or Robert Allan at Robert.allan@smu.ca.

Halifax Pride AGM 2012

The Halifax Pride AGM took place on Thursday October 11th. The meeting was well attended with 39 registered voters in attendance. Upon registration, members were provided with bound copies of the minutes of the previous AGM, By-Laws relating to transactions of affairs, financial records as well as Chair and Co-ordinator reports. The meeting was chaired by outgoing Chair Krista Snow. Krista's written report focused on areas of board development and recommendations moving forward including; hiring of 1.5 staff, and noted a lack of respect and appreciation among board members at times. In addition to her written report Krista noted that the criticism expressed at a community meeting was not reflective of the positive feedback she received about the festival. She also took the time to thank the board and volunteers for their hard work. Verbal reports followed by question periods were also delivered by Treasure Claudia Legge, Volunteer Coordinator Tamara Vivian, Queer Acts Festival Coordinator Adam Reid, Parade Coordinator Paul Forrest, and Sponsorship Coordinator Marion Steele. Beverage Report was read on behalf of absent out going board member Susan Sangster. One of the most noteworthy highlights of the 2012 review is a retained surplus of approximately \$30,000. A motion made by Ed Savage (HP Chair 2010) that an accountant be hired to conduct an unaudited review of the financial records was carried.

Board members carrying out their 2 year term include: Tamara Vivian, Kathy Walsh, Frank Benzanson, Ken Murray and Adam Noble. Re-elected to the Board was Paul Forrest, Marion Steele, Claudia Legge, and Adam Reid. Newly elected members include Chris Scullino and Ramona Westgate (HP 2007-2009). New business included the establishment of a steering committee to investigate the process of hiring staff. The committee will consist of no more than 2 board members and no less than 3 community members (all members

NSRAP Report

The Importance of Being Evidence

By Kirk Furlotte

The requests; The reasons; Informed consent.

NSRAP gets asked to distribute a lot of information: upcoming events, calls for proposals, fundraising programs, and awareness events. One type of item we've been seeing a lot more of lately is a request for LGBTQ participants in academic research; primarily in the field of health. We share these calls for participants via our social media (Facebook and Twitter) and our newsletter. A friend of mine recently asked, "Why?"

Put simply: if we want to fight for our rights, we need to be known. If someone is studying the effects of homophobic stress on the health of teenagers in high schools, the results can be used as a compelling reason to reduce the homophobia in high schools. Studies on the suicide rates of transgendered citizens can help us shed light on the ways in which we change our society to reduce transphobia. Analyzing the different ways LGBTQ Nova Scotians perceive health care options will allow the health care field to adapt, change and improve services.

While we often feel deeply the slights and harshness of homophobia and transphobia, we need to a) research it; b) analyze it; and c) share those results. We need to have our stories shared outside of our community so that others can connect to our humanity. We need to have hard data on the challenges faced by our community to promote change. We need to be recognized in every way possible so that we can never be ignored again.

I understand the hesitation some people feel about being "research subjects." It harkens back

to darker times of experimental treatments and hospitalization for people who were different. Modern health research is far improved. Codes of ethics guide research and good researchers try their best to remove their personal biases (which isn't to say it always happens).

If you're considering taking part in a research project, there are a few things you should know. First, read the informed consent letter; this should tell you almost everything you need to know about the study, who is performing it, how your information will be handled and where the data is going. Second, protect your anonymity; most consent letters should outline how your anonymity is guaranteed. Third, ask questions; it's the right of any research participant to be as fully informed as they wish. Fourth, know your rights; this should be spelled out in the informed consent letter but most studies allow participants to withdraw their participation at any point. Fifth, ask for the results; while the final report may be dry or academic, you should know how your contribution affected the final results. There are lots of ongoing studies and, if you qualify, consider participating.

If you're interested in learning more about the health research as it relates to LGBTQ Nova Scotians, there is a new monthly networking group. Whether you are a researcher, activist or community member, contact alexandra.hill-mann@dal.ca to find out more and how you can participate.

Kirk Furlotte is the chair of NSRAP's Communication & Membership Committee. To find out more about NSRAP, visit nsrap.ca, facebook.com/nsrap or twitter.com/nsrap.

yet to be appointed/determined). The Committee is due to report back to the Membership in January 2013.]

A copy of the reports has been archived on the Halifax LGBT Encyclopedia in the 2012 section of the gay.hfxns.org/PrideCelebrations page.

The New Normal

As you know, alternative families—those which fall outside of the model of a married straight couple with kids—are on the rise in Canada. Even so, finding other parents who reject conservative attitudes toward gender stereotyping, sexual orientation, and other "traditional family values" can be a challenge. HFX alt-families is a welcoming, LGBTIQ-friendly, and culturally-diverse group that celebrates the modern family in all of its forms. We'll meet up for fun and frugal activities intended to appeal to kids (and parents/guardians) of all ages, like trips to local museums, nature hikes, and community events.

Please join us at www.meetup.com/HFXalt-families.

AIDS NB gets new Executive Director

The Board of Directors of AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau Brunswick is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Stephen Alexander as its new Executive Director. A native of Grand Bay-Westfield, Stephen comes to AIDS NB with over 15 years of progressive experience in the HIV/AIDS sector and recently completed a seven year term working with the Canadian AIDS Society in Ottawa



Stephen Alexander.

as a National Programs Consultant and Team Leader.

Outgoing Executive Director Nick Scott commented, "I am confident that I am leaving the agency in good hands. Stephen's breadth of experience, skills, and knowledge will successfully bring the agency into its next phase." Mr. Scott leaves AIDS NB to pursue new opportunities with the New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network.

"Over the last three years, AIDS NB has benefited greatly from the efforts of Mr. Scott to mobilize the community in our response to HIV/AIDS in New Brunswick and wish him well in his new endeavours", says AIDS NB President Ted Gaudet. Alexander has worked extensively in the movement both as a volunteer and

paid staff on local, regional, national and international levels and continues to be an active participant on various advisory boards, steering committees and working groups for National Partners, AIDS Service Organizations and the private sector.

"I am excited to move into this new position and look forward to working with our partners both within the Province and the Atlantic region. I am highly committed to promoting the principles of greater and meaningful involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA/MIPA) through the continuum of Prevention, Education and Support," stated Alexander.

Debby Warren, Executive Director of SIDA/AIDS Moncton said, "We are pleased to have Stephen back in New Brunswick working to provide HIV prevention and support. As a former Board member of AIDS Moncton, we wish Stephen well in his new position and look forward to working in partnership."

Julie Dingwell, Executive Director of AIDS Saint John stated, "AIDS Saint John welcomes Stephen Alexander to the position of Executive Director for AIDS New Brunswick; we look forward to continuing our partnership work and wish Stephen the best."

Gaudet concludes "We were doubly fortunate to have Mr. Alexander already on staff with an impeccable reputation and vast experience in the AIDS movement and willingly accepted to lead our organization forward."

This issue of Wayves was brought to you by

Bethana Sullivan
Randall Perry

Will Murray
Anita Martinez

Cam MacLeod
Daniel MacKay

Kirk Furlotte
Chris Aucoin

Nathan Adams
...and Nobody Else!

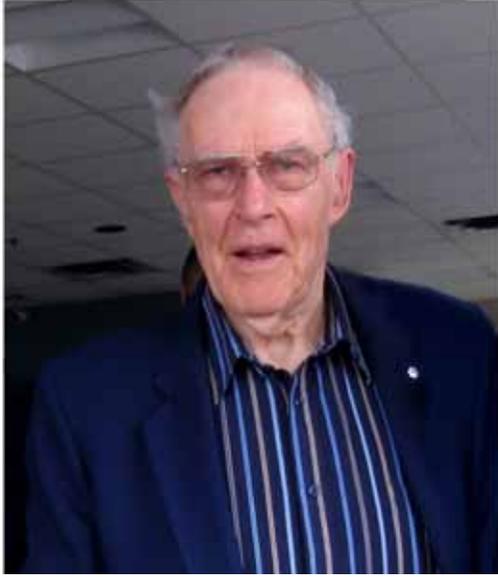
Compassionate, focused activism:

An afternoon with Eldon Hay

by Bryn Jones-Vaillancourt

At the last Elderberries social on October 28th, we were treated to a visit from Eldon Hay. Eldon is an inductee into the Order of Canada, and a receipt of a New Brunswick Human Rights Award. During his 35 years as a professor of religious studies at Mount Allison, Mr. Hay has been a staunch supporter for LGBT rights, specifically for marriage equality.

Eldon grew up in Marvelville, a small farming town roughly 60 KM southeast of Ottawa. Eldon grew up in a predominately English speaking town, and even at an early age was exposed to the majority marginalizing a minority. In this case, it was French speaking residents; however, from an early age Eldon had positive role models from his parents, particularly his father who defended French speaking residents. In his adult life, he drew on his personal experiences of isolation after his first marriage ended. The isolation, and judgement he felt from peers and a larger community helped for him to re-enforce an understanding of what it feels like



Eldon Hay.

for a marginalized group.

Eldon, upon arriving in Moncton joined the fight for equal rights for French speakers in Moncton. However, with his son coming out in 1986 he also turned his attention to gay rights. In 1995 he was

instrumental in helping to form a PFLAG chapter in Moncton. Again, drawing on his past experiences Mr. Hay became an outspoken advocate for equal marriage for our community. In being part of voices for equal marriage in Canada, the approach that Mr. Hay took is admirable. It was one built on respect of opposing viewpoints and about education—self-education, and about education opposing perspectives to help see the benefit equal marriage would provide for all Canadians. Through his personal experiences and experiences

Eldon gained such powerful perspectives of why equal marriage was so important to our community; and also about respect, decorum and a collaborative approach:

“Observation 1. Why would gays want anything to do with such an oppressive institution as marriage?

Can we say, we don't need marriage, and we don't need the acceptance of others. But struggling teenagers do need the acceptance of others. In fact, we all do. We live in the world. We are not separate from it. We cannot help but be built up or taken down by what others think, say and do.” Eldon embodies in his speech, manner and morals the notion on non-violent opposition. He is a very insightful, compassionate man. In speaking with him, he is so humble and radiating hope still today. As a younger gay man, I find his message a timely one. As our community in Canada and abroad faces challenges of acceptance, it is important to think of people against us:

“To those we say, well I don't really care about these homophobic people, my answer is that your personal opinions of those people do matter. Consideration and respect is not only good for them, it's good for the cause. If people are afraid of us, then the best way to reduce that fear is to be as non-threatening as we can. That doesn't mean we don't go forward with our

court challenges and political activism. It means we do it in such a way as to always consider the impact of our actions on those who oppose us. We try to understand them, and you try to lessen their difficulty. Raymond Taavel is a recent glorious example of this spirit.”

The struggle for equal marriage in Canada was one of challenges and triumphs. However, we must be eternally grateful to people like Eldon Hay. Mr. Hay is such an amazing ally for our LGBT community in Canada. His lifetime of compassion, understanding and support of marginalized groups in our country is part of his legacy. Also, in his legacy is not being afraid to stand out, be heard and help make changes in a non-violent, compassionate manner. Eldon is truly an inspiration for our community and to anyone who has ever felt that they don't belong for whatever the reason. As our community continues to struggle for acceptance we must approach it from that of our elders: a compassionate, focused activism.

Hate: It's an ugly word for an ugly thing

by Madonna Doucette

Like most of you, I read stories coming out of North Carolina and I am appalled by the hate that just oozes from these men and women preaching violence, torture and death to members of the LGBTQ community. It's surreal for

“We love so beautifully here in Cape Breton that we don't even recognize it as being something special.”

me living here in Canada to see these religious and political leaders openly promote such intense discrimination. I don't see how it can even be legal,

in my mind, it seems like they are promoting a hate crime. That being said, I am no legal expert and happily, I live in Canada so it doesn't affect me directly. However, I can't completely dismiss the activities that take place in our own backyard. If it happens there, it could happen here. In essence, the people of North Carolina are no different than you and I except that for some reason, they evolved a small and bitter outlook in life that poisons everything they touch. I am concerned for our brothers and sisters in NC who at times must live in fear for their physical and emotional safety and who must fight for basic rights that we take for granted. I also pity those who express such a constant stream of hate. What a horrible life that must be for them too.

I know we would all like to wave a magic wand and make this problem go away but apparently, our wands are all in our other jean pockets. No magic cure exists. We sit, we observe and we send love to them. But we also learn from their situation and keep the conversation going. We can't pretend it's not happening, we can't turn a blind eye because it makes us uncomfortable. Hate is pervasive and spreads quickly like a cancer so we owe it to them, to ourselves and future generations to keep an eye on it's growth and sound the alarm every time we see it spread a little further. If

all we can do right now is be the silent observers then so be it. We will watch and wait and maybe even pray that their hate goes into remission. And we offer thanks. Thanks because we had the random luck of being born here or the financial ability to relocate to our little slice of heaven.

So let's talk about Cape Breton. Let's start that conversation now. Like you, I am often asked to guesstimate the size of our gay population. I

can honestly say, I have no idea how many of us there are. My networking with the LGBTQ community has been limited to the CBRM and if truth were told, really, mostly just Sydney and then of a specific age bracket of 16 to 60. I rarely find myself engaged in conversation with seniors from our community. Just because they are invisible to us doesn't mean they don't exist. Compounding the mystery surrounding our population size is the fact that many people who self identify as members of our community are private and simply live their lives—being gay, lesbian, trans—it's all just incidental in the lives they share with their friends and families. I totally respect that choice. So how does one ball park the size of a truly invisible population? I have no idea (sorry if you were expecting a better answer). But here's what I do know. There are a lot of us. Despite all those people who decided to out-migrate for their various reasons, there are still a lot of us who chose to live here on Cape Breton. And why is that? Well, I can only theorize but I think it's because there really is something special about the people here on Cape Breton. We may be traditional in many ways but for us, traditional values doesn't equate a narrow minded definition of what is and isn't acceptable the way it does in North Carolina. Our island home and

that southern state are both defined by the same thing, traditional family values. We simply interpret that concept differently.

We embraced a side of our tradition that is just as pervasive as their hate.

We love. We love so beautifully here in Cape Breton that we don't even recognize it as being something special. But make no mistake, it is special. The people of Cape Breton are uniquely warm, generous and accepting of diversity. We speak our minds and sometimes it can be pretty darn blunt... even awkward or harsh at times. But in practical terms, our

sense of family and love is applied to everyone. I'm not saying that there are no exceptions. There are still tragic examples of parents that reject their LGBTQ children. But what makes us different is that there will always be someone willing to take that abandoned child into their home. Our traditions don't shrink our world, they expand it. We're so well rooted in a sense of love that as Cape Bretoners, we tend open our island, our families and our hearts up for anyone looking for a home. And that, ladies and gentlemen is special. It's special and not only should we recognize it and celebrate it, we should shout it out!!!

So next time you are talking to someone who is waiting to move “away” before they come out of the closet, remind them of what they are leaving behind. They may be chasing a dream of love and acceptance when all they need to do is look out their own front door. It's here. And it's only going to get better with more of us making our home on the island.

Cheers to Cape Breton, to backyard barbecues, beach bonfires and holding hands in the park. We have a lot to be grateful for. I hope you enjoy Coastal Braid. It's full of reminders to live life to the fullest and with passion. Life is short. Choose love.

Taking Pride In Your Sexual Health!



Design: Chris Auron

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Queering Our Communities After the Vote

By Hugo Dann

Do you think local politics are boring, not sexy enough? They don't have to be just about potholes and parking. Look at your community through a queer lens, and things get a bit more interesting. Local elections can be an opportunity to air out the municipal closet, to let our politicians and fellow citizens know that LGBTQ Nova Scotians are a significant limb of the body politic. Does your local school board have effective, LGBTQ-inclusive, anti-bullying policies; do they support GSA's? How well does your police force liaise with the community; do they track and respond to anti-LGBTQ violence? Now that the elections are over, we still need to keep a queer eye municipal government. How well are newly elected (and re-elected) mayors and councillors in your communities speaking out for diversity and minority rights? Are gender-neutral washrooms included in your community's accessibility plans? What about service delivery and hiring policies, does your community protect the equality rights of its transgender and transsexual citizens? Since most municipal codes follow the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, more than likely they do not.

As local activists, we can continue speaking up and making common cause with other minorities who might be facing similar issues. Outside the rainbow line (and even sometimes within), an enormous amount of ignorance persists about LGBTQ lives; regrettable, but quite understandable. Outside of tragic death, violence, or flashy Pride Parades, the mainstream media barely acknowledges our existence. Even amongst progressive minded straight people, there persists an idea that achieving marriage equality somehow resolved all outstanding issues facing the Queer Community. The blatantly anti-LGBTQ flag bylaws passed over five years ago in Truro, Antigonish, Pictou and Cumberland Counties are still on the books. Just because Mayor Mills was re-elected in Truro doesn't mean that his regressive stance on LGBTQ equality isn't open to scrutiny and debate.

In the lead-up to the recent election in Halifax, I participated in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' alternative municipal budget. It was an exciting and eye-opening opportunity to examine the complexities of HRM's budget and to try and introduce a queer perspective. Public transit may not seem like a queer issue, but if you are a Trans person who has been bullied on a city bus then your municipality's transit policies around diversity training will certainly have an impact on your life and well-being.

As part of my preparation for the budget, I was lucky to speak with Kristin Wong-Tam, the openly queer municipal rep for Toronto's gay village. Councillor Wong-Tam told me that, well in advance of Ontario officially amending its Human Rights Act to include Gender identity and Gender Expression, Toronto had already made significant strides in policies around Trans inclusion. There is no reason why Halifax, or any other municipality in Nova Scotia, cannot do the same. Any number of other issues spring to mind: affordable housing, liaising with police on hate crimes and domestic violence, arts funding (HRM's arts funding is among the lowest and most poorly administered in Canada), poverty and homelessness, youth services and elders issues, service delivery and cultural competency of city staff, and the elusive goal of an LGBTQ Community Centre.

All of these are important, and as proud LGBTQ citizens, we are the only ones who can bring them to the public table. No one else will do it for us. The first step is to vote. Voter turnout in Cape Breton was relatively high, in Halifax it was depressingly low. How was it in your community? Did you exercise your most fundamental right? Even if you didn't vote, it's not too late to make a difference. Now that our new Mayors and Councillors are sworn in, let's make sure that they hear from us. Let them know we're watching.

Hugo Dann is an actor, and an unaffiliated activist for LGBTQ rights in Nova Scotia.

The New New Glaswegian

by Gerard Veldhoven

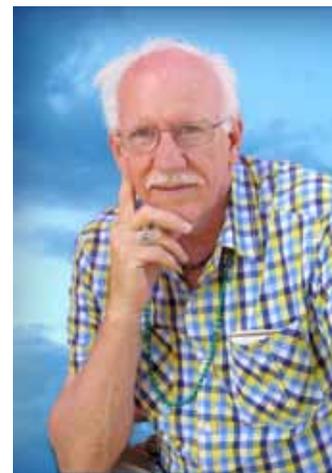
Queer Global News

France's Socialist government is having difficulties legalizing queer marriage. President Francois Hollande promised to speed track the new marriage law to include same-sex couples. The faithful and right wing groups are protesting the move. The organization Inter-LGBT is accusing Hollande of backtracking on his campaign promises. "The symbolism is very strong" said spokesperson Nicholas Gougain. Public support is at 61 per cent. The Roman Catholic Church organized nationwide prayers against the marriage reforms.

By the time this column reaches our readers the United States election will be over. The queer community was worried about a Mitt Romney win as queer marriage would not see the light of day on a national level. Barak Obama is known to support a new marriage law. Half of Americans also are in favour of the change. Romney, a devout Mormon, would not have allowed such a move if he had succeeded in becoming president. The Mormon Church's view is well known and opposes any equality for the queer community.

The state of New York's highest court has refused to hear a challenge to the state's queer marriage law, in effect ending the only legal threat to same-sex weddings in the state. The Court of Appeals rejected a motion by the conservative group, New Yorkers for constitutional Freedoms. The group accused the State Senate of violating the state's open Meetings Law in its deliberations before it voted last year to allow gays and lesbians to marry. Governor Andrew Cuomo, who pressed for the legalization of same-sex marriage, hailed the court's action. "With the court's decision, same-sex couples no longer have to worry that their right to marry could be legally changed in this state. The freedom to marry in this state is secure."

In Scotland, Cardinal Keith O'Brien has called gay marriage a "grotesque subversion." This brought an immediate rebuke from the Scottish gay rights group Stonewall which named O'Brien as "bigot of the year." The head of the Scottish Catholic Church received the title after the 10,000 members of Stonewall voted in favour of the Cardinal's new description. O'Brien described



the new marriage law, presently in Parliament awaiting final approval, a "grotesque subversion of the human right which defines marriage as solely heterosexual." Added to that, the church insists that people in queer marriages suffer greater risks of mental illness and premature death. The irony is that a church spokesman said Stonewall is intolerant of its critics. "Stonewall and others have promoted terms like bigot and homophobe relentlessly, in order to vilify anyone who dares oppose their agenda." He also called members of the queer community intolerant and accuses them of using tactics to intimidate—not surprising statements from the Catholic Church of Scotland.

Uganda is on the verge of voting for the Anti-Homosexuality Bill. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird had a heated exchange with Uganda's Parliamentary Speaker Rebecca Kadaga in Quebec City. Baird criticized the legislation and called on Uganda to "protect its people regardless of sex, sexuality or faith." Kadaga countered the remarks in a speech. She said, "On behalf of the people of Uganda I protest in the strongest terms the arrogance exhibited by the foreign affairs minister of Canada, who spent his entire presentation attacking Uganda and promoting homosexuality." She will now instruct the chair of the Committee of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs "to quickly bring the report of the anti-homosexuality bill so that we can discuss it and so Uganda can take a position." John Baird condemned countries that still criminalize homosexuality. Uganda depends on foreign aid and the passage of this legislation may just jeopardize any assistance from nations such as Canada.

Happy Holidays from New Glasgow!

Atlantic Universities Queer Network Forming

Hey everyone, we want to set up a strong network among our Atlantic Universities and would love to have your help in this matter! If you are currently involved in a GSA, LGBTQ

club, Sexuality Center, or any other like-minded university group please: 1 - Like our Facebook page (search: Atlantic Universities Queer and Sexuality Centres Network) 2 - Verify or

add your contact info in the "About" section on our page.

There we can post network events among our groups!

Thanks! Spectrum (UNB)

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Respect— My New Favourite Ingredient

by Jean Walsh

Up until recently I had never really experienced a situation where someone was blatantly trans-phobic or discriminatory to my face. I know that makes me very fortunate, as it happens to a lot of transgender people on a regular basis. But this past Monday I experienced it first hand. I guess I had been experiencing it for the past few months and didn't realize it.

About once a week, I go to a particular Subway sandwich shop for a sub. I usually go with my wife, as she likes their food

too, but I often go by myself and bring the subs home to eat. Over the past 5-6 years, I've always had friendly,

pleasant service at this place, and while I'm not on a first name basis with anybody, I'm definitely considered a regular. Most of the staff who served me before I transitioned, have moved on to other jobs. So, except for the manager, everyone else working there has only seen me as female. But I'm not an idiot, I understand that I am not going to pass 100% of the time. With my build and my voice, I'm not exactly the feminine ideal, but I clearly present as female, and people in general have been respectful and accommodating in terms of treating me as such. Except for the occasional slip-up from a friend or relative, I am always referred to as she, her, miss or lady. Again, in this I know I am lucky since not everyone is treated with respect.

For the last little while, there has been this one employee who has a hard time hiding his disdain for me. His demeanor changes whenever he finishes dealing with a customer and then has to serve me. At first I thought I was being over-sensitive, but as the weeks went by, it kept becoming more and more clear that this guy hated having to deal with me. It was actually a little bit funny at first, because he'd be grumpy and surly with me, and all chatty and friendly with my wife if she went to the store by herself. I can't think of anything that I could have done to make him not like me, but whatever. Not everybody is going to be friendly, so I put up with it long enough to get my sub and leave each time.

But a few days ago, this guy decided to make a point. I went in by myself one evening and ordered my usual meal from the guy who doesn't like me. He was working with a new girl who just started working there and I had only seen once before. The guy made my sub with his usual indifference/rudeness and sent me off to the cash where the new girl was clearly less than thrilled to be there. When she started having trouble figuring out what I had ordered, the guy yelled over from the other end of the counter, "He had a beef and a veggie!" WTF? There were only two other customers in the store, but I was still embarrassed. I tried to chalk it up to a slip-up despite this kid never knowing me as anything other than a female customer. I started to get all red faced just standing there while the girl fumbled with the cash register try-

ing to figure out how to ring up a free soda. She looked to her co-worker for assistance again, and again he called out to her from across the store, "Just give it to him." And immediately I knew that he was mis-gendering me on purpose, trying to embarrass me as much as possible.

I grabbed my food and left the store as everyone there stared at me. When I got home, I told my wife what happened and she was very surprised and upset. "They'll never get our business again!" and I

agreed. It wasn't until the next day when I noticed that the receipt from the store had a link for an online survey.

I'm usually really good about leaving positive feedback for people when I receive good service from a business, but I very rarely go out of my way to complain. I just don't want to be one of those people who bitch and whine about everything. But I decided that this was something I needed to vent about. So I took the survey and gave them a very low rating for Customer Service. I was prompted by the site to give a detailed complaint, explaining my low rating. So I gave a brief explanation of how I was a regular customer who happened to be a transgender woman, and that I felt that the employee went out of his way to embarrass me. I hoped that somebody might see the complaint and remind everyone to be respectful of the customers.

I felt a little better after having gotten that off my chest and went about my day as normal. So I was caught completely off guard when I received an email later that day from the operations supervisor of the franchise. They had spoken with the manager of the store and they were both extremely upset with how I had been treated. She said that they would not tolerate that kind of behavior from their employees and had terminated the guy. Apparently, they had been having issues with him before, but his encounter with me had been the last straw.

I was floored. I couldn't believe that I had gotten somebody fired. I was immediately overwhelmed with emotion. At first I felt so guilty for causing somebody to lose their job, but I also felt so grateful to have an organization stand up on my behalf and prove that they will not tolerate discrimination. The supervisor asked me to email her my phone number so that she could apologize to me over the phone. I did, and received separate calls from both the supervisor and the manager, saying how sorry they were that I had such a negative experience at their store. They wanted me to know that I should feel welcome to come back anytime.

That was a pretty eventful couple of days! Again, I never expected anyone to get fired over this. At best I thought he'd get a stern talking to and reminder to be more respectful. I guess he learned the "respect" lesson the hard way. Thanks Subway, you will definitely be keeping my business.

"I couldn't believe that I had gotten somebody fired."

The Sanctuary Garden

by Bethana Sullivan

Living on the Edge

It is a good time, a new time, an unsettling time. A time to say good-bye and a time to say hello, a time for renewal and re-visioning. Are you ready, are any of us as ready and as hopeful as we would like to be when this time comes?

The first good-bye is to *Wayves* in its hard copy format. I put it first because this is the least difficult for me as I am a relative newcomer not only to *Wayves* as a member of the cooperative but to the Nova Scotia GLBTT? community. This limited

time of connection means it is probably easier for me to see not only its history but also its need to be re-visioned in a less emotional way. I am grateful to those who had the courage and will to start the paper in a time when it was not easy to be "out." It speaks not only to their valour but also the hunger to be known and connected to others in the community; it speaks to the determination to be part of the 'larger' community in which we are embedded. And I welcome the opportunity to be part of the online *Wayves* community in ways yet unknown. At this time it is enough to know that we will be working together to develop an exciting, newer version of *Wayves*.

My second good-bye is to a version of a community organization that has been in existence, working for the community, for many years. Time brings change whether or not it is foreseen or even desired, and such is the case here. Our community is changing, with new blood from other provinces and beyond Canada's borders. It is welcome, yet feared, too. But the shore is also losing its young people to the bright lights of the cities or to where the economy lures them. And so too, the organization must grow into the 21st century; become open, transparent, and ordered



in a way that hasn't been needed because everyone knew what was going on anyways. We are part of HRM and in danger of losing our identity. Like *Wayves*, when change calls identity is no longer taken for granted—suddenly it is up for grabs.

We ask ourselves, who am I in this shifting landscape, if not the familiar, than what? And so I come to the third good-bye— to a me who is changing, growing, not only in years but in identity. The period of sadness and holding is passing; for so long I felt myself on the threshold, unwilling to step forward, unable to step back. The threshold is a great place to be, a place where the past and the future meet, not quite touching as the space is occupied by the present but aware of each other, the pull and push of energy almost toppling the present moment. It takes courage to stay in one place, knowing change is coming and yet waiting for that 'felt sense' of now is the time. Or it will pass unnoticed, only being named when the future becomes the present. Ah, says one, looking back with nostalgia, but when aware, you can look back with fondness, with appreciation, with understanding, appreciating how the past has informed your present and opens you to the future now.

Students Discuss Documentary on GLBTQ Seniors

Imagine you are old, disabled, ill or dying... and the person providing your healthcare wants you to change your sexual orientation or gender identity.

In Halifax on November 8 pride-Health hosted a screening of Stu Maddux's powerful and sobering documentary *Gen Silent* for 2nd year students of Dalhousie University's School of Social Work and School of Health & Human Performance (including students in Health Promotion, Kinesiology and Recreational Therapy).

Gen Silent is a critically acclaimed film that follows the lives of six LGBTQ seniors for one year. The documentary explores the silencing and discrimination faced by LGBTQ seniors; the same generation that was instrumental in starting the fight for LGBTQ rights. Now in their senior years they are facing issues of discrimination, alienation and fear of being "out" as they access the health care system. Many who have been out for decades feel pressured now to return

to the closet.

Over 70 students took part in the screening and discussions that followed as part of Dalhousie's Inter-professional Health Education series, where students are required to have completed a number of collaborative learning experiences—especially about issues pertaining to underserved and marginalized populations. The students were required to submit

reflective written assignments before and after the screening.

The screening was open to the public and about 50 non-students were present as well, including 8 LGBTQ community mentors who stayed after the screening to join in the discussions. In these the students explored the implications of what they had viewed in both the film and the audience discussion that followed.



Scene from *Gen Silent*.

Gays Who Died In Holocaust Remembered

By Gerard Veldhoven

I approached the New Glasgow Legion in late October to talk about laying a wreath in memory of the thousands of gays who were tortured and killed in concentration camps during the Second World War. To my great surprise and obvious delight legion members were very much in favour of my request.

I wanted the wreath laying to be a formal event so that those in attendance would realize the horrific deaths that occurred included gay men. Lesbians were also treated badly and



Gerard Veldhoven lays a wreath at the Cenotaph in Carmichael Park, New Glasgow.

were humiliated horribly. They were not thought to be a threat to Hitler's idea of an Aryan race.

The ceremony was very emotional and I was accompanied by a few others including Darl Wood from Truro who represented the lesbian victims. I was not successful in locating a lesbian from the New Glasgow area who would feel comfortable at a public event. John Carter, Eric Arbuckle, Darryl Martin and Wayne Collette were on hand.

Hundreds of people attended the Remembrance Day ceremony and our brothers and sisters who were victims of Nazi rule will now be remembered at the ceremonies in New Glasgow.



Sackville Flag Raising

by Emily James

Reprinted with permission from the October 25, 2012 issue of The Argosy, Mount Allison University's student newspaper.

Last Tuesday on October 18, a sizeable group of Sackville citizens and Mount Allison students crowded around the flag pole in front of Sackville's town Hall to witness Sackville's first ever rainbow flag-raising. PFLAG and the town of Sackville partnered with Catalyst, Mt. A's student organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual,

transgender, two-spirited, questioning, asexual, and queer individuals and their allies, whose purpose is to provide a community in which students can feel safe, share experiences, and gain support.

The hour long ceremony was filled with chills, not just from the fall's wind, but from speeches. Janet Hammock, one of the leaders of the Sackville/Amherst chapter of PFLAG Canada, was the MC for the flag-raising event. PFLAG is Canada's only national organization that helps all Canadians who are struggling with issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. "This Rainbow flag-raising is a model for the way town and gown can work effectively together

to promote and celebrate diversity and inclusivity in our community," Hammock stated during her opening speech. "For a week, the Rainbow

completely eradicated from the world, people need to speak up on behalf of those whose human rights are being violated.



From left to right: Janet Hammock, PFLAG; Bob Berry, Mayor of Sackville; Kate Phillips, President of Catalyst. Photo by Lea Foy.

flag will fly proudly alongside our Canadian and New Brunswick flags. Together they symbolize the freedom and equality that are the heart of our Canadian democracy." Hammock said the event will be an emotional moment for many. She explained the change of views towards gays, who were hidden from view, branded as criminals or classified as mentally ill, to the day where Canadian towns, such as Sackville, will fly the Rainbow flag beside the Canadian flag.

"For many of us, what this really means is that in today's world we have the right to love the person we love, openly, joyously, in a committed relationship." Hammock said that until hatred and discrimination are

a Member of the Order of Canada in 2003 for his work on behalf of the LGBT community and was the one who started PFLAG in Amherst twenty years ago. Hay started his short speech with, "I am a WASP, a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant straight person." He is the father of a gay son and a lesbian daughter.

"I've been converted, changed, opened to another way of being fully human, beyond and beside my heterosexuality," Hay said. "I thank God."

Another special speaker was gay activist, father, and writer, Gerard Veldhoven from Amherst. In 2004 he married Norman, his partner of thirty-six years when gay marriage was legalized in Atlantic Canada.

Xmas in July

by Kelly S

For a few months, in my early twenties, I was the busser, cleaner, occasional bartender, and unofficial prop designer for Womyn's Night at Rumours. I zipped around the customers, playing a game of virtual Pac-man. You'd better have held on tight to your drink because if it was approaching empty I'd grab it. Every half hour I would check the women's washroom for bottles. This was an excellent thing to do, because I discovered that women, away from their peers, were friendlier in the washroom. One night I walked into the middle of a spat. A woman flew out of the door holding her eye and crying. Curious, I entered the washroom. Another woman had her lover pushed up against the wall, snarling "You f...!" So I turned on my heels and ran to get security. I remember this incident because physical violence was rare in the bar. Words were exchanged of course, but we were there to have fun (and possibly get laid).

The cute girls, thumping music, steaming dishwasher, saucy (but kind) bartenders, outrageous acts... I loved it. Mind you, I didn't know any better. Items found during cleaning included packages of condoms, cigarettes, cannabis, phone numbers, and twenty dollars. No, it is not yours and I spent it a long time ago. I plead the 5th on the cannabis. The best part of the night was the end; hanging out with the staff at the bar, gossiping, and drinking beers. Our current partners would join us for a drink, before tripping home. Sometimes we would go to a Chinese restaurant on Agricola. The drag queens would do cart wheels in the aisle. The proprietor would run

after them waving her arms in protest.

Because I was going to art school the manager asked me to decorate for a special night, Xmas in July. The club needed a big sun, and simulated tropical vegetation. I decided to make a gigantic sun out of papier mache, a piece that no one would forget.

It should have been constructed as a flat disc...low relief. Instead I choose to build it in the round, with a diameter of ten feet. We built it on the dance floor with chicken wire, and a helluva lot of newspaper. Paul, the head bartender, pitched in to complete the beast. He said, "I used to be a farm boy, no problem, don't worry girl." He recruited his crew of fellow drag queens or, as they say, his entourage. Seemed like that in the eyes of a 21 year old baby dyke. With their assistance we finished Jabba on time. Usually I was shy and shocked by the queens' conversations in the bar. After Xmas in July I had a new respect for drag queens. It certainly changed my perspective on gay men.

An hour before the event I sipped a coffee, and reflected on the 12 foot-high, fluorescent palm trees that were decorating the walls, and my gigantic sun, dangling over the dance floor. I put my hand to my mouth to conceal a nervous snicker. The papier mache sun looked like a colossal Jabba the Hutt—a big yellow blob with tentacles radiating out, suspended 30 feet above the dance floor.

People kept asking, "What is that thing is hanging above the dance floor?" Most wondered but didn't really care. There was dancing, attractive people, and plenty of booze.

What do you remember about this event? Send it in to *Wayves!*

They were the first openly married gay couple in Atlantic Canada. Before he met his partner, he was married with kids. When his children were four and seven, he came out to his wife.

"It was the most difficult thing [coming out to my family]," said Veldhoven. He said it got to the point where he could not do it any more. "I am very happy with who I am," he said before the ceremony. "I have a great outlook on life, and I've never been one to give up." MP for Beauséjour, Dominic LeBlanc, flew from Ottawa especially to participate in the Sackville flag-raising event. He spoke of the political side of LGBT and how he has grown and changed throughout the years to become "a champion of LGBT rights."

"You never go wrong with doing the right thing," LeBlanc stated. "We

are far from perfect and far from complete." But he reassured that Canada is on her way. "Canada should be the place to be an example for those countries with a hell of a lot of progress to make."

Hammock was the final one to speak, thanking those who have helped make the ceremony happen. Sackville sound artist, baritone Loren Altman concluded the ceremony with *We Found Our Place*, a pride song written by the Canadian composer and former professor of music at Mount Allison, Alasdair Maclean, who wrote the song especially for this event. Following the pride song, Mayor Berry read the Proclamation and then, along with Kate Phillips, assisted Hammock in hoisting the rainbow flag.

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IPC INVESTMENT CORPORATION

The 416er

by Randall Perry

Good Journeys, All



Some people say print is dead. I disagree. I think newspaper and magazine print is in a state of change, and that change has been not only by how quickly we can get our news in forms other than ink on paper, but also in how the change has been accelerated by shifting trends in advertising and marketing. It's difficult for old-school news media to keep up with instant-on reportage via the internet. If you don't roll with the changes, you'll be rolled over by the changes.

Wayves, like all other LGBT media, must itself roll with changes. Print has been good to us. It's been good to me. But time is an insistent master and evolution is just another piece of the reality puzzle.

Queer media and I go back a long way. While living in Charlottetown, I discovered *Xtra* and *The Advocate* in the late 1980s. I read *The Body Politic* when I could get my hands on it. But until a couple of outlets started carrying GAZETTE (which later became *Wayves*), around 1990, I had no source of regional, let alone local, LGBT news and information. Like many people in pre-internet days, I operated pretty much in a queer vacuum, yet with like-minded friends I became an activist in the early 90s, working for change.

And we did effect change, all of us who worked together. In 1997/98 a group of activists successfully lobbied the Prince Edward Island government to add "sexual orientation" as a prohibited ground of discrimination in the province's human rights legislation. In 1999 I helped found the Abegweit Rainbow Collective, then contributed to, then edited, the organization's quarterly queer magazine for its short but memorable run. In September, 2000 Nola Etkin and I, as co-chairs of ARC, appeared on the cover of *Wayves*, with an accompanying piece on the organization, which still exists today. Twelve years seems like long ago, but in reality it's just a blip in time. I remember how good it felt to be helping out, to be making a difference, not just to my own life but to those of my friends and others I didn't know, and for LGBT lives yet to be lived.

In 2004 I moved to Halifax and became involved with *Wayves* first as a new team member, learning the ropes, helping make decisions, then on to writing and contributing, as a columnist and a feature writer, then assuming the role of associate editor and ultimately, for a brief time, editor, before leaving for Toronto in August, 2011.

Through *Wayves* I've had a chance to

meet and write about some incredible people, read some superb books, listen to fantastic music, attend some wicked events. Through it all I've forged some superb friendships—as one who doesn't make friends easily this says something about the quality of the humanity behind the pages. We've discussed, debated, quarreled, sounded off, fallen out, kissed and made up, and through it all put out eleven issues per year on a half-shoestring budget. Not bad for a volunteer effort! I think we're all better people for the experiences as we now take on the next phase of *Wayves*, one as an online source of news, reviews, features, and analysis.

So, as I wrap up, this will be my last column for *Wayves*. It's been great bringing you opinions, stories, reviews, and more over the past number of years. I have some personal favourites: my profile of Catherine Meade, my exploration of the superb "Hello Sailor!" exhibit, my exposé on Drake Jensen, to mention a few. *Wayves* has helped me grow both as a writer and as a gay individual through writing about the people I've been lucky to meet and the things I've been fortunate to experience.

I hope, through my offerings over the years, you've gained some insight into how I view the world and perhaps incorporated

some of that view into yours.

Going forward I wish all the best to the dedicated *Wayves* team: Daniel, Chris, Wil, Bethana, Ralph, Anita, and everyone else involved in the process. Regards to my old friend, Jim Bain, who still believes the words I string together have merit.

And my profound thanks and admiration go to our departed dear, Raymond Taavel, whose friendship kept my thoughts sane and whose patient counsel my path true through some particularly difficult years.

No tears, no goodbyes, just good journeys.

This is Randall Perry, the416er@gmail.com, signing off.

1988 Pride History Exhibit On Display

The Hfx.Pride88 history exhibit, that was produced this past summer in recognition of Halifax's 25th annual Pride festival, will be on display again early in the new year. Negotiations are underway to have it installed in the

Dalhousie University Student Union building for several weeks in January (check Wayves.ca for updated details on that). From February 5-24 the exhibit will also be on display on the 2nd floor of the Spring Garden Road Library, with a guided

talk about the exhibit by exhibit researcher and designer Chris Aucoin at noon on Friday, February 15th in the library's Program Room.

The exhibit was commissioned this past summer by the Halifax Pride

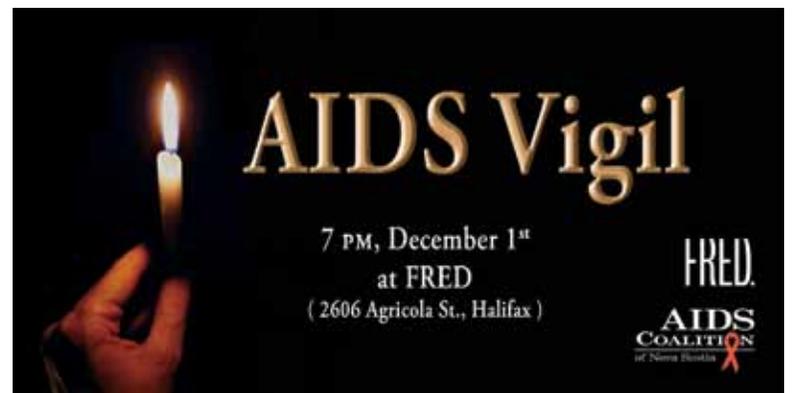
Society as a museum-style display about the 1988 Pride, and the context in which it took place. The exhibit aims to both celebrate how far the local GLBTQ community has come in just a few decades, and to show

how very much has changed—especially for the benefit of those under 30 (GLBTQ or not). While the exhibit was designed as a temporary outdoor display for Pride Day this past July, there was always an express desire that other opportunities be

pursued to have the exhibit available to both GLBTQ communities as well as the general public.

The exhibit makes use of photos, personal remembrances from interviews with organizers/participants

of Pride 1988, and text exploring the larger social, and political/legal context of that time. It also includes all the Halifax Pride logos and themes from 1988 to 2012. The research upon which the exhibit is based was supported by funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage through a grant to the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project as part of a larger (and ongoing) GLBTQ history research project.



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'Gender identity' and 'gender expression' are now protected grounds under the Human Rights Act.

Thank you to everyone in the LGBTQ community who helped make this important change a reality.

For more info on Bill 140, the Transgendered Persons Protection Act, visit nslegislature.ca.

Leonard Preyra

MLA - Halifax Citadel - Sable Island

989 Young Avenue 902.444.3238 preyra@eastlink.ca www.preyra.ca

WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

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

Atlantic Canadian Lesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

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

Fredericton Pride: Community-based, volunteer organization that oversees and executes Fredericton Pride Week. email: info@frederictonpride.org web: www.frederictonpride.org

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

Queer Theory Collective: QTC promotes the queer arts, culture, and history scene. Please contact us for more information, schedule of events, or to be added to our email list.

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

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 382-7145 email: monctonnbpflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday, À please call) at YMCA, 30 War Veterans Avenue

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 GLBT21QQ persons, friends & family 536-4245 email: sacknb@pflagcanada.ca, meets 4th Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm, no meeting in July and August) at St Anthony's Presbyterian Church, 36 Bridge St.

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: aidssj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aidsaintjohn.com

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

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

Port City Rainbow Pride: Pride Celebrations Committee

Saint John GLBTQ 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, À News, À. 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

LBGT-MUN Resource Centre: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers! 737-7619 email: lbgmt@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: lbgmt@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 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: HepNS provides 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@hepns.ca web: www.hepns.ca at Our office is located at 5571 Cunard St. Suite 201. Please call or email to make an appointment.

South Shore Rainbow Families: South Shore Rainbow Families is a group created by and for LGBTQ families (this is inclusive of LGBTQ parents and their children, as well as LGBTQ children and their parents), allies, prospective parents, and all other supporters, regardless of family size, ethnicity, culture, faith, or income level. South Shore Rainbow Families would like to strive to cultivate and promote a healthy and strong community through maintaining an active online community and holding, À Family Fun, À events in the area. email: southshorerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com web: www.facebook.com/groups/122754554526294/

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

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

Annapolis Valley Pride: (formerly the Valley Gay Mens Coffee House) hosts Coffee Talk 825-3197 email: menembracingmen@hotmail.com, meets every Thursday (at 7pm, and a monthly LGBT 19+ dance, please call for location and details.)

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 - AHAH!" 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 the path through the wall south of the church, and go down the steps.)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service: Casual and contemporary, with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service: Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. 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-womynofhalifax/ (No Meetings at Present! Please call if you have any questions, 499-0335 sue) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Cancelled at the present time.

DalOUT: DalOUT is the award-winning LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University. We pride ourselves on hosting fun, engag-

ing 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.girl-ish.ca

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

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. Everyone welcome. Confidential and non-judgmental. 455-9656 web: www.HSHC.ca

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society: Fundraising 902-449-7612 web: www.imperialcourtns.com, meets 1st Sunday, and 2nd Sunday (Executive Meetings Are Currently Held Every Second Sunday) at Meeting Locations Vary

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

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

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

MomSquared: CALLING ALL LESBIAN MOMS. I know you're out there! A group for lesbian moms to connect and provide support and friendship to each other as well as friendship and interaction for our children. email: ilove2moms@gmail.com web: momsquared.weebly.com

Mount Pride: LBGTQ 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.

Groups & Services continued

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): advocates for Nova Scotia, A&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: nsrap.ca at TBA

OUT! Alive: Join us and help raise awareness in the Rainbow Community about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco use and gambling problems. Volunteers meet once a month to discuss these issues and plan community awareness/education activities. Our mission is to increase knowledge of addiction issues (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and gambling) within our community by promoting Outreach and Understanding; to raising awareness about the Treatment and support options available to our community; to ensure that such options are able to meet, respect and respond to the needs and experiences of those within the Rainbow Community. email: Patrick.Daigle@cdha.nshealth.ca

Outlaw: GLBTQ & Allies Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School email: schulich.outlaw@gmail.com 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.

SMU-Q: A student-driven society that provides positive support, advocacy, activities, and education through the dissemination of information to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersexual, and ally persons of Saint Mary's, A&S University and the LGBTQIA community at large. 902-496-8216 email: info@smuq.ca web: www.smuq.ca (See our facebook group http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarysUniversityQ and website for details on upcoming events) at Saint Mary's University

Spirituality For Lesbians: We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. 459-

2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

St. John's United Church: an affirming church community. We welcome everyone, especially those who love music, challenging sermons, innovative approaches to worship, opportunities to participate in social action, and the idea of being part of an optimistic congregation that thinks outside the box. web: www.stjohnsunited.com (10:30am) at 6199 Chebucto Rd, the top floor of the Maritime Conservatory of Music at the corner of Chebucto Road and St Matthias Street.

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 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 GLBTQI 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: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. No meetings for June, July or August.) at Family Place Resource Centre, 714 Alexandra Street

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

Tatamagouche

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

Truro

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

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre: Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual

assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (Centre Hours Mon-Thurs 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive, Truro Nova Scotia

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 Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants & Pictou counties. We are located at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, NS. Phone 895-0931 email: nacs@eastlink.ca web: northernaidconnectionsociety.ca (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See webpage for contact information and upcoming events.)

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 first & foremost 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 Friday 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. 902-749-0977 email: dian-nefec@eastlink.ca web: yarmouthpride.weebly.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.comweb: www.arcofpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)

Free To Be Me - GBLTQ Alcoholics Anonymous: non-profit AA group with a GBLTQ focus.

Lay Chaplaincy Services

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



Susan Stephen & Wynne Jordan Lay Chaplains
sstephen57@gmail.com ◆ wynne@bellaliant.net

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Letters

Supreme Court HIV Decision Follow Up

I would like to thank *Wayves* Magazine for the coverage of the recent Supreme Court decision on HIV non-disclosure with respect to criminal law. I have written some local articles on the matter so I thought I would also share the same thoughts with *Wayves* readers.

I hope to clarify some of the issues at hand because—make no mistake—HIV and disclosure are issues that affect us all.

Let's go back to 1998 when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on HIV non-disclosure. At the time, the Court did not impose a blanket obligation to disclose one's HIV-positive status to sexual partners. It was clear that disclosure would only be required before having sexual relations that represented a "significant risk" of HIV transmission. The Court even suggested that using a condom might be sufficient to preclude criminal liability in cases of HIV non-disclosure (irrespective of viral load i.e. level of HIV in the body).

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada is a major step back. Condoms—a public health mainstay—are no longer enough. Now positive people also need to prove they have a low or undetectable viral load or they can be convicted of aggravated sexual assault for not disclosing their status, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and sex offender registration.

In practice, this decision means that someone who does not have (or can't prove) a low viral load can be sent to jail and registered as a sexual offender for life, even where they had no intention to harm, took sufficient precautions to protect a partner from HIV, and no transmission occurred. This is clearly a disproportionate

misuse of the criminal law.

We know a lot about HIV, but misinformation persists. For example, we know that HIV is hard to transmit and even in cases where protection is not used that it doesn't necessarily mean a person will contract the virus. The risk associated with one incident of unprotected sex is 0.08% (1 in 1250). When used properly, condoms are 100% effective in preventing HIV transmission in any given case. Research has also shown that even

"The criminal law is a blunt and severe instrument that must be reserved for the most serious cases..."

factoring in improper use reduces what is already a very small risk by 80%. Over the last decade, studies have also shown that when a person's viral load is low or undetectable, the risks of transmission are approaching zero. Effective treatment with antiretroviral drugs can, alone, reduce the already small risk of transmission by up to 96%.

But the fear and stigma that surrounds HIV and those who live with it persist—and this is often what makes disclosure so very difficult in our society. With respect to a common understanding about people having a "right" and wanting to know a person's status—yes, people want to know. But this does not mean that non-disclosure should be criminalized without any limit.

The criminal law is a blunt and severe instrument that must be reserved for the most serious cases, especially when the most serious offences of our criminal code are at play. Aggravated sexual assault is usually prosecuted in cases of rape that are so violent it wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the complainant. Cases of HIV non-disclosure, wherein public health precautions were taken

and there was no intent to harm, should not qualify.

We all have a shared interest in preventing new cases of HIV. Every new HIV case is one too many. But the criminal law will not help, as it does nothing to prevent new infections. A public health approach seeks to understand the complexities associated with HIV transmission and risk, provides education, offers support and counseling to those who test positive and in rare circumstances where it is warranted, can utilize public health orders. The World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other public health and clinical experts

endorse a public health approach in response to HIV transmission. UNAIDS even makes the recommendation that the criminal law need only apply to rare cases where there is evidence of malicious intent and HIV is actually transmitted.

While HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination presents a negative picture of an HIV-positive person, evidence clearly shows that the vast majority of people living with HIV take steps to protect themselves and others. We need to focus on encouraging everyone to take responsibility for their health, HIV-negative and positive alike. Everyone needs to get tested, and we must create an environment where in people living with HIV can disclose their status without fear of violence or retaliation. But with the Supreme Court of Canada's recent decision, we are moving further and further away from that ideal.

We must understand that just because a person does not always disclose his or her HIV status to all partners does not mean that they are irresponsible. HIV disclosure is hard and can lead to dramatic consequences for the most vulnerable among us. If people engage in low-risk sexual

activities, consistently and carefully use condoms—whether or not their viral load is low—they are acting responsibly. People living with HIV need support and understanding, and not the unfair threat of prosecution hanging over their heads.

You can find out more information at: <http://www.aidslaw.ca/EN/index.htm>

Sincerely,
Maria MacIntosh,
Executive Director, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia
Al McNutt,
Board Chairperson, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

Saying Goodbye to that Yellow Envelope

When I moved from relatively-cosmopolitan Ottawa to tiny and unfamiliar Fredericton for university in 1995, I ran back into the closet pretty fast thanks to my all-male dorm. That was just a short-term coping mechanism and I was able to be out again pretty quick, but I was still faced with nearly no queer social life and nearly no queer information sources. (Remember the web was only a year old at this point!)

Wayves Magazine, which was brand new to me at the time, became a handy way of connecting. Little tidbits of news, reviews, and even articles from friends in UNB's GALA group – I tried to never miss an issue when the shipment arrived at our meetings.

Years later in Halifax, I eventually figured out that *Wayves* was a local production, and that I ought to check out how that was done. In 2002 I started visiting that cramped little shared boardroom in borrowed office space, and helping cover the floor in printouts and sliced paper and wax. We still did it the old way then, with waxed boards that were SHIPPED to the printer. Even then it seemed bonkers to me.

A few years later I left Atlantic Canada for a new adventure. Ever since then, I've maintained my *Wayves* subscription and received that nondescript yellow envelope 11 times a year, keeping me connected to that team and that community I was a part of for so long.

Now *Wayves* is shutting down the printing presses and moving fully into the land where I am far more comfortable: online. I think this is amazing and excellent: *Wayves* will be more responsive, will be able to fix those DAMN TYPOS, and will be better available for everyone as internet access becomes ubiquitous even at rural

libraries and community centres. This is great news, and a big leap for our little ink-stained baby.

But I'll miss those yellow envelopes. They were practically the only real mail I still got!

Cameron MacLeod

Kudos to Wayves in Print or on the Web

To comment on the contribution *Wayves* Magazine has on the queer community in Atlantic Canada, I would need more space than the printed magazine can provide. A "Dead Tree" indeed as we go on the web. Aside from the fact *Wayves* features personal stories, news items and generally provides information the LGBT community needs to learn about services and locations in order to feel part of a large community, that is the queer community, a more valuable service is not provided for us in Atlantic Canada.

Personally, I have been reading *Wayves* for years and being a regular columnist I able to voice concerns that are pertinent to the learning process of what is going on around us. For example, the present fiasco in Ottawa and Halifax as the lack of care about our transgender brothers and sisters is abundantly clear. The many contributors to *Wayves* have added much needed voices to our bring attention to our individual and collective concerns.

Mainstream papers remain somewhat lacks in providing news about our community, except for anything negative and controversial. These make the headlines. I was totally amazed at being offered a weekly column in *The Evening News* in New Glasgow. This gives me the opportunity to not only voice my concerns, but it allows me to bring attention to the needs of our community in a paper that covers the whole of Pictou County. Remember, this is Peter MacKay country and I have already mentioned him in a few of my columns. *Wayves* has been and remains a solid source of information for Atlantic Canada's queer community. The fact we go on the web will change little and perhaps will increase the readership of this necessary and informative magazine, whether in print, or on line. Kudos to the publisher Dan MacKay and all those involved in bringing us information about Atlantic Canada's queer community. Gerard Veldhoven

More Kudos

Hello *Wayves*!

I would like to thank you and your gang for your fine efforts over the years to produce a great paper for our community. It has proved to be a valuable source of information and will be missed on the coffee table(s) for casual reading material. I think the libraries, small business and others have done a great job of distributing the paper to smaller rural areas of the Maritimes and it will be missed there for sure.

On behalf of the people from Valley PRIDE (Valley Gay Men's Coffee House Group) that is the Annapolis Valley for sure! We thank you and look forward to continue reading "on line" your great publication. Thanks again from David, Steven, Doug, Steve, Gary, Matt, Rob, Kenny, Kyle, Josh, and the many others who all came together with the help and good exposure through *Wayves*! Steve Swansburg



Side effects affecting your plans?
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Wayves

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