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INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

MAY 17

Letters

Your Honour - A Letter to Mayann Francis

In your inaugural speech as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia you stated that: "I have said I want my appointment to be seen as a sign of hope for anyone who believes they have been oppressed or denied opportunity" that "[a]ll Nova Scotians have a role to play in building a strong and prosperous province and I want to set an example by practicing inclusion in every aspect of my role"; and that "[e]ach of us must play our role in freeing diversity to sing triumphantly in the public life of our province."

My question, Your Honour, is this: Does the principle of inclusion encompass members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community? This is a question you may choose to ponder.

Your time in office has been short and you have many engagements and responsibilities to fulfill. I note, however, that your interactions with the people of Nova Scotia so far do not seem to have included much specific involvement with LGBT organizations or the various events they hold from time to time. May we expect this apparent discrepancy to be rectified in the not-too-distant future? Of course, you may not have been invited to any events; so you obviously cannot go to events if you have not been invited.

Not all events would be suitable or convenient for you to attend but some would. The ones that come to mind include special services at Safe Harbour (Metropolitan Community Church), the annual Safe Harbour Christmas dinner, special activities of the LGB Youth Project, events of the AIDS Coal-

ition of Nova Scotia such as the AIDS Walk and World AIDS Day Vigil, the annual Gala hosted by the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project and perhaps some gatherings or ceremonies during the annual Gay Pride week.

I am not sure what precedents exist for Nova Scotian Lieutenant Governor involvement with the LGBT community but considerable support and participation has been there recently from the current premier of Nova Scotia, the leader of the opposition, many MLA's, MP's including two former federal cabinet ministers, HRM councilors, a unanimous motion of support from the Nova Scotia Legislature for Gay Pride and of course from thousands of mainstream Nova Scotians.

I do not expect you to reply to my letter but it may prompt some LGBT community leaders to

invite you to events and you will then determine whether or not to accept or decline. In this regard, I have already spoken to Rev. Darlene Young of Safe Harbour MCC, Michael Davies-Cole, Co-Chair of Halifax Pride, and Sue Andrews of BLT-Womyn of Halifax and I will put forth the prospect of your possible involvement in some LGBT events to other members of the Community.

Yours respectfully, Bill McKinnon

Thanks, Wayves!

Hi y'all...

I just received the April issue of *Wayves* and would like to thank you all for a wonderful layout for the 7th Annual Diamond Diva Revue in support of the Crisis And Referral Agency Helpline here in Moncton.

Kudo's to all involved there at *Wayves* and thanks again for a job well done.

Joe Black, Moncton

If you wish to invite the Lieutenant Governor of your province to an event, phone, fax or write to her or his office at the number or address in her or his website. It is a good idea to send your invitation or inquiry well in advance.



Pride Expense

Hello everyone, my name is Toni.

I joined the BLT group because I believe in unity within the gay community. What I am about to write I hope does not offend anyone, and if it does, my deepest apology. It is my thoughts and feelings only. I do not expect feedback or criticism. I am just a gay woman voicing my thoughts and concerns in the gay world. For those who identify with what I write, my heart goes out to you. For what I write I feel strongly about and hope one day to make a difference. I found my voice many years ago and I hope in some small way, this helps the less fortunate!

I would like to address an issue that has been taunting me for many years concerning Gay Pride Day. The issue of cost! I have attended Gay Pride for x amount of years, and still to this day, find disappointment in the fact that one has to have the Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Royal, TD etc behind them. Gay Pride is supposed to be a gathering of those who are proud of who they are, not how much money they have in their pocket! To attend a function of any kind, one must have above-average income! What about the low-income families? Have we forgotten them in our commercialized world of Gay Pride? Do

they stay at home and fantasize about who they could have met, who they could have found for a future soul mate, who they could have invited over for a coffee and became lifelong friends? No, because everything costs too much to fit into their budget of feeding their kids, clothing them, school costs etc. There are hundreds of single gay mothers and fathers who struggle on a daily basis to see that their kids are taken care of. Is there money left over for entertainment or a couple of outrageously priced items at Gay Pride vendors' sta-

cont'd to Pride Expense pg 15

Halifax Pride Responds...

By Mike Davies-Cole, Co-Chair, Halifax Pride

It's a fact that things cost money. This is why Halifax Pride works hard throughout the year to make partnership connections and develop sponsorship venues so that we can produce our events at little or no cost to the public.

Halifax Pride's mandate is to

provide accessible event planning for all. Last year this included as little as a five dollar cover for the film festival and pay-what-you-can outdoor movie screening.

Our Partnership driven events — the Noon time lecture series, various art exhibits, the Out Run, Interfaith Service, the Sunday ball game, and the big event Concert on the Commons, with great thanks to our sponsors, were all free.

While it is true that some events do have a cost associated with them, this is situational based and not for Halifax Pride to make a direct profit. The events associ-

ated with costs have a community benefactor, such as the Youth Project, or are an at cost situation. Merchandizing by Halifax Pride in the past has been limited to a few things included T-shirts and decals, these items have been sold at marginal pricing, cost or close to, to help offset any expenses Halifax Pride incurs that are not covered by

cont'd to Pride Response pg 15

Our Cover

Cover photo courtesy of Fondation Emergence www.homophobiaday.org

Where Can You Find Wayves?

Following the logic that if you have the paper in your hand, you don't need to know where to get it, we're dropping the full text of the *Where To Get Wayves* column. We're replacing it with changes to our distribution network. If you'd like to tell your friends from away where to get *Wayves*, see <http://www.wayves.ca>.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

May 4, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7 (the first Friday of each month)

Send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax) May 7, Jun 4, Jul 9, Tuesday Aug 7, Sep 10, Tuesday Oct 9, Nov 5, Dec 10

Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

Layout Parties (Halifax)

May 13, Jun 10, Jul 15, Aug 12, Sep 16, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 16

Help build the paper — no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and helping even once or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

On The Stands and In The Mail:

May 26, Jun 23, Jul 27, Sep 28, Oct 26, Nov 23, Dec 21

Pride Volunteers Needed

Hello Halifax Pride Family Members,

I would like to put out a reminder to everyone out there that if anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, please e-mail me via the Halifax Pride website (www.halifaxpride.com). Click on "Contact Us," fill out the volunteer form and

e-mail it to the address provided. I would also like to make a request to those who have volunteered last year to contact me as well to confirm if they are still interested in volunteering for this year. Thank you. Signed, Trent Slaunwhite, Volunteer Coordinator, Halifax Pride Committee



Last Month's Question

Wayves is all but speechless at the response to last month's question, "Should the law in Nova Scotia be changed so that women can go bare chested?" We had a staggering 44 replies, a new *Wayves* record. Three Atlantic Canadians were unsure, and the remainder were almost equally divided. 20 favoured the status quo, with the narrowest of victories, 21 votes, cast in favour of a woman's right to go topless. Here's some of what you had to say.

Comments from No voters ranged from "Why should we get to show what men wanthee hee" to "Silly question!" More thoughtful answers included "Women going bare-chested is not the problem; men staring, objectifying, and degrading, - that IS the problem." And, "There are reasons this law exists: possible increase of rape, possible increase of vehicular accidents, possible increase of lesbianism (just joking), too many possibilities to consider before changing this clear and responsible law."

Those voting Yes had this to say: "Yes: They're boobs, not M16s! Get over it!" "Tits in public... YES!!" "Once the initial shock value has worn off, people will settle down and act in ways they find sensible and comfortable. Sure, on summer days there will always be teenagers bopping down the streets of Halifax in all their semi-naked glory. But that's part of what adolescence is about."

Finally one undecided reader couldn't resist the chance to have a public, er... titter over the question. "So, should women get things off their Chest? Hmmm, not sure if I am abreast enough of the situation to answer the question without looking like a right Tit, I mean Twit. Given the right circumstances this situation could be milked for all it is worth I sup.....pose. Nippled, I mean nipped in the bud, so to speak."

This Month's Question

Do you wear your sexual identity with pride? Is it fluid? Do you get much static? Has the LGBTTIQ2A community been accepting of who you are? Are you a proud survivor of sexual identity politics, or a victim? You tell us.

You Tell Us! at visit <http://www.wayves.ca>.

Atlantic News

Kissing Off the Homophobes!

by Hugo Dann

In Malaysia, you can be flogged; in Uganda, the sentence is life in prison; in Iran, it is death. The crime is to be gay. At the United Nations, the United States allied itself with Cuba, China, Iran and Zimbabwe to block the International Lesbian and Gay Association's attempt to join the UN's Social and Economic Council. The US is desperate for soldiers to fight in Iraq, but it continues to hound and dishonourably discharge lesbians and gay men already in uniform. 'You better not be gay if you wanna die for the USA!' It's a dangerous world for queers.

We might feel complacent about our own recent victories, but Stephen Harper still holds the public purse strings – one of his first acts as Prime Minister was to cut off federal funds for challenges to

the law under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We'd still be fighting for our right to marry had that funding not been available in 2005. Tough luck for Little Sisters and G l a d D a y , fighting Canada C u s - t o m s ' censorship! Dozens of archaic statutes against sodomy and gross indecency remain on Canadian law books. It's a dangerous country for queers.

Oh, it's not all doom and gloom, Canada is still a beacon of hope. In 2003, for the first time in history, a group from Québec, called Fondation Émergence, established a theme day for the fight against homophobia. Last summer, the

Declaration de Montréal was read aloud at the Outgames by Martina Navratilova, calling "on all countries and the United Nations, to recognize the 17th of May of each year as the International Day Against Homophobia." Here in Atlantic Canada, NSRAP is lobbying different levels of government to have the day officially recognized. Other provincial and local groups will no doubt be announcing events closer to the day.

These initiatives are great, yet I find myself wanting more. I think back on the protest marches of my youth - the kiss-ins and the die-ins - often provoked by outrage, but always containing a sense of celebra-

tion, an element of optimism. I find myself nostalgic for the old chants of "Hey-hey! Ho-ho! Homophobia's got to go!" and "2 - 4 - 6 - 8! Gay is just as good as straight!" It's all well and good for us to talk amongst ourselves, but to fight homophobia we need to engage the homophobes directly. On May 17 there will be an LGBT gathering in Halifax's Grand Parade, maybe even some sexy kissing on the steps of city hall – a public declaration of our freedom to love. I invite my fellow Nova Scotians, Queer and otherwise, to contact me at may17ns@yahoo.ca. Sign up to take part and share any other ideas you have. In the meantime some like-minded souls will start meeting to see what we can come up with to ensure that this May 17 will be a day we can all remember, a day to be happy, proud and free.

Halifax Kiss-In, May 17
More info at
gay.hfxns.org - Events

ISCANS - The Value Of Membership

By Natassha N Lott

Making a difference in someone else's day to day life is an irresistible challenge we can give ourselves. We live in a world filled with busy lives that do not afford us the time to attend community fundraisers or volunteer with our favourite charity. We don't always have

the means to be able to afford a monthly donation to our charity of choice. ISCANS (the Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society) offers an easy solution to our "want to help." This year, ISCANS has selected four local charities and is going above and

beyond to raise every last dollar for each. Selected charities for this year are all local to Halifax: the ACNS Emergency Relief Fund, Manna For Health (a food bank for people living with terminal illnesses), Metro Turning Point shelter and Byrony House for Battered Women and Children. Membership to our society is only \$10.00, with your contribution adding to the thousands already raised since October. Your membership earns you a voice and vote at our meetings, and updates on each of our events should you become interested in taking on a more active role within our society. We are an inclusive society for EVERYONE and

would welcome your involvement, even if it is simply in the form of a one time donation. Every dollar counts. To join ISCANS, contact our Executive at executive@imperialcourtns.com to make payment arrangements, attend any of our events (a calendar is posted on our website at www.imperialcourtns.com) or send a money order to The Imperial Sovereign Court Of Atlantic Nova Society, P.O. Box 36098, Spring Garden Road Halifax NS, B3J 3S9. Memberships are ratified at regular Executive meetings. We look forward to your support as much as these charities need your support.

wayves

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

wayves is an independent publication, published every month – except January - by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to **wayves** is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. **wayves** reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in **wayves** are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the calendar of the Community Events page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and might be edited for length. Submissions should be e-mailed - in plain text - to the address noted below. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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How to reach us...

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Bedford United Church Affirming Congregation First Anniversary

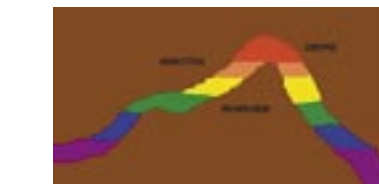
Bedford United Church, 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an affirming congregation and welcome everyone. Services every Sunday at 9 a.m. (casual and con-

temporary) and 11 a.m. (quieter and more reverent in tone) starting June 24 - September 9, one 10 a.m. service. For more information, call 835-8497..

Moncton - River of Pride

The "River Of Pride" committee is in full fundraising swing in anticipation for the upcoming Pride celebrations for the Greater Moncton area. At time of publication, we will already have hosted three very successful colour parties, with the fourth, our Green Party, happening on May 5 at Triangles. If our colour parties are any indication Pride will be wildly successful.

As in years gone by, there will be a variety show on the May long weekend. Join us in celebrating the Queen's birthday with whom else? Queens! This year we present the theme "SPRING FLING." The show will take place on Sunday, May 20 at Triangles. The doors



open at 8 p.m., with the show beginning at nine sharp. There will be prizes and drink specials for the evening, with an array of entertainment for one and all. The price for this marvelous evening of entertainment is just \$5, and all proceeds go to the "River Of Pride" committee.

Don't hesitate to contact the committee if you would like to volunteer for these or any other events. You can contact our volunteer registrar Terry Clancy at tgoo@rogers.com or for any other inquiries please contact us at monctonpride2007@gmail.com.

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More Atlantic News

New Young People's Group at Safe Harbour

A young people's group has been formed at Safe Harbour, Metropolitan Community Church in Halifax. It meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 pm in the Bloomfield Centre, Suite #108, 2786 Agricola Street. The group is intended for people of all faiths, 30 and under, who are members of the rainbow/queer community or are friendly towards it.

The group watches an LGBT movie with some spiritual or other worthwhile value, eats some pizza and discusses the movie. Movies viewed recently include Breakfast on Pluto (2005) and the documentary, Trembling Before God (2001), and Devil's Playground (2002). The movies are available at Video Difference and at other video rental outlets.

The two group organizers are Mary Kate Arnold and Stephen McConnell. Both are accomplished young people. Mary Kate, a native Haligonian, is a PhD candidate in English and classics at Dalhousie University. She is also a poet and writes book reviews for Wayves. Stephen, who hails from Centreville, New Brunswick, is the piano accompanist at Safe Harbour.

He is presently studying music at Dalhousie and plans to move to Japan later this year to teach English.

For more information write to Stephen McConnell at mcconnell.stephen@gmail.com or call him at 423-4663. Mary Kate Arnold can also be contacted via email at mk.arnold@ns.sympatico.ca.



Stephen McConnell and Mary Kate Arnold of the Safe Harbour Youth Group

Another Great Year for DalOUT

DalOUT, Dalhousie's LGBTQ student society, wraps up a successful year of parties and fundraisers. March was an especially important month for the society.

On March 10 at the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Appreciation Night, DalOUT received the award for "B-Level Society of the Year," for the second year in a row.

On March 22 during the DSU elections DalOUT had a major financial breakthrough when students voted to collect a \$0.50 levy



2007 DalOUT Executive Peter Walker (Secretary), Lisa Buchanan (Vice President & DSU Rep), Lucas Thorne-Humphrey (President)



... and Gerrit Volkmann (Executive Assistant), Craig Joyce (Treasurer), Jennifer MacDonald (Executive Advisor)

from every full-time student per year starting next fall in order to provide DalOUT with approximately 8,000 additional dollars a year. This money will be used to make their events bigger and better than ever before.

On March 29 at the Annual General Meeting, some familiar faces and some fresh faces were elected to the new DalOUT Ex-

ecutive. Lucas Thorne-Humphrey will be the president of DalOUT for another year.

The summer will be a time to work on ideas for events next year and to focus on the Halifax Pride Festival. DalOUT will participate in the festival for the second time.

The society recently had its 5th anniversary, so congratulations from the Wayves team!

Halifax Pride Auction

Halifax Pride held an auction in the Compass Room at the Halifax Casino on Friday, March 23. It featured live music by Ryan McGrath and his band, The Wooden House. There was also a silent auction, a complimentary buffet and a cash bar.

Charles Hsuen was auctioneer, and Pink Velvet Burlesque presented the items. The Pride Committee did a wonderful job organizing the event, getting the help of oodles of volunteers and obtaining auction items from individuals and the business community.

According to the Pride Committee minutes, the event raised



Jeremy Webb of the Daily News snaps the Pink Burlesque Troupe. Taavel Photo

more than \$2,000. To learn more about Halifax Pride check out www.halifaxpride.com.

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MAC Leather Road Show Gais.es Nor Gays Inc., Petit Rocher

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. had the pleasure of welcoming the MAC Leather society on March 24, 2007, for their Leather Road Show. This event was very entertaining; the participants were extraordinary and very easy on the eyes. Everything from the organizing to the execution of the show went according to plan, and was right on the money with the content. Door prizes for this night included a leather harness, leather wrist and anklets, a generous donation from Tim Horton's, and I would also like to thank Triangles for their donation.

The show consisted of a leather fashion show of "Casual Wear" and "Minimal Wear" (we even had a nightgown and teddy bears,

all made from leather). With a few helping hands and a little imagination MAC Leather and GNG were able to create a wonderful night, including the ambitious Bette Midler-reenactment of her Deloris Delogo character, which needless to say was the icing on the cake.

Mark your calendars and/or organizers for May 19 and 20, 2007, to attend our "Mini Pride Camping Weekend," a taste of what's to come this September.

We have lots of space for free for your tent or trailer, all thanks to GNG. Email me at info@gngnb.ca for information.

"With pride in your heart we're never apart"

Michel Aube, G.N.G. Inc. President

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MAKE IT BETTER
SUBMISSIONS@WAYVES.CA

Volleyball in Moncton!

Every Thursday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Carrefour de l'Acadie Middle School in Dieppe (next to Mathieu-Martin High), the LGBT community and their friends in the greater Moncton area meet up for great games of volleyball. It is a secure, inclusive and healthy alternative to the Bar scene in the greater Moncton Area.

Organisers Roger LeBlanc and Oscar LeBlanc say they started off with only eight players and are now up to four full teams, which is great, and always have room for more. They never refuse anyone and no experience is required.

Refreshments are always served up with healthy banter at the end of each night. For more information, call Roger at 506-383-1410 or e-mail: Roger.G.LeBlanc@umoncton.ca.

Dawn's Early Light

Dear Dawn,
Where do I begin? I started seeing my partner a year and half ago, right from the beginning we were both pretty clear that monogamy was not for us. We both have other intimate partners and we are committed to each other, we love each other very much. The past few months I've started to think he may have a problem with drugs. He's always been a big drinker and smokes pot almost daily but lately he's been snorting cocaine and I think he's been using meth. I've tried to talk to him about it but he just gets defensive and says he can

handle it. When he's high he's a different person, in fact three times since we've started seeing each other he's broken the rules and gone out and fucked his ex; unprotected I might add. I don't know what to do. I'm really worried about his health and about us.

Sincerely, Jake
Dear Jake,
I can certainly understand your concern. There seems to be two issues here, one the possibility that your partner has an addiction issue and second that he has betrayed your trust more than once and in more than one way. In terms of the

possibility that there is an addiction issue, it sounds like your partner is in denial that he may in fact have a problem. However, until he is ready to admit he has a problem there is nothing you can do to convince him otherwise. Addictions affect everyone involved in the lives of those who suffer with them. My suggestion to you is to look into getting some professional support for yourself. Addiction Treatment Services throughout Canada take a broad "systems" approach to treatment meaning that the services and support they offer are not just for the addict but also for their families

and various supports. Part of this help is education; an important part of supporting loved ones who are struggling with addictions is to understand the nature of addiction and to ensure we are receiving the support we need first. As far as betrayal issues, all relationships – monogamous or polyamorous suffer greatly when one or more partners betray the other's trust and break the rules. The health and strength of relationships are greatly affected when this occurs. With great effort and commitment to repairing the damage (if that's what you want) you can work through the pain

these issues cause. However, in your case Jake, your partner hasn't only betrayed your trust - by engaging in unprotected sex he has put your life at risk as well as his own and his ex's. You need to decide if this is something you can live with or is it time to move on. My advise to you Jake is to look after your self – get checked out by a doctor and find a counselor or therapist to help you deal with the issues you are struggling with.

Kindest regards
Dawn

Manna for Health: New Challenges

By Bill McKinnon

Manna for Health accomplished a lot in 2006, but 2007 is a year of new challenges. Manna (a ministry of Safe Harbour MCC) is a special-needs food bank which serves the needs of people with life-threatening afflictions. Clients are referred to Manna by the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and by other agencies. Manna, whose motto is "Fighting Hunger Feeding Hope," celebrated its 10th year of operation in 2006. Manna for Health's space is at the Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola St. in Halifax.

Seven new clients were added to Manna's books in 2006, bringing the total number to approximately 100. About 40 of these are active clients, some visiting quite regularly and others only occasion-

ally. In addition to regular orders, at Christmas 25 hampers of food and other items were provided to clients.

In 2006 receipts totaled \$13,218 and disbursements were \$9,402. Included in receipts was \$2,500 received for the Gay choir's participation in the movie "Wedding Wars," and \$552.60 from actor John Stamos. The major fund raising again came from Bruce Hayre (Miss Vicki) who, through shows and other fundraising at bars, brought in over \$2,200; he was also a leading participant in the AIDS Walk which raised more than \$2,500. Other money came from offerings at Safe Harbour and other donations. The receipts do not include the value of food received from Feed Nova Scotia.

Although the finances worked out well in 2006, and there was a bank balance of \$7,304 at the end of the year, the prospects of doing nearly as well in 2007 are not good. Because people are not donating enough to Feed Nova Scotia, it cannot provide as much food to Manna as in the past. In addition, grocery costs at the supermarket have risen, so it will be more difficult to satisfy the needs of Manna's clients. Of course, a windfall like the \$3,000 which came in from "Wedding Wars" cannot be counted on.

There are things that readers can do to help Manna for Health. You can send a cheque, take a chance on a 50-50 draw, or contribute to anything else Miss Vicki is doing to raise funds for Manna; or you can even save your Sobeys cash register tapes and drop them off in an envelope addressed to Manna at the Bloomfield Centre desk. Yes Manna raised \$132.51 from Sobeys

receipts last year.

Manna for Health is a volunteer agency. Through the generous commitment of a number of people, it is able to serve its clientele. People offer their services to staff the office, stock food, prepare grocery orders and deliver orders in the metro area. A number of people also work on fundraising ventures to supplement Manna's resources and pay for its operational expenses. In order to ensure that its services continue to be offered to our community, it needs more volunteers. Maybe you can help.

Manna for Health provides a great service for people stricken with life-threatening diseases and you can help. For more about Manna for Health or to donate, see <http://www.safeharbourmcc.com/manna.htm>, phone (902) 429-7670, email c/o safeharbour@eastlink.ca or write to P.O. Box 31108, Halifax, NS B3K 5T9.

June Callwood

"Sail on, Silver Girl!" Early morning on April 14, those words in the subject line of an email let many of her friends know that June Callwood had passed away. Feminist and activist, wife and mother, the 82 year old founder of Casey House, the world's first hospice for people living with HIV/AIDS, was known as Saint June and Canada's conscience. A tireless advocate for

children and the LGBT community, hers was a life fully lived. Along with every newspaper and magazine in Canada, we at Wayves acknowledge a debt of gratitude to a great journalist. Sail on Silver Girl indeed.



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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITEH

Ciao Tomasino!

Well I'm back from bella Roma and let me tell you the eternal City was everything I expected and more!! Almost overwhelmingly beautiful, and B. and Milosh were the perfect hosts, trotting me around to parks and piazzas and ancient buildings. My thirsty soul drank up all that culture, greedily gulping it down like an alcoholic at last call. There is so much age and history that even you would feel young in comparison, Tom.

Yes, Rome is dazzling, delightful and, occasionally, dangerous. I could be happily traipsing down a narrow street, breathing in the heady aroma of fresh pastry and sweaty workmen when suddenly I would become aware of a presence behind me. A car! Now while I've often had a fantasy of a hot Italian carrying me away, being impaled on a hood ornament was never part of the scenario.

Speaking of dangers... I badly sprained my ankle while in Italy. Standing by the Tiber, idly watching the sun on the water and gazing at the line of angels on a nearby bridge, I hear cries of "Crawford. Signor Hastie!" How the paparazzi discovered I was in Rome I shall never know. Sprinting like a hare before the hounds, I set off for the safety of Saint Peter's Square hoping to elude my pursuers in the crowds. Bam! My foot hits a hole in the sidewalk and I nearly fall face first into the cobblestones. After an initial (somewhat unmanly) shriek of pain, I manage to limp towards the Vatican. I discovered that not only is black a slimming, elegant colour, it is also the perfect camouflage when hiding in a throng of nuns. Once the tabloid types were gone, I left the Sisters and went browsing at a souvenir shop, which carried everything from postcards to Pope on a Rope. I then stumbled back to the apartment for a restorative glass of wine, and ice for the ankle.

The next day we motored off into the bucolic beauty of Tuscany and Umbria. We stayed overnight in a stone house owned by friends of Milosh and B., surrounded by orchards and fields of flowers. As we sat in the brilliant Italian sunshine sipping G&T, I told my companions about the movie, My House in Umbria. Maggie Smith plays a neurotic, fascinating creature, terribly proper who drinks grappa in the kitchen on the sly. Her English gentility slips quite badly by end of day. I saw her as a kindred spirit. And being in Umbria seemed like a sign to try grappa. The next day I was confronted by a store display with more kinds of grappa than there are fathers for Anna Nicole Smith's baby. I selected at random - one with a pretty bottle - and tried it as an aperitif before dinner. I love Italian culture.

Country life seems better in fiction than in real life though. Those romantic books and films praising the idyllic existence snug in the bosom of

Mother Nature never mention things like bugs in the bidet, or that those lovely groves of olive trees - so picturesque and shady for dining al fresco - all need to be pruned or that grapes need to be coaxed and stomped into becoming vino. City life is so much more congenial, at least for a tourist like me, Tom. Give me fountains and sculpture and crumbling ruins. Not to mention gelato and inexpensive wine.

We also went to a gay rights demonstration in Rome. Seems ironic that in Italy you can buy sexual protection from condom machines on the street but when it comes to legal protection, there is very little. A proposed bill would give a kind of civil union status to gay couples. This is being hotly opposed by the Vatican, which is, right next door. This huge rally -50,000 people the newspapers reported - was to show support for the bill. The crowd was so dense I bumped up against one or two beautiful Italian men, accidentally. So many gorgeous men - including a luscious policeman in a snug uniform. Mamma mia!

We sampled another aspect of gay life in Italy by going to a charming restaurant called Edoardo II - after the queer English king. Decorated in early Camp, the walls were lined with photographs of beautiful young men, the lights shaded with red glass, and side tables gleamed with brass candlesticks and roses in crystal bowls. The waiters - including a priest with twinkling eyes - were welcoming, friendly and flirtatious. The food was delicious and the wine flowed freely. So freely that I told B and Milosh we should invite, Roberto, our waiter home for a nightcap. They, wisely, steered me to the exit.

It wasn't all fantasy, Tom. I did meet three charming young Sicilians at a gay bar. Nico was the cutest with dark flashing eyes and white teeth. He spoke no English so we relied on eyes, smiles and hands. Nico invited me to come see him in Sicily. An offer I can't refuse?

Let's just say I went back to Trevi fountain to make another wish.

Arrividerci!

Crawford

The Dance Floor Heats Up in Moncton



By Joe Black

"It never fails. As soon as the music starts, my body moves to the familiar rhythm of the steps and I lose myself in the dance." So states Jean-Marc who, along with his partner John, has taught Line Dancing for several years in Ottawa, Toronto and at events in Montréal. They have been heating up Triangles' dance floor since arriving in Moncton a few months ago. Jean-Marc is bringing his knowledge and passion for Line Dancing to Moncton's GLBT community every Wednesday night from 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Jean-Marc's enthusiasm is contagious and his patience as a teacher is endless, according to a couple of his newest students.

"The look of excitement on someone's face," says Jean-Marc, "and see how much fun it is makes it worth it for me. Dancing is the purest form of expression there is and it feels so good when everybody is in the same groove. Line Dancing has developed a bad reputation these days. People have images of rednecks dancing around hay bales. Contrary to popular belief, Line Dancing is not exclusively twangy western music. This sport, yes SPORT, now includes Latin, Hip-Hop, Rock, Pop and Country which means that there's something for everyone to enjoy."

When asked what Line Dancing offers, Jean-Marc said, "The fact is,

it's a great cardio-vascular exercise that's more fun than plodding along on a treadmill and the classes let you meet new people in a neutral, friendly environment."

"My father always told me that I'd be more likely to meet the love of my life at a supermarket than in a bar," says Jean-Marc jokingly. "It turns out there was some truth in that. I met my partner John through Line Dancing and the happiness in our lives is due to us having more in common than our sex drive!"

What is it that keeps people from coming out to try this amazing activity? Is it fear of the unknown? Fear of what your friends might think? No one can be an instant professional. If your friends' opinion is so important, then bring them along to learn with you.

"Give line dancing a try! Within 2 weeks you'll see what fun you've been missing!" exclaims Jean-Marc. "Even if you don't want to dance, spectators are always!"

Line Dancing happens Wednesday nights from 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm at Triangles, 234 St. George Street, Moncton. New dances are taught each time for beginners and experts alike.



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Shedogs 101

By Calandra Smith

For those who are curious, this is an introduction to exploring female and trans sexuality through Shedogs, one of only two women's bathhouses in Canada if not all North America. The other is the Pussy Palace in Toronto, a much larger venue encompassing four floors, large open deck, pool etc., but which now operates only once a year – a week or two prior to Pride.

By contrast Shedogs is run four times a year by about half a dozen organizers with the help of a number of volunteers out of the more intimate environment of Seadogs Sauna and Spa at 2199 Gottingen Street (near Cunard) in Halifax. Shedogs grew out of some 'Dyke Night' events which were initiated three or four years ago when Doug Melanson approached the owner of Venus Envy, a sex shop and book store located at 1598 Barrington Street in Halifax, about using the space for women. It pretty quickly became obvious that

running the bathhouse for women the same as it was operated for men wasn't working well, so Doug stepped back and left the women to organize things for themselves.

After a year or so of operating as "Dyke Night," Shedogs was born.

all kinds of different orientations and identities

The organizers I spoke with noted that a brief orientation including a tour of the premises is always held for newcomers, and the rules on confidentiality, respect and consent are made clear and enforced. Common questions asked by potential participants concern whether women of a certain size, age, relationship status etc. will feel welcome at Shedogs events, and I was assured that the answer is "yes."

All participants are asked to change out of their street clothes so others do not feel uncomfortable, but there is great latitude in what

people choose to wear, ranging from total nudity to, for instance, a towel, tee-shirt and shorts, bathing suit, pyjamas, nightie, robe or sarong, and some women wear costumes such as a hat and nothing else.

Towels, lubes, condoms, dam, and gloves are provided, as well as refreshments such as cookies and tea. No alcohol is permitted during Shedogs events in the interest of providing a safe environment for all, and no one is required or to participate in any particular activities on offer. Given that some of the women attending at any given time are experimenting, doors to rooms are left open. However, despite the close quarters, it is possible to avoid situations which one is not interested in, and participants are always free to step back and hang out in the lounge for cookies and conversation or to watch an episode of 'The L Word'.

I was told that people who come

to Shedogs have all kinds of different orientations and identities. For instance there are a lot of inquiries from women who are bisexual or bi-curious, and the events are promoted as bi-friendly and trans-friendly: "The only thing that is not tolerated is intolerance."

The last event, which was held on Valentine's Day 2007, unfortunately coincided with a storm which caused lower than anticipated attendance, a power outage, and ultimately an earlier than scheduled closing. I spoke at some length by telephone recently with an American researcher who was in town for the last Shedogs event, and she was very enthusiastic about how comfortable and safe attendees are made to feel, how accepted whatever their level of comfort with nudity and public expressions

of sexuality, and how empowered they feel by their experience. Plans are underway for another Shedogs bathhouse on Wednesday, May 16. Look for a follow-up article (respecting full confidentiality) in the June issue of Wayves. If you have questions which this article has not addressed, check out the website at www.venusenvy.ca/shedogs.

The Nature of Queer I: Pheromones

by Gerrit Volkmann

As a scientist-in-the-making I come across breathtaking research data that provides intriguing insights into the biology of sexual orientation or — as I put it — the nature of queer. With this column I want to share these exciting findings with you. It is rather unfortunate that active research rarely covers the entire scope of our diverse community — bisexual or trans issues for example — but I will try to be as inclusive as possible.

Ever wondered what it is that attracts you to a certain person? The looks? Similar interests? Or feelings of comfort? Well, aside from these obvious, conscious reasons it might also be something subliminal: pheromones, to be precise.

Pheromones are molecules that have a crucial role in mating behaviour of most animals. Pheromones keep them going, sexually speaking; they crank up their sex drive and help them find a partner to produce offspring with. Scientists believed that for us humans, the most highly developed species on the planet, the "pheromone rule" in finding a (sex) partner would not apply. Our complex social networks were in disagreement with chemicals floating around in the air guiding us to a potential partner.

Yet this paradigm is challenged

by the fact that we share an anatomical feature with other animals: a small nerve that connects the nose with the areas of the brain that are responsible for sexual arousal and reproduction. In mice and stingrays, this nerve reacts to pheromones by triggering the release of sex hormones and thus leading to mating behaviour. So why would this nerve be present in our brains if we didn't use it for the exact same thing?

And as a matter of fact, we do! In early studies, the human pheromones AND (produced by men) and EST (produced by women) were shown to work on the nervous system thereby affecting mood and sexual arousal. Recently, brain researchers examined heterosexual individuals and their response to the two pheromones: they found that the male AND only stimulated the sex-specific areas in women, whereas the female EST only stimulated those areas in the brains of men.

These results were intriguing because they strongly implied that the "pheromone rule" also applies to us humans. But something was missing for me: I could understand that heterosexuals respond to each other's pheromones, probably to

breed. Yet, as a gay man, what about me? And what about lesbians? We're not really looking for a breeding partner, or do we? So does this mean homosexuals would not respond to the pheromones?

A research group in Sweden was also anxious to shed light on this. And as it turns out, gays and lesbi-

cont'd to Nature, pg 10



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Egale News

Egale Canada: Down But Not Out

By Bill McKinnon

I flew to Ottawa to attend Egale Canada's annual general meeting (AGM) on March 31. I went because negative allegations had been made about Egale's recent activity and management. One prominent Nova Scotian I talked to went so far as to say that Egale is falling apart.

Since March 31, I have learned a lot. I talked with Helen Kennedy, the new executive director on the phone on April 12, and met with Benjie Nycum, Egale's treasurer on April 14. Both indicated to me that there have been problems, including some interpersonal challenges and reduction in support by the Harper Government. But Egale is not falling apart.

I wanted to get the facts. Egale has done so much over the years to secure equal rights for the LGBT community in Canada and we all are indebted to all the women and men who have fought long and hard for us. Regrettably I could

not attend the meeting since the AGM started at 11 a.m. and was over when I arrived at 4.45 p.m. Nevertheless Ryan Dyck provided me with a copy of the Financial Statements, a Report on Activities in 2006, and the minutes of the AGM. We have had communication shortcomings but both Egale and Wayves are now working to resolve them. The cooperation extended by Helen, Benjie and Ryan has been superb.

According to the audited financial statements, Egale experienced a loss of \$13,003 for 2006 compared to a surplus of \$29,947 in 2005. Total revenues dropped from \$533,739 to \$365,341 and total expenses dropped from \$503,792 to \$378,344. These results are not surprising. People are donating less because they believe that since equal marriage rights have been achieved, Egale's activism is not as important. This is not a valid conclusion but it's understandable. I learned that projects revenue will

be less in the future because of "a decrease in the number and level of court cases Egale will be involved in, and a subsequent decrease in funding from the Court Challenges Program", cut by the Harper Government. Secondly, management has probably not been able to reduce its expenditures fast enough to offset the loss of revenue.

One disturbing happening is



the departure of three valuable staff members. No doubt there is not sufficient money to pay their salaries. However, the circumstances of the members' departures are murky and perhaps associated with some unpleasantness. It is also disturbing that "a legal action was filed against the organization by a

former employee for an amount of \$10,000." Hopefully, Egale will provide more information on the employees' departures before long, but as I understand it, they cannot comment on the matter at present.

As I have now learned, a lot of Egale's revenue is generated from newsletters sent to members and to the media. Because Egale now has fewer paid staff and depends more on volunteers, delays exist in sending out newsletters; hopefully this will change soon and with a new executive director coming on board at the end of April, fundraising activity should be revitalized. Seemingly, Egale has now become almost completely reliant on private funding; and without more support, Egale's future is uncertain.

As executive director, Gilles Marchildon wrote regular articles for Wayves, but there have been none since he left. Helen Kennedy told me that we will receive regu-

lar updates, and she plans to visit Atlantic Canada. Benjie Nycum has provided Wayves with a 1,000 word report on recent activism.

Egale has achieved a lot over the years but much remains to be done. Surely the organization can count on support from LGBTs all over Canada in the future; but with everyone better informed than since Gilles Marchildon left.

Many of the topics mentioned in this article will be considered when Egale's Board of Directors holds a weekend retreat in Toronto on April 28-29. Hopefully, meaningful results will occur for Egale and for all LGBTs in Canada. We need Egale.

To learn more, see www.egale.ca, email egale.canada@egale.ca, write to Egale Canada, 310-396 Cooper St, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2H7 or call 888-204-7777. As I understand it the Financial Statements and Activities Report for 2006 will be posted on the website soon, and perhaps also the AGM minutes.

Recent Activism

For Wayves, Benjie Nycum (a member of Egale's Board of Directors) had a list of cases made up that Egale is or has been working on from 2006-2007, among them the following:

Customs Censorship — Little Sisters, the beleaguered LGBT Vancouver bookstore, was back before the Supreme Court of Canada, and Egale (represented by Cynthia Peterson) was there to support them. Even though the Court found in 2000 that the Canadian government has unfairly targeted the bookstore and subjected it to harassing censorship, the bookstore claims that nothing has changed in Customs administration since that ruling. It now seeks to have its legal costs for a new trial paid for by government. A decision was released earlier this year. Little Sisters lost. Again. Now they are trying to decide if they can go ahead without funding.

Canada Pensions — In 2000, the federal government amended the Canada Pension Plans rules to permit the same-sex partner of a person who died before 1999 to make a claim for a survivor's pension. It also limited retroactive payments to one year. Surviving partners of those who died between 1985 (when the Charter's equality provisions came into effect) and 1998 joined together, in a case known as Hislop, in a Canada-wide class action to argue that barring them from claims was arbitrary and discriminatory. The retroactivity limit was also under challenge. Egale was represented by Cynthia Peterson. This decision came down a few weeks ago. Success was mixed: survivors of partners who deceased between 1985 and 1998 can claim benefits but the claim can only be retroactive to 12 months prior to the date of the claim.

Parenting Issues — Egale appeared before the Ontario Court of Appeal (represented by Andrew Pinto) as an intervener in the Susan Doe case to challenge the constitutionality of federal laws restricting the ability of gay men to donate sperm even if only to a known recipient. The court rejected the claim, and appeals being launched seem unlikely. Egale might intervene if these cases are appealed and it has provided extensive media commentary on recent case (AA, BB, CC) concerning birth registrations. In a recent Ontario case, a court ruled that two women can be registered and in another case the Ontario Court of Appeal held that two women and a man could be registered. Egale will develop strategies to ensure that the birth registration decisions (a matter of provincial law) are applied across the country. Egale is also partici-

pating in a national consultation on assisted human reproduction in late May, organized by the National Association of Women and the Law.

Civil Marriage — In December, the House of Commons rejected a motion to re-open the debate on civil marriage in Canada. With this vote, the marriage issue should be off Parliament's agenda. More than 12,000 same-sex couples have married and as this number grows Egale will continue to monitor this situation. Egale learned that Canadian immigration officials are refusing to recognize same-sex marriages performed in foreign countries. That policy has now been changed. Egale has undertaken a large research project comparing the status of marriage commissioners across the country and it will develop a position on reasonable accommodation.

Human Rights — Egale is continuing to work on various human rights issues. These issues include: whether religious groups or people with strong religious beliefs who provide goods and services (like hall rentals or Braille translation) can refuse to provide these goods and services to LGBT groups.

Criminal Law — A bill currently before Parliament would raise age of sexual consent from 14 to 16. However the bill is silent on the

age of consent to anal penetration which remains at 18 in all provinces except Ontario and Quebec. As it has in the past, Egale presented a brief to the Parliamentary Committee. Egale also presented a brief last year to a Parliamentary Committee studying Canada's bawdy house laws recommending the repeal of criminal laws prohibiting consensual adult sex in semi-private places.

Freeman — Canadian Blood Services has sued a gay man who donated blood without disclosing that he had had sex with men. Egale is a party at the trial level in this case concerning whether blanket prohibitions against blood donations by any man who has had sex with a man are overly broad and therefore discriminatory. We are currently in the evidence-gathering stage. CBS has invited us to a consultation later this month to discuss possible modifications to the no-MSM donation policy.

Trans-issues — We have undertaken a research project on the state of trans protection across the country. We have supported Siksay's private member's bill on the inclusion of gender identity. The trans-issues committee has been meeting regularly to develop a strategic plan.

Seemingly, a lot has been happening.

New Atlantic Director Susan Rose

Susan Rose was elected the new Atlantic Director (female) for Egale Canada at Egale's annual general meeting in Ottawa on March 31.

Susan Rose was born in Corner Brook Newfoundland and Labrador on July 27, 1957. She moved to St. John's in 1982 to attend Memorial University where she received a Psychology Degree. Susan worked in a series of group homes in St. John's until returning to Memorial University in 1985 where she received an Education Degree and a Special Education Degree. In 1994, Susan and her former partner formed a support line for lesbians. As teachers, both women have devoted their adult lives to combating homophobia within the school system. As an out lesbian, Susan has given many talks in the

community and has been extremely visible in the media. She was also a member of Newfoundland Gays and Lesbians for Equality and has participated in many initiatives that raise awareness and promote equality rights for marginalized groups.

Susan still lives in St. John's with her partner. They own and operate a small business called Coastal Cottages. She will bring a wide variety



of experience to the Egale Board of Directors, particularly in terms of education. If you wish to contact Susan, email: susan_rose@egale.ca. For more information about Egale Canada, visit www.egale.ca

*Benjie Nycum,
Treasurer and Non-
Female Director*



Keeping Halifax Active in the Summer!

By Curtis Cartmill

Whew... the worst of the winter has come and gone, spring has sprung and soon it will be summer again! Along with lazy days at the beach and endless summer night BBQ parties comes the summer sports with which help give us all an alternative to the gym! Go outside, get the heart pumping, and take in some fresh air and sunshine!

This article has a sample of "rainbow"-flavoured sporting activities around Halifax that will help you get off the couch, and get out to meet new people and do good to your body! At press time, this comprehensive list covers information about Running, Cycling, Ultimate Frisbee, Softball, and Triathlons/Duathlons.

Now Halifax jocks have a place to create teams and have an online presence to let others know about queer sports in Halifax... check out the Wiki located on the Gay Halifax pages at: <http://gay.hfxns.org/sports>.

Softball

The East Coast Rainbow Softball Association Website: www.ecrsa.ca Email: halifax.glbts softball@gmail.com

This group is in its infancy and stated in March organizing people together to start our own Rainbow league for the GLBT community and their straight friends!

HRM recreation has approved the permit to get the Gorsebrook Field Sunday afternoons throughout the summer, and the group is trying to get the softball games off the ground from May-August.

Running

Frontrunners Co-coordinators: Bruce Greenfield and Steven Wright Website: <http://www.frontrunners.org/clubs/index.php?club=Halifax> Email: There is

a link through the Halifax Chapter page of the Frontrunners website to send messages to the co-coordinators.

The Frontrunners organization is the international umbrella organization for homos who like to get together and run their little buns off! One of the hottest parties at the 2006 Outgames in Montreal was the Sunday afternoon gathering of the International Frontrunners who had packed a rooftop bar with running enthusiasts. There were women and men of all ages, physical backgrounds and was well promoted by the Frontrunners. These people love their sport!

Meeting location: The Frontrunners meet at the main gates of the Halifax Public Gardens at the corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

Meeting Times for the Frontrunners Saturdays: Walkers at 9am, Runners at 9:30am. Distance: 7kms. After-run gathering at The Daily Grind, 5686 Spring Garden Road.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 5:30pm, Distance: 10-12 kms (with options for shorter and longer runs, depending on the day and the group).

Running

2nd Annual Pride Run sponsored by Room2Move Urban Fitness Start Date/Time: Saturday July 21st 10am (Halifax Pride Day) Location: North End of the Halifax Commons Coordinator: Danny MacKinnon Website <http://www.room2move.ca> Email: danny@room2move.ca

Last year was the 1st annual pride run. About 25 groggy people woke up early and participated in this initial event to do 5 loops around the Halifax Commons.

The best part is that everyone doing the run was under the impression that the 5 loops around

the Commons added up to 5km... Surprise! It was apparent after the first lap that the commons perimeter is actually 1 mile long, not 1 km long - so the run was really 8km in distance! It was quite funny and everyone who participated had a blast.

Plans are in place to make this year's event to be bigger and better!

Cycling Event

MS Bike Tour from Wolfville to Windsor Date: July 28-29 Coordinator: Jay Walsh Email: get.out.halifax@gmail.com

If you're a cyclist, or are thinking of starting out, and looking for a nice, low-key riding event this summer - this is it! 120kms spread over two days through the lovely Annapolis Valley. You'll have a great ride, meet lots of new people, and help raise money for Multiple Sclerosis (MS). And now yes... we have a "homo-team" that has been setup for people to join.

To sign-up, go to <http://www.mssociety.ca/en/events/biketour/online-fundraising.htm> - start the registration process, and when there is a choice, sign up as a 'team member' (not individual or team captain) and pick team 'OUT-Spokin (captain: jay walsh)'. The early-bird registration for the event including accommodations at Acadia University is \$45. Then you start fundraising for MS.

Throughout the summer there will be some training rides and sessions offering some info on everything from getting started right up to advanced techniques.

GOH NOTE: The get.out.halifax@gmail.com email is also being used by communications-guru Jay Walsh to kick start a funky new concept group... GET OUT HALIFAX! (GOH). It is meant for both spontaneous and planned social gatherings around

the city promoting some of the best treasures and fun spots we have to hang out!

Ultimate Frisbee

Halifax Ultimate Recreation League Homo-Team Coordinator: Charles MacMichael Time: Registration in Early May, Play throughout the Summer Website: HURL Summer League - <http://www.halifaxultimate.ca/leagues/summer.php> Email: halifax.glbts.ultimatefrisbee@gmail.com (for coordinating the homo-team!)

Ultimate Frisbee is definitely one of the newer sports started by recent generations of athletes. Charles wants to put together a queer-friendly team into the HURL - Halifax Ultimate Recreation League, and show them how the homo's can kick ass!

Watersports

Recreational Kayaking and Canoeing for Lesbians Coordinator: Lisa Tremblay Email: lisa.tremblay@ns.sympatico.ca Phone: 902-423-6507

Lisa is organizing an informal group for lesbians who like to kayak and canoe with others. Day and weekend trips. No fees but women will need their own boat or access to one. Paddlers will be responsible for their own safety.

Triathlon/Duathlon

Coordinator: Curtis Cartmill Website: Triathlon NS Race Schedule - <http://www.trins.ca/races/race-schedule.php> Email: halifax.glbts.triathlon@gmail.com

According to Triathlon NS, triathletes usually enter this sport at an older age, with the traditional entry point in late twenties to early forties. The idea behind this informal group is to get some homos together to talk about race schedules, goals for the season, training

tips and preparing for swim/bike or bike/run transitions.

For those who are thinking that triathlons are all about the grueling full-day Iron Man competitions... think again! Triathlons are made for people of all skill levels and there are plenty of try-a-tri events - entry races for people doing their first triathlon. These are good ways to get your feet wet and find out if you like the sport.

For those with a phobia of the water, or admit they couldn't swim to save their lives Duathlons are the answer! Duathlons are races which start with a run, transition to a biking phase, and transition to a second running phase. The chlorine or salt water won't ruin your great haircut, so come on and give one a try!

Curling

The Loose Ends Time: Sign-up in late August, Season will be Friday nights between October and March. Location: The Mayflower Curling Club Coordinator: Curtis Cartmill Website: www.looseends.ca Email: halifax.glbts.curling@gmail.com

Ok so curling is a winter sport - but what the heck, why not promote it because its out there! The first year of the Loose Ends group was composed of people all found on gay.com or from the HAL-GAL mailing list. The eight individuals (two teams) decided to join the Friday Night Recreation League at the Mayflower Curling Club in a relaxed and accepting environment!

Mayflower Curler, and past international women's curling champion Colleen Jones recently commented to a team member how much she loved the Loose Ends logo on the team sweatshirts, and asked when should could spare for the teams! At least the homos in sweats still show that we have style too!

SheDogs Hosts Bacchanalia 2!

A Bathhouse for Women and Transfolks

co-sponsored by SeaDog's & Venus Envy, Wednesday, May 16th, 2007

8pm - 2am at SeaDog's Sauna & Spa, 2199 Gottingen St.

Advance tickets \$12 at Venus Envy, \$20 at the door. Lockers \$5, Rooms \$10 (in advance booking only)

Our last bathhouse was a bit bumpy with the bad weather and power outages, but we still managed to have a pretty good time! We're hoping for a bigger, better (and less snowy) turnout this time. We'll have some new theme rooms as well as the favourites to give everyone that sensual buzz..

Reading Room: come in, chill out, read or be read to. Bring your favourite erotica, dirty books & pretty pictures!

Snap! Crackle! Pop! electric fun with the violet wand: sign up early, there's always a line-up!

The Bodywork Room: enjoy a

massage and get really relaxed.

Slow-dance room: ask your sweetie or someone new for an up-close slow dance. Will it be to Ella or Poison...

Fun'n'Games: in the lounge - get to know other folks at the bathhouse in a casual and fun atmosphere.

Please note: this is a bi-friendly, trans-friendly event. Intolerance will not

be tolerated! We are also NON-SMOKING and respect a scent-free policy. You must be 19+ to attend.

For more information, visit: <http://gay.hfxns.org> and click on Events for May 16th, or email us: shedogs@hotmail.com, or call Venus Envy: 422-0004

If you're thinking, "I've never been to the bathhouse before, and I'm a little intimidated" Fear not! We have friendly volunteers and staff that will show you around and be there if you have any questions or concerns.

Counselling Gay Youth Conference

Friday, June 1, 2007, 0900 - 1600 hours Registration: 0830 - 0900 hours. Featured Guest Speaker: Stéphane Proulx, Eastern Project Coordinator for Safe Spaces in Fredericton, NB. Registration: \$35.00. This conference may be of interest to Anyone working and/or providing services to our youth population: Counselors in

schools, colleges or universities, First Nations, Physicians, Social Services, Teachers, Nurses working in youth sectors, Mental Health, Youth services providers (Group, Homes, Probation Services, Youth Clubs, etc., Clergy For further information, please contact AIDS NB: (506) 459-7518



Preparing For London Blitz: Halifax Molly's Softball Team raising money for the London, UK tournament. Back Row: Tracy, Sarah, Janet, Heather, Mary-Ann, & Jody. Front Row: Alma & Janet H

Chef's Corner



Now that we are sure spring is here to stay, and the summer patio, picnic, and lobster boil season is just around the corner, I figured I'd offer up a staple salad that will work all season long for family meals or for entertaining. This recipe is an adaptation of one my grandmother Lewis used to make when I was a kid at the cottage. Whenever I am in search of a really good staple, I usually turn to recipes from my past that I used to enjoy, put my classical training to work, add in some contemporary twists, and then just have fun with it. So far so good. Give it a try and let me know what you think.

Chef Darren is Chef and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, 1537 Barrington Street, Halifax, N.S. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, www.chives.ca

Ingredients

3 lbs baby Yukon Gold potatoes (washed and quartered)
1 large red onion (small dice)
4 ribs of celery (small dice)
1 sweet orange pepper (small dice)
2 Tbsp white sugar, 2 Tbsp lemon juice, salt and pepper (for hot potatoes)

Dressing

1/8 cup grainy mustard
1/8 cup Dijon mustard
2 Tbsp white balsamic vinegar
2 Tbsp honey
2 large cloves garlic (crushed)
1 tsp salt
1 tsp cracked black pepper
2 cups mayonnaise (store bough)
1/4 cup each coarsely chopped fresh dill and flat leaf parsley

Method:

1. Boil the potatoes in salted water until just fork tender, drain well. While still hot, form layers of potatoes, onions, peppers and celery, taking care to sprinkle each layer with a little vinegar, salt, pepper and white sugar. Cover the bowl and refrigerate for 1/2 hour.
2. Mix the dressing ingredients together. Fold the dressing and potatoes mixture together, being careful not to break potatoes. Return to fridge and let stand another hour.

Serving suggestions

I like to serve this salad on a long oval platter garnished with devilled eggs, cherry tomatoes and chopped chives.

Transgender Diaries XV

Transgendered Diaries is written by Denise Holliday, a freelance writer and public speaker with Maritime Transgendered Workplace Solutions Project.



Even within the Transsexual (TS) community there is confusion regarding Gender Reassignment Surgery (GRS). With media and some other groups reporting enormous costs (sometimes in excess of \$120K), some see gender identity as a choice and GRS as a waste of money, while others see it as something they need but cannot afford. Reality is far more confusing, yet containing more options than you might expect. Without defending the need for surgery, I will focus here on the options available for a TS to obtain official status in what is commonly referred to as their "chosen" gender.

Surgery is usually required before official gender transition - not to be confused with changing one's name - is allowed on federal and provincial documentation. The federal government requires certain facts to be established before allowing TS's to qualify for official transition, recognizing, for instance,

"real life" experience, but also that a lot of transsexuals either can't afford surgery or do not desire all of the procedures. They also recognize that gender is a mental state and, while changing the body may help, surgery alone cannot change someone's gender identity.

Since one may not be able to afford (and thereby physically prove) their new/chosen gender, the government of Canada requires the TS to provide a doctor's statement/letter that the individual has *ceased* to be the designated birth gender, and at this point one qualifies to officially change/choose one's gender.

Regarding the surgery itself (we'll assume a TS has their two letters for surgery and has lived completely in the new gender for an appropriate time), for male-to-females (MTF) this can be as little as castration, while female-to-males (FTM) generally require, at a minimum, breast and reproductive organ removal. People get confused between GRS and supplemental procedures. Penile inversion or construction fall under GRS; whereas things like breast enlargement, facial plastic surgery, and removal of vocal chord/Adam's apple and hair are considered procedures of choice, regardless of gender position.

In Canada, MTFs have three basic levels of surgery (costing as much as \$16K, excluding associated costs for travel and accommodation, or loss of income during recovery). Castration, the first and cheapest procedure (usually under \$1K) can be done in day surgery. Second is a penectomy, involving plastic surgery to the genital area to eliminate all male genitalia and create a pseudovagina with a short vaginal pocket (costing under \$8K). Thirdly, we have the full penile inversion that everyone gets excited about (at a usual cost of about \$16K) to create a full vagina, making sexual intercourse possible (which some claim gives up to an 80% chance of achieving orgasm during sex).

By comparison, FTM surgery is more complicated and, consequently, can be far more expensive. FTMs often look to grow body hair, deepen the voice, and increase body, bone and muscle mass to reflect the change to male. Breast removal and hysterectomies are required for several reasons, including appearance and hormonal control. The new higher levels of male hormones are thought to elevate the risks of breast and/or reproductive tissue cancer dramatically, so removal of these parts are routinely recommended to avoid

a potentially life-threatening situation. Most FTMs forego further surgery due to several factors, including that results are unproven, with a very low ability to duplicate male genitals, extensive associated pain and long recovery times. Some FTMs have had as many as 27 surgeries in total.

MTFs often experience lowered sex drive, while FTMs often experience increased sex drive; consequently many FTMs choose to keep the vaginal passage intact. To date most surgeries have been paid for by the patients themselves, without government support. While some companies like Kodak have included GRS as a medical benefit, these options remain scarce and almost unattainable. In Iran, the Muslim Clergy support government lending funds for transition costs; seemingly at odds with their homophobic policies on homosexuality.

Next Month: You may never guess who is Transphobic!



Can you do an article to fit a weird shape like this? Prove it to us and maybe you'll get to see your name in print! submissions@wayves.ca

Nature, cont'd from pg 7

ans do respond to AND and EST within their sex-specific brain areas. Most interestingly, the response is not related to the biological sex but to sexual orientation: gay men responded to AND and thus resembled heterosexual women, whereas lesbian women were stimulated by EST, just like heterosexual men. No real surprise there, if you think it over...

Yet these results indicate something that is far more important: the fact that sexual orientation dictates a physiological condition - how humans respond to their pheromones - provides further striking evidence that being gay or lesbian is not a choice or a lifestyle but is imprinted in our brains through the genes that we carry in all cells of our bodies. These genes are fixed and cannot be changed or converted to another sexual orientation. It's simply nature. And it's wonderful.



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WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces. web: groups.msn.com/Atlantic-CanadianLesbians

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

Egale President & Atlantic Director, St. John's, NL: (709) 690-5244 email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

Gay Men's Gathering: at PO Box 36054, Halifax., B3J 3S9

GaySpaces: Free postings of GLBT-friendly places to live in Atlantic Canada. email: info@gayspaces.org web: www.gayspaces.org

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

Halifax Transguys: support group for transmen at any point in transition, locally and in Atlantic Canada. email: halifaxtransguys@yahooogroups.ca at Please write for further information on our upcoming meetings and social events.

Healing Our Nations, Dartmouth: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: hon@accesswave.ca web: www.healingournations.ca (Healing Our Nations staff meet once on a weekly basis. Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 45 Alderney Dr., Ste. 607, Dartmouth, NS.

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project: email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society, assorted cities: Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: macleaderinfo@bluewater.anikast.ca, meets 1st Saturday (Monthly Leather Bar Night at Menz Bar (see www.menzbar.ca for themes).) at Menz Bar, 2104 Göttingen St., HFX NS (see www.menzbar.ca for maps).

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

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

Propitation: A fellowship of gay and lesbian Anglicans and their friends. 416-977-4359 email: propitation@hotmail.com (We meet in members homes on a Saturday or Sunday Evening once every other month for Evening Prayer Discussion, refreshments and fellowship.) at --contact for meeting location. We prefer our heritage, worship, and Spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer. We are troubled by such right wing organizations as the prayer book society and Essentials.

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Editorial meeting one Monday night a month; layout one Sunday a month; see the Calendar on our web page) at downtown Halifax - email us for details

New Brunswick (506)

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church, Saint John: invites you to worship!. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick, Fredericton: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. 459-7518 email: sidaids@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.aidsnb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

AIDS Saint John, Saint John: improve quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV, reduce the spread through education 652-2437 email: aidssj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids saintjohn.com

Atlantiques Swim Team, Moncton: Swimming for fitness or participating in Masters swimming competitions. email: info@atlantiques.org web: atlantiques.org (Contact us by email for swim times and social events. LGBT Swimmers from elsewhere in Atlantic Canada are welcome to join the team and go to meets with us.) at the CEPS pool at the Université de Moncton.

East Coast Bears, Fredericton: adult men who are, or like, masculine, hairy men. 506-455-2856 email: info@eastcoastbears.com web: www.eastcoastbears.com, meets 4th Sunday (See webpage for schedule.)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton: Occasional social events and Email listserv. email: jwhitehe@unb.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG), Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area): 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.

Integrity, Fredericton: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. web: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity/ (Watch our website for details of 2007 planned events, (coming soon). Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation.) at St John's Anglican Church, 59 Broad Road, Ormocoto, New Brunswick.

Moncton Gay Pride, Moncton: Organizes, promotes

and produces Moncton's Pride events!. 382-5837, meets 1st sunday

Moncton Leather Chapter, Moncton: TheMLC facilitates communication & mutual understanding of Leather within Atlantic Canada. email: themlc@rogers.com, meets last Saturday at LEATHER NIGHTS: Triangles - LAST Saturday of the month

Moncton Line Dancing, Moncton: LINE DANCING for all levels from beginner to advanced. No partner required. No dress code. , meets every Wednesday (8:30pm sharp) at Triangles Bar, corner of St. George and Archibald.

Moncton Transgender Support Group, Moncton: Transgenders, their allies, families and friends. email: elisk@nbnet.nb.ca (Meets Monthly, email for time and place.)

PFLAG Canada - Fredericton, Fredericton: all welcome. email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca

PFLAG Canada - Moncton, Moncton: GLBTT2IQQ persons and their parents, families and friends. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnbpflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (occasionally on the 2nd Monday -- please call) at 7:30-9:30 PM at U. de M. in Rm 302, Adrien-J.-Cornier Building.

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst, Sackville NB/Amherst NS: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

PFLAG Canada - Saint John NB, Saint John: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. 648-9700 email: wandr@nbnet.nb.ca, tiggerj@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.pflag.ca/saintjohn.htm (1st Friday of each month September - June at 7pm. 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, Saint John: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: events@portcityrainbowpride.com web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

Q-Collective, Saint John: A safe place & event sponsor for UNBSJ students, staff & faculty. 506-648-9227 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca at various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News".

Safe Spaces Fundy Region, Saint John: Committed to ending discrimination around issues of sexual orientation in youth. email: safespaces@gmail.com web: www.safespacesfundy.ca, meets 2nd Wednesday (See our webpage for schedule of meetings and socials etc @ www.safespacesfundy.com) at Community Health Centre, 116 Coburg Street, Saint John, NB

Safe Spaces Moncton, Moncton: Safe Spaces offers support & counselling to GLBTQ Youth between 14-25. 869-6224 email: safespaces@nb.aibn.com web: www.safespaces.ca

Safe Spaces Moncton Region, Moncton: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 854-3049 email: safespaces@nb.aibn.com web: www.safespaces.ca

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library, Saint John: 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.

SIDA AIDS Moncton, Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaidsm@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 165A Gordon St., Moncton, NB, E1C 1N1

Spectrum, Fredericton: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unbf.ca/clubs/spectrum, meets every Tuesday (7 pm) at SUB 203

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton, Moncton: Visé à éduquer, à sensibiliser et à offrir des ressources dans la langue française. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/ (Visitez le site Web ou envoyez un courriel pour en apprendre davantage au sujet du travail que nous accomplissons.)

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

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

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

Conception Bay North AIDS Interest Group, Conception Bay: 709-596-4433 email: cbn.aids.intgr@nf.sympatico.ca web: www.cbnai.org (Taylor Bldg., Carbonear Road, P.O. Box 993, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, A0A 2M0)

GUYZ Project, St John's: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness email: chris@acnl.net

LBGT-MUN Resource Centre, St John's: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers!. 737-7619 email: lbgtmun@mun.ca web: www.mun.ca/lbgt/ (weekdays 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM; two-three meetings each month; Coffee-House Fridays from 12-2pm; movie nights and other social events occur at least three times per month!) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved! LBGT-MUN: "A Positive Place, for Positive People!"

NGALE: Newfoundland and Labrador Gays and Lesbians for Equality. 709-579-8656 email: info@ngale.org web: www.ngale.org

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.pflag.ca

Nova Scotia (902)

Acadia Pride, Wolfville: community at Acadia. 585-2165 web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (7:30pm (during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre, Wolfville: 585-2140 email: 057996c@acadiau.ca web: axe.acadiau.ca/women-centre (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

Affirm United, Halifax: support, action and worshiping community within the United Church. email: stewarar@gov.ns.ca at Box 33067, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Sydney: Support for those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, advocacy, and prevention/education free condoms. (902) 567-1766 email: christineporter@acccb.ns.ca web: www.acccb.ns.ca, meets 1st Wednesday (5:00pm 1st Wednesday of every month is our Regular Board meeting.) at 150 Bentineck St, Sydney, N.S. B1H 6G1

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Halifax: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)429-7922 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous, Halifax: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community- (902) 463-7895 email: courage449@yahoo.com web: www.rationalanucy.com/cout, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, Halifax: 455-9656

Bedford United Church, HRM/ Bedford: An Affirming Congregation 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 service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

BLT-Womyn of Halifax, Halifax: Bi, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group. 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ (every second Sunday evening 6pm - 7pm) at Dal Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway)

Bluenose Bears, Halifax: Club for bears and those who like them. 463-4312 email: bluenosebears@accesswave.ca web: www.geocities.com/bluenosebears, meets 3rd Friday

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre, Sydney: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbusu.com (M-F 9-4pm. Call or drop by for event listings, Ally Training, and Anti-Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshops!) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre, Truro: 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (80 Glenwood Drive, Truro, N.S., B2N 1P3)

Cumberland Pride Support Group, Amherst: For gay,lesbian,bisexual,transgender and transexual individuals of cumberland county. 660-5004 email: gaylords_1975@hotmail.me: available shortly, meets 3rd Thursday (group's first meeting to organize our agenda and purpose) at 7 kent drive, amherst, n.s. exit 3, victoria st., 3rd street on right.

DalOUT, Halifax: LGBTQ Society at Dalhousie. 494-2190 email: dalout@dal.ca web: societies.dsu.ca/dalout, meets every Thursday (7pm) at Dalhousie University, check OUT our website or contact us for details

Family Pride Camping Association (Rainbow Spirit), Halifax: FPCA plans events for GLBT families with kids of all ages. From Camping weekends to bowling events. (888) 344-FPCA email: info@fpca.ca web: www.fpca.ca (Contact us if you are interested in helping out or would like to be contacted when we have events.)

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

GLB CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE (SUNS): 494-6654 at c/o the Students' Union of NS

Group Harrison Society, Cape Breton: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. 564-6939 email: groupharrisonsociety@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/groupharrisonsociety, meets last Saturday (Admission \$6.50- Best light and sound show around!) at Steel Workers Hall, Sydney

Hal-Gal, Halifax: low-traffico Yahoo group that provides events and information for queer women in the Halifax area. email: hal-gal@yahooogroups.com

HalGal Mailing List, Halifax: events and information for queer/lesbian/bi/trans women and their allies in Hfx. web: groups.yahoo.com/hal-gal

Halifax Front Runners, Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/halifax/, meets every Saturday, and every Tuesday, and every Thursday (Sat: 9:30am, Tue: 5:30 pm, Thu: 5:30pm) at Main gates of the Halifax Public Gardens, corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

Halifax Rainbow Speakers, Halifax: Speakers available, contact us if you are interested in joining also. 494-6662 web: www.thenovascotiapublicinterestresearchgroup.dal.ca (Call for times & locations)

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society, Halifax: Fundraising. 476-4225 email: info@imperialcourtns.com web: www.imperial-courtns.com (Meeting times vary)

Intensity Dance, Halifax: non-profit dance collective and presenting organization. email: intensitydance@yahoo.com web: intensitydance.tripod.com

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Project, Halifax: support and connection across Nova Scotia. 429-5429

email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (support and connection across, Week one: Monday - Transgender Discussion group 7-9 pm; Tuesday - 18 & under Discussion group 6-8 pm; Wed. 18 to 25 Discussion group 7-9 pm. Week two: Tues. Drop-in - 6-8 pm; Wed. - Movie Night 7-9 pm. Week three: Mon. Transgender Discussion group - 7-9 pm; Tues - 25 & under guest speaker/discussion; Wed. Activity Night. Week four: Tues. Theme Drop-in - 6-9 pm; Wed. Movie Night - 7-9 pm. A youth food bank and STI testing on site. Please refer to website for times and details.) at 2281 Brunswick Street.

LGB Youth Support Group Lunenburg County, Bridgewater: fun social/support group for under 25 through the Sexual Health Ctr, Bridgewater & LGBYouth Project. 527-2868 email: lunco@nssexualhealth.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (Postponed until further notice: Volunteer facilitators needed!)

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

Mount Pride, Halifax: Social group, open to anyone. 902 430-6981 email: mountpride@yahooogroups.com, meets 1st Tuesday (meetings will start back up in sept when school starts again.) at Diversity Center in Rosaria

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

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, Halifax: fostering change through networking, education, outreach & community education. 902-444-7887 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrap.ca at Bloomfield Centre

Outlaw, Halifax: Queer Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School. email: dal_outlaw@yahoo.ca (Meetings vary. Please email if interested.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Over 30's Club: Socials, usually potluck dinners. 464-8925 email: atlanticoverthirty@hotmail.com (one Saturday evening a month) at members' homes, mostly Halifax but occasionally out of town.

PFLAG Canada - Amherst/Sackville: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (Contact us for meeting details.) at Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG Canada - Halifax, Halifax: support and education to parents, family and friends. (902) 443-3747 email: ab274@cbeucto.ns.ca (September-March: 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-4 PM April-June: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM) at individual homes

PFLAG Canada - Middleton, Middleton: Parents & friends. 902-825-0548 email: middletonns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflag-canada.ca/middleton.html, meets last Friday (7-9pm) at the Wilmot Community Centre civic address 13972 Highway #1 wilmot. Wilmot is located just between kingston and Middleton. The hall depending on direction that your coming from. Left if your coming from the East side and Right if your coming from the West direction.

PFLAG Canada - Sydney, Sydney: PFLAG Sydney provides support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Celeste Sulliman @ 563-1389, Sexual Diversity Centre 563-1481 and B. Durdle @ 563k-1443 email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (7:30-9:30 pm. Sunday May 28th Sunday June 25th break for summer (exception is appearance in Cape Breton Pride Parade, July 29, 2006 and the walk for Homophobia, May 17, 2006)) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

PFLAG Truro: 662.3774 email: s.r.burns@ns.sympatico.ca

Positive Connections: Teleconferenced support groups for people living with AIDS. email: connections@acns.ns.ca, meets every Monday (evening 7:00pm - 8:00pm) at by phone. No long distance charges. For more info call 425-4882 ext 228 or 1-800-566-2437 ext 228 or e-mail.

Pride Cape Breton Society, Sydney: Dances. web: www.pridecapbreton.com (Dances on the 2nd Saturday of every month.) at Southend community centre. Maps are at our website.

Pride Guide Publishing: publisher of community focused maps, directories, event programs and more. 902-423-6999 email: prideguide@eastlink.ca

Pride of Pictou County, New Glasgow: All GBLT in Pictou County. 695-5222 email: info@prideofpictoucounty.ca web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

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

Queer Play, Halifax: Theatre, drag, performance art. We're bringing queer play to the East Coast. email: queerplay@gmail.com

Rainbow Playtime, Halifax: Food & social meetings for same sex families with tots or couples considering parenthood. 461-9414

Red Door, The, Kentville: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 28 Webster Court

RESPECT, Truro: Students Making Healthy Decisions. 902-893-6300 email: respect@nsac.ca (P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3)

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment), Truro: Social/support group at the NS Agricul-

tural College. 902-893-6300 email: lyoung@nsac.ns.ca (Meeting are as requested.)

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GBLT community. Everyone is welcome!. 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets every Sunday (11 am) at 2786 Agricola St. Bloomfield Centre, Suite #108

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society:

Second Story Women's Centre, Lunenburg: email: secstory@eastlink.ca web: www.secstory.com

Sexual Health Centre, Lunenburg County: dedicated to promoting healthy and responsible sexuality to the citizens of Lunenburg County. 527-2868 email: lunco@nssexualhealth.ca web: www.lunco.cfsh.info at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater

Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland County, Cumberland County: We provide sexuality information and education in an environment that respects and supports choice. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.cfsh.info at 12 LaPlanche St., Amherst Monday - Thursday, 9 - 5 (by chance or appt.) Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms

South Shore Pride Social Club, Bridgewater: for 19 & older. 685-3297 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca (No meetings at this time.) at We hold dances on the third Saturday of each month from 9:00PM to 1:00AM. No dance in July. Door prizes and 50/50 draw and a major prize draw at June dance. Cash Bar. Call or email for location.

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

Team Halifax, 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 Rainbow - AtlanticAwareness Society, (Cape Breton/Halifax/Annapolis Valley): email: tpineo@hotmail.com web: To be released

Tightrope, Halifax: leather & denim brotherhood. See our monthly events listing at http://gay.hfxns.org/LocalEvents. 455-0623, ask for Don, meets 3rd Saturday

Truro Pride, Truro: A group supporting GLBT individuals in the Colchester County. email: truropride@hotmail.com, meets every Wednesday at Coffee and conversation every Wednesday evening at the FairTrade Cafe on Prince Street, between Commercial and Dominion Streets. The group is open to all and the cafe is a gay friendly environment. For information call the Northern AIDS Connection Society at 902-895-0931 or email truropride@hotmail.com The Truro Pride also hosts dances and other activities, ask for details.

Universalist Unitarian Church, Halifax: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500, meets every Sunday (10:30) at 5500 Inglis St

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House, Kingston: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 902-765-2821 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: facet-withpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, dances on the first Saturday of the month.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

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

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

Prince Edward Island (902)

Abegweit Rainbow Collective, Charlottetown: Serving GLBTTQ Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arpei.ca web: www.arpei.ca, meets 2nd Tuesday (of each month) at ARC Offices at 144 Prince Street, 3rd floor

AIDS PEI, Charlottetown: 566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 144 Prince Street

Gay PEI Mailing List, province-wide: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pe-owner@yahooogroups.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei (It's an electronic list, there aren't meetings. You can join and start posting at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pe/ at any time. All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list.)

GLBT Youth group, Charlottetown: Safe Space Drop-ins. 367-3408 or toll free 1 877 380 5776 email: youth@arpei.ca web: youth.arpei.ca at 144 Prince St. We have a lending library, books, movies, magazines and a place to hang out and chat. Special events planned throughout the year.

Narcotics Anonymous, Charlottetown: a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 566-9733 or 1-800-205-8402 (Mondays & Fridays 8:00pm) at 178 Fitzroy St

PEI Pride, Charlottetown: Organizing The Island Pride Festival. (902)314-0673 or (902)940-3971 email: pridepei@isn.net web: www.peipride.com (every other Tuesday @ 5:30pm -- see web site) at 144 Prince Street

PFLAG Canada - PEI, Charlottetown: Parents & Friends. 368-8416, meets 4th Monday at Boys & Girls Club St. Peters Road Charlottetown

PRIZMS, Charlottetown: PEI's first all dance party! Catering to the gay and lesbian community. web: www.prizms.net (see web page for upcoming events and location information) at PRIZMS expose yourself to the high energy- highly social atmosphere. "PRIZMS - Dance in the Light"

UPEI Rainbow Alliance, Charlottetown: Fellowship, information, social events, awareness-raising. All welcome. email: rainbow@upeir.ca web: upeira.ca/index.php at see UPEI Women's Centre for more info

Events >>

Amherst

Second Monday

PFLAG Amherst/Sackville - in Amherst one month, Sackville the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street.

First and Third Wednesdays

Amherst and Area, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group Meeting, 7-9pm. Anyone who is GLBT or questioning their sexuality in the Amherst, Oxford, Springhill, Pugwash and Parrsboro areas is welcome, this is a safe space where anyone can come and feel safe in talking about their sexuality and just being themselves without fear of ridicule or harassment. lgby_pamherst@hotmail.com, all emails confidential.

Third Thursday of each month

Cumberland Pride Support Group: Social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Thursday of each month. Contact information: Gerard Veldhoven at 902-660-5004 or E-mail: gaylords_1975@hotmail.com

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House Meets every Thursday evening from 7-9pm and also on the first Saturday of every month hosts a Gay/Lesbian dance for ages 19 and up from 9pm-1am. If you need more information concerning themes or other events that may take place call 902-765-2821 or email menembracingmen@yahoo.ca

Every Sunday

Valley Girls is a social group for lesbians in the Annapolis Valley. Coffee Group on Sundays. For more information e-mail the group at Valley_Girls@yahoogroups.com.

Bridgewater

Third Saturday of each month

Wileville Dance. Smoke free. For more details call 685-3297 or email info@southshorepride.ca or www.southshorepride.ca

Cape Breton

Apr 29, May 27, June 24

Meetings will be in the same place (Family Place

Resource Centre), same day (Sundays) and same time (7:30 - 9:30 pm). All are welcome. If you know of anyone who would benefit from our meetings - they can contact us at sydney@pflagcanada.ca, sexual diversity centre 563-1481, Celeste 563-1389 or B. Durdle 563-1443.

Every 2nd Saturday

Pride Cape Breton Society hosts community dances at the Southend Community Centre in Sydney; admission just \$5., and open to those 19 yrs. of age and older.

Charlottetown

What's coming up on the island? If you don't tell Wayves, who will?

Fredericton

Every Tuesday

Spectrum, UNB and STU's social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, etc. students. As a group, our aim is to create a safe and supportive space for those who are questioning or discovering their sexuality, as well as providing a social outlet for members of the campus LGBTQ community. While our membership is primarily composed of UNB and STU students, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. 7 pm, Top floor of SUB 203 (in the Sexuality Centre, across from the Ballroom) Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at spectrum@unb.ca

Every Wednesday

UNB/STU Women's Collective, at the University Women's Centre in the SUB, 5pm. Contact Lyndsey Gallant at gvnkr@stu.ca or call 450-3870.

Third Sunday of each month

GLB ANGLICANS AND FRIENDS Integrity is a non profit organization of Gay and Lesbian Anglicans and Friends. Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation. Integrity Fredericton was formed in October 2004 and supports and encourages Gay Men and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. A Eucharist followed by a coffee hour discussion is held at 4:00 PM on the third Sunday of each month at St. John's, 58 Broad Road, Oromocto. For more details check out website: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity

Fourth Wednesday of each month

PFLAG Fredericton meets at 7 PM at the

Unitarian Fellowship, 874 York Street. Everyone welcome. Discussion, guest speakers, support and special events. For more information email pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca. Confidentiality assured.

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

BOOM! NIGHTCLUB

www.boomnightclub.ca, 463-Boom! (2666) 474 Queen Street

Thursdays - Retro night - 70s, 80s, 90s... All dance mixes from a different decade each week. Open 4-1.

Fridays and Saturdays - Happy hour 4-9, All-extended-mix mainstream club music 9-2.

Sundays - New Brunswick's one and only T-dance! All-anthem dance music, 4-7.

Halifax

Every Sunday

Bedford United Church. 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an Affirming Congregation and welcome everyone. Services at 9 am (Casual & Contemporary) and 11 am (Quieter & More Reverent in tone) Starting June 24-Sept. 9, one 10 am service. For more info, call 835-8497.

Every Sunday

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome! 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets at 11 am at 2786 Agricola St. Bloomfield Centre, Suite #108

Second Sunday of each month

Play Group for Queer Families! 3-5pm 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. For info, call 422-8780 or email lynnmacdonald@hfx.eastlink.ca

First and Third Mondays

Young people's group, at Safe Harbour, at 7 pm, Bloomfield Centre 2786 Agricola Street, Suite 108. The group watches an LGBT movie with some spiritual or other worthwhile value, eats some pizza and discusses the movie. Everyone age 30 and under is welcome.

First and Third Tuesdays

Formerly known as the Queer/Straight Alliance, Mount Pride in the GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. We are an active and online

group that meets bi-weekly on tuesdays at 12 noon in the diversity center in Roseria on campus, and online at mountpride@yahoogroups.com. Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers, and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

First and Third Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project Social Drop-in Nights. This is an unstructured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever, 6-9pm, 25 and under, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project 18 and under Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed, 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

First and Third Sundays

BLT-WOMYN OF HALIFAX. This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's GROUP! 6pm - 7pm, at DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S CENTRE, 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Come to a discussion night or send us your e-mail address or call a moderator (Sue @ 499-0335). If you have any questions or concerns. A discussion group for Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgender women, who will meet to have open discussions, in a positive environment. To discuss topics concerning ourselves and our community. This is a bi-weekly meeting on Sunday evening at 6pm -7pm (1st. and the 3rd. week of every month) and an online discussion/chat group (every 2nd and 4th week at 6pm - 7pm on line)- We are working on, an Online Chat at this time. http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ or blt-womynofhalifax-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca

First and Third Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project Movie Night, 25 and under, starting at 7pm. 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project ages 18-25 Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion

in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second Wednesday of each month

Spirituality for Lesbians, 7:30-9PM. 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. For info about the place of the next meeting call 459-2649 and leave name and number. Personal mailbox: confidentiality assured.

May 10, 24, June 7, 21

Anonymous HIV Testing, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia 1657 Barrington St, Suite 321, 5-8pm. 425-4882 for an appointment.

May 13, 27, June 10, 24

Koinonia Ecumenical Church - Meaning 'community'. Services bi-weekly at 12:30pm at Halifax Feast downtown. Pastor Elaine, 876-8771 or koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca

April 28

Fetish Ball in the Space above Diamonds at 2215 Gottingen St from 9 - 2ish. It is a fundraiser for the MacLeather Society & Tightrope Leather Brotherhood Society Travel Funds and three other alternative lifestyle organizations in need of funding. Travel Funds help contest winners and members to get to other contests and conventions in other parts of the country to represent the Maritimes which they could not afford to pay for by themselves. Any questions let me know Don - 455-0623

April 30

The Live & Let Live AA Group will celebrate its 25th anniversary at 8.00 pm on Monday, April 30, at St Mathews Church, 1479 Barrington Street, in Halifax. It is an open meeting on this occasion and everyone is welcome. Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs. For more information, phone 902 463 7895 or email LylaandCal@eastlink.ca.

May 8

Going Down: A Guide to Fellatio. If you're interested in licking boys' bits, but aren't sure where to start or what to do once you get going, this workshop is for you. From basic anatomy to tips for the advanced, this workshop will cover a wide range of information about giving head. 2 hours, May 8, 2007 @ 6:30pm /for everyone/ \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) register at venus envy: 1598 Barrington Street, 422 0004

May 20

Mz Gay Halifax Pageant, 10 p.m. Hosted by Rouge Fatale at Reflections Cabaret, 5184 Sackville St.

May 22

Going Down: A Guide to Cunnilingus. This workshop will cover anatomy, technique, communication skills and tricks to please your lady with your lips. And tongue, and teeth, and hands, and then some! 2 hours, May 8, 2007 @ 6:30pm /for everyone/ \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) register at venus envy: 1598 Barrington Street, 422 0004

Halifax Youth Project Calendar

Youth Project events operate in a 4-week schedule. To find out what week we're operating in, please see our website or contact us! www.youthproject.ns.ca, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, 429-5429

Week 1

Monday - Transgender Discussion Group: A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what trans youth have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. A place to talk about trans issues and make new friends! 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St. Tuesday - Discussion Group (ages 18 and under) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick St. Wednesday - Discussion Group (ages 18-25) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time

Send your events to submissions@wayves.ca now! Event listings are free!



MENZ BAR

In the Heart of Halifax's Gay Village

Noon - 2 am • 902-446-6969
2104 Gottingen Street, Halifax • www.MenzBar.ca



SEADOG'S
SAUNA & SPA

Mon - Thu: 4pm - 1am
Fri: 4pm - Mon: 1am (24hr weekend)

2199 Gottingen St., Halifax / www.SeaDogs.ca
1-888-837-1388 / 902-444-DOGS



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234 ST. GEORGE STREET, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

Open TUESDAY to SUNDAY from 8PM to 2AM

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY FREE POOL Beer - Bar Shots - Shooters \$3.25 ALL NIGHT	THURSDAY KARAOKE NIGHT Beer - Bar Shots \$3.25 until 12AM Shooter Special \$2.75 all Night
FRIDAY & SATURDAY DANCE MUSIC WITH DJ DABOSS HAPPY HOUR till 11PM	SUNDAY REQUEST ALL YOUR FAVORITE SONGS WITH DJ DABOSS Beer - Bar Shots - Shooters \$3.25 ALL NIGHT

Check out our monthly "EVENTS" page at www.trianglesbar.com

We welcome your comments and suggestions and please feel free to e-mail us at thegirls@nb.sympatico.ca

<< Events

helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 2

Tuesday - Social Drop-in Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick street
Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 3

Tuesday - Guest Speaker & Discussion night (ages 25 & under) A new speaker every week to educate & spark discussion. This is a structured environment. 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick street
Wednesday - Activity night (ages 25 & under) A chance to have fun and perhaps learn something new. Activities will be on this night lasting two and a half months. First activity class IMPROV classes. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 4

Tuesday - Social Drop-in Themed Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event with a fun & exciting theme. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick street
Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Halifax Bar & Business Calendar**BLUE MOON BISTRO/BACK BAR**

2099B Gottingen St., Halifax, (902) 446-3644
5 pm-2 am, 7 days a week
Weekly Events:
Sundays - A variety of drag shows and fundraisers, including many ISCANS Reign VII fundraisers.
Mondays - Poor Student Night. A variety of fundraisers with food and prize giveaways, hosted by Mz. Vicki.
Tuesdays - Karaoke with Troy. Cash prizes.
Wednesdays - 7 PM-11 PM. Swing dancing with the Dalhousie Swing Dance Society.
Fridays And Saturdays - Dance the weekend away with DJ Geo, DJ Special Tee, DJ Atmosphere and other guest DJs.

MENZ BAR

2104 Gottingen St,
Halifax's Gay Village
902-446-6969
www.MENZBAR.ca
FREE INTERNET & WI-FI 7 DAYS A WEEK
CHECK OUT OUR NEW 2007 MENU!
The PARTZ Dept with Pool Table & Moose Deck on Level III
May LINE UP
Mondayz 9:30pm-1:30pm GUESS WHO'S Back! Karaoke with Kara - Sing the Mystery Song & Win up to \$300!
Wednesdayz 9:30pm -1:30pm Karaoke with Bear777 - Sing the Mystery Song & Win up to \$300!
Fridayz 5pm-10pm TGIF COCKTAIL Party - U Want It, He'll Shake IT!
Fridayz & Saturdayz Dance Party with our House DJ's from 10pm-2am
Sundayz: BRUNCH 8 am-3pm & Caesar TIME from 10am-7pm!
FRI. May 4th - Party with DJ ELECTRO
SAT. May 5th - Leather Night with DJ NEEDLES
FRI May 11th - 90's Retro Night with DJ NEEDLES
SAT. May 12th - Dancing with DJ NEEDLES
FRI. May 18th - Party on with DJ ELECTRO
SAT. May 19th - Collar Night with DJ NEEDLES
SUN. May 20th - Afternoon Deck Party!
Fri. May 25th - Dancing with DJ NEEDLES
SAT. May 26th - Pansy Party with DJ NEEDLES "Wear Your Brightest Color and Dance till you Puke"

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"Mollyz Hitz the Spot" HFX-The Daily News
In the Heart of Halifax's Gay Village
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MON. - THUR: 11am till 9pm
FRI: 11am till 10pm - BAR till 2am
SAT & SUN BRUNCH MENU - 8am till 10pm
Check Out our New LUNCHEON Specials & Daily Features
Mondayz - BURGERZ & BEER Night

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Wednesdayz - WINGS & Draught

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Moncton**Every Thursday**

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École carrefour de l'acadie gym. No experience

required. Info : Rodge 383-1410 or Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00 / player includes refreshments.

Tous les jeudis

VOLLEY BALL POUR LGBT et AMI-E-S, 19h - 21h. École carrefour de l'acadie. Aucune experience requise. Infos : Rodge 383-1410 ou Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00 / joueur (rafraichissements inclus)

Third Monday of each month

PFLAG Moncton has monthly support meeting from 7:30-9:30 in room 302 of the Adrien-J.-Cormier bldg at U de M campus. Everyone is welcome at our meetings.

Second and Fourth Mondays

SAFE SPACES MEETING, 7pm. Support group for GLB youth, 14-25. For more info, 869-6224 or safespaces@nb.aibn.com

Last Saturday

Moncton Leather Chapter Leather Nights at Triangles! With the interest and number of people that have started wearing Leather in Moncton, it only seems natural to have a monthly Leather Night so that any man or woman can wear their Leather and know that they will not be alone in doing so when they go to Triangles.

Moncton Bar & Business Calendar**TRIANGLES**

234 St. George St, open Tues-Sun 8pm-2am
Tuesday & Wednesday: Free Pool, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters special all night
Thursday: Karaoke Mystery Song - \$25 added each week until the correct song is picked! Beer / Bar Shots special until midnight, Shooter special all night
Friday & Saturday: Dance Music with DJ

daBoss, Summer Special Beer with Shooter 11pm-midnight

Sunday: Request all your favourite songs with DJ daBoss, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters special all night

Check out our monthly events page at www.trianglesbar.com, and send comments & suggestions to thegirls@nb.sympatico.ca
Our colour parties are back - watch for the yellow party, coming up in April.
Check our website for upcoming Colour Party dates

Sackville**Second Monday**

PFLAG Sackville / Amherst - in Sackville one month, Amherst the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street.

Saint John**Third Saturday**

Gay Men's Supper Club, 220 Germain St. <http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com/> for more information.

Saint John Bar & Business Calendar**CLUB MONTREAL**

Wednesdays: No cover, free pool
Thursdays: No cover, karaoke with prizes
Fridays: No cover, open turntables
Saturdays: \$5 cover after 10 PM
Sundays: No cover, free pool
Your birthday: no cover, one free drink, just

show your ID!

St. John's**July 9-15**

Pride 2007 will take place from July 9-15th, 2007. To sit on the planning committee, please contact Mark Hanlon by email at mlhanlon@gmail.com or Danny Smith at dannyonthetrock@yahoo.ca

St. John's - LGBT-MUN**Every Friday**

Coffee House: Every Friday, 12-2 (LBGT Office, 6th Floor UC, 6002) Every Friday we invite anyone and everyone to come to LBGT and enjoy a cup of Coffee or Tea (regular or herbal) with us (members, non-members, etc). It's a great chance to vent, meet some new people, etc. Our office is located in UC-6022.

Every Second Friday

General Meeting every second week. They take place at UC-6022 at 11:00am.

St. John's Bar & Business Calendar**Zone 216**

216 Water St, 754-2492
<http://www.hello.to/zone216>
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No Cover before 11 Saturday
Sydney

...see Cape Breton

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Every Wednesday

Truro Pride: GLBT support group in Colchester County, Nova Scotia. (Coffee hour at the Fair Trade Café on 535 Prince Street in Truro, every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm. For information call Northern AIDS Connection Society at 902-895-0931 or email truropride@hotmail.com

WAYVES DATES!

Check out the front of the magazine for Wayves deadlines and meeting dates -- all are welcome!

Wileville

...see Bridgewater

Wolfville**Every Second Tuesday**

Kings County Prostate Cancer Support Group,

7-9 pm in the East Kings Memorial Public Health Centre on Earncliffe Ave in Wolfville. You can ask questions you forgot to ask the doctor or nurse and you can think aloud to help you make your decisions. There is growing evidence that your participation in a group of people who have gone through the processes you are now facing is mentally beneficial and may well contribute to your recovery from prostate cancer interventions. We are an easy-going informal group of 12 men, some of whom bring their spouses/partners to our monthly meetings. Know that you are truly welcome to join us and if you need more information please get in touch with me by e-mail dickgroot2003@yahoo.ca or by phone 542 6125. Our correspondence address is the same as my home address: 210 Main Street, Wolfville NS B4P 1C4.

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- Treatment Information

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Email: support@acns.ns.ca

**Classifieds****groups**

MARITIME GAY WOMEN starting group in Moncton to make friends. Hope to meet people who ski, play cards, like nature, Maritime travel, golf, whatever you're interested in. If you're alone, or would like to meet new people, email makefriends@mail.com

Men's Reading Group meets regularly in Halifax. Come meet interesting people and discuss gay literature. Check our webpage at www.menread.50megs.com. Email menread@gay.com or contact 454-9111 for more information.

research

Étude -- LGBT & Canadian Military
-- Study: Were you discharged for homosexuality? Are/Were you a LGBT soldier? Or their Partner? Congédié(e) dû à votre homosexualité? Êtes/Étiez-vous militaire LGBT? Ou leur conjoint(e)? <http://tinyurl.com/yab8yy> May07

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GAY MEN, BISEXUALS will find themselves welcome by Quakers, who recognize that there is "that of God in every person." Call (902) 429-2904 for more info.

support

HALIFAX RAINBOW SPEAKERS: Project Proud Lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, two-spirited and queer volunteers wanted to participate in public education workshops. No special knowledge or experience necessary--training, practice and support provided. Let your rainbow shine! Ramona 902-494-6662, nspir@is2.dal.ca

HALIFAX TRANSGUYS is a support group for transmen at any point in transition, locally and in Atlantic Canada. Please write: halifaxtransguys@yahoo.groups.ca for further info on our upcoming meetings and social events.



**NEXT ISSUE
DEADLINE:
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Deadlines: page 2! (hint: always the first Friday of the month!)

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All Over the Rainbow: Coming Out [Again]

By Calandra Smith

As I write this I am not sure whether the grassroots "Kiss-In" demonstration Hugo Dann is talking about organizing will materialize to mark the International Day Against Homophobia on May 17, but it raises the question of who (if anyone) would I be kissing? Hugo's vision is to have the event open to everyone, not just members of the "rainbow" community/ies, and that inclusiveness gives me great hope that maybe we can spend the day raising our own consciousness, as well as that of "others," because our own contains as much racism, sexism, and other internalized nastiness as the community at large.

Although I consider myself one of the most intelligent and insightful people I have ever had the pleasure to meet, when it comes to my own sexuality I have been stupidly ignorant for most of my life. Since I was socialized female I can place some blame on sexist and heterosexist conditioning which I (thought I) challenged fairly early on in life, but there have been more pervasive influences at work in my chosen rainbow community/ies which I regret having swallowed more-or-less whole for far too long.

I can think of things I would rather do than spill my guts in a public space such as this, but my

conscience tells me doing so may spare some other soul some of what I have not spared myself in waiting this long in life to finish my coming out process – at least I hope to hell that there is not more still waiting in the wings, since my friends tell me they will disown me if I ever come out as [fill in the blank].

Bear with me if you can – I'm coming out as bi and, what the hell -- let's get this over with -- poly, so probably polyqueer or pansexual to be politically correct, or you can just call me "flavour of the month" (B-B-Q ripple). Those of you who don't know me may think this is no big deal, but it is a huge freaking deal to me. I once spent over eleven years married to a man while still considering myself a lesbian. If I wouldn't cop to being bisexual then, I sure wasn't going to when I left him because I wanted to be with women (again) and didn't want to share with him [he started defining himself as a lesbian trapped in a man's body, do we hear "bring on the hot bi babes"?] My next (and only other) long-term relationship was with a woman, but guess what? It didn't work for me, either. It didn't help that she was totally into monogamy (which I never challenged her on, in all fairness) and unac-

cepting of bisexuality (she freaked at the idea that sexuality could be fluid – once someone explained to her what that meant) and clearly felt threatened by the idea of my being friends with gay men, even, let alone bisexual men and/or women. If I had left her for a man I don't think she ever would have recovered, and somebody should

I can think of things I would rather do than spill my guts in a public space such as this

probably call 9-1-1 when this paper hits the stands in anticipation of her having a stroke. Sorry!

Mostly what I learned from that relationship was that I could be equally miserable in a relationship with the wrong person, regardless of gender, and maybe wasn't cut out for relationships at all, at least not any requiring me to deny who I am as the price of admission.

Maybe I should have clued in a little (or a lot) sooner that I am not a dyed-in-the-wool lesbian any more than a dyed-in-the-wool hetero, based on the fact that a million faggots have flirted with me like mad my entire adult life, and a million faggots (like five million Frenchmen, if you get the allusion)

cont'd from Pride Expense, pg 2
tions? I think not! And let's not forget the hard working individual who works from pay to pay...none left over there either! The vendors who prepare their sales at Gay Pride charge horrendous prices for their products. I, as a working individual, cannot come close to purchasing what they have to sell. I agree that they, too, must make a living, but their prices are way beyond my limits and hundreds of others struggling to make a living. Yet the community screams out for people to become a part of. But the sales department such as vendors, dances, bars, campgrounds etc. cause the low income gay population to be apart from!

I have to say that at least the heterosexual community has the sense to know that low income population cannot afford certain luxuries so therefore they have functions that state, donations are accepted. Why doesn't the gay community put this out? Why can't a vendor sell some products with a sign that says, "Merchandise for sale...donate what you can afford?"

Last Pride, my ex-partner and I purchased two muscle shirts at \$20 per and they weren't even 06 shirts! They were old stock! I couldn't afford the '06 because I had to have money for other events. I believe in supporting Gay Pride, but this is ridiculous! I saw a trinket that you needed a magnifying glass to see and they wanted \$5.95 If I'm going to be purchasing something for \$5 it best be the size of a five dollar bill! Not that I am arguing the fact that one has to look real close at your chest to see what it is! I'm all for that, but you get my point!

I discussed this issue with my roommate and she agreed that I

should voice my opinion...and that's all it is...an opinion! My hope is that it reaches someone who understands and sympathizes with the less fortunate working and non-working class. I am not looking for feedback, agreement or disagreement. The best thing about being a Canadian...freedom of speech! Even better, being a gay Canadian with freedom of speech!

I witnessed a woman at last Gay Pride pulling a \$100 bill out of her back pocket to purchase two items. Could the less fortunate do that without their children going hungry or clothed or missing out on school pictures? Or maybe someone not paying their bill on time because they want to belong? To be a part of? The Gay Pride community wants us to stick together, support our gay community, stay strong for your sisters and brothers. But at what cost does it take to belong?

So before we make this Gay Pride a commercial hit, let's remember the "less fortunate" and how they stay at home out of frustration, anger, sadness, loneliness and depression, because as much as they would like to support their brothers and sisters, reality is, They are not financially able to! Their tears are as real as yours and mine!

So if you are a sales person reading this and planning your next income in July, please have a heart! Let's make next Pride Day an event for all to enjoy. I don't need a \$100 bill in my back pocket to be proud of who I am! Let's not make others feel that way! Toni

cont'd from Pride Response, pg 2
our Sponsorship Partners.

There has been some mention of what happens if Halifax Pride receives less from Sponsors and has fewer Partnership agreements. Does the cost of Pride get placed on the community? The answer is no. Halifax Pride works on a per year budget, the public gets what we have to give. Pride's biggest working power is people, and by networking within the community and without, we listen to and encourage the voice of the people we also gladly welcome volunteers to help obtain our goal, your goal, an entertainment celebration that embraces who we are and where we strive to be in an ever changing world.

cannot be wrong, n'est-ce-pas?

It took a pretty-much-total stranger's insistence a few months ago that I was obviously confused about my sexuality to make me stop and take a good, long, hard look at myself and my own desire and realize that I really don't care what configuration someone's genitals have when it comes to being sexually (or otherwise) attracted to someone.

Let's face it, the last thing I (or anyone else for that matter) am likely to get to know about someone I am attracted to is exactly how their genitals look, taste, smell, [note to all gay men: fuck off with the "fishy" business, dear, unless you have had your nose, at least, there personally] and feel. So why

should that determine whether or not I am even tempted to find out? What is up with ruling out half the population of the world as a potential partner (temporary or permanent) on the basis of whether they have an outie or an innie?

Having come this far, I may as well go all the way and tell you, too, that I am not interested in settling down ever again with anyone (not that I think this exposure is going to bring candidates a-flocking). I don't care what their race, gender, religion, mother tongue, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status may happen to be. I am all over the rainbow, folks, and from here on in it is all about taking back my power. On May 17, kiss me if you dare!

Review

Putting the "Fun" in Funeral Home

By Mary Kathryn Arnold

Alison Bechdel's brilliant and loving memoir, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, tells the story of a daughter and a father who are in some ways as different as night and day, but in a crucial way, very alike. Bechdel is the author of *Dykes to Watch Out For*, a wonderful comicstrip that's been running since 1983. Her first graphic novel, which *Time* magazine named as its "2006 Best Book of the Year," is about Bechdel's growing up a bookish creative lesbian in small-town Pennsylvania, in the shadow of her meticulous third-generation funeral director and high-school English teacher father. He, Bechdel learns shortly after she comes out to her parents in a letter at the age of twenty, is a closeted homosexual, and dies under mysterious circumstances four months later. The timing of these two events causes the younger Bechdel to blame herself for her father's demise, associating her coming out with his probable suicide.

The book overflows with references to books and other texts (movies, plays, songs, television etc.); in fact, father and daughter connect almost exclusively through the written word. Home for the holidays after her first term at college, Bechdel's father presciently gives her a copy of Colette's autobiography, *Earthly Paradise*. But this shared love of books is not always so benign. Bechdel recalls her father's enthusiasm for books turning into an obsession with directing his daughter's life, so that she might not make the mistakes he did: when she tells her father that she's reading James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man*, her father replies that she "damn well better identify with every page."

The book is at once heartrending and hilarious. Bechdel recounts how her father put his artistic energies into restoring their dilapidated Victorian home, fixating on girandoles and Hepplewhite chairs. She suggests that her family might have been like the one in Frank Capra's *It's A Wonderful Life* (in which Jimmy Stewart and Donna

Reed fix up an old house and raise their family there), but for the fact that her father's outbursts were a regular occurrence, in contrast with Jimmy Stewart's one-time crisis-signaling blowup. Bechdel wryly observes that it was "like being raised not by Jimmy but by Martha Stewart."

Where her father is fascinated by intricate and beautiful, yet useless, decoration (lace is an object of particular fascination), Alison is drawn towards the modern and the purely functional (as a child, she dreams of living in a metal house, like a submarine). Calling her father a "savant of surface," she reveals that, from an early age, long before she knew of his secret sexuality, she found him "morally suspect" because of his love of embellishment, which she viewed as "lies." In Bechdel's eyes, her father fabricated perfect facades both privately, and professionally as an embalmer.

In a recent article in *Slate* magazine's memoir issue, Bechdel has said that she feels she robbed her mother in writing this book. Her mother was an actress and, like Bechdel's father, an English teacher. They met when they were both involved in a production of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, in which Bechdel's mother played the strong-willed Kate. In one of the book's funnier lines ("If there was ever a bigger pansy than my father, it was Marcel Proust"), Bechdel likens her lilac-loving father to Marcel Proust, who cultivated "intense emotional friendships with fashionable women" (the accompanying panel shows Bechdel's beautiful mother drinking coffee, reading *Vogue* magazine), but fell in love with "young, often straight, men" (like Roy, her father's yardworker/babysitter/lover). It was recently announced that Alison Bechdel is working on her next graphic novel memoir, to be titled *Love Life: A Case Study*, which, with any luck, will confront her relationship with her mother as vividly as she has depicted her relationship with her father in *Fun Home*.



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Do missed issues drive you up the wall?

OutRights Conference

by Morgan Worth

I couldn't pass up the chance to attend the OutRights conference.

The conference opened with R. Douglas Elliott, an activist who is also the lawyer who has worked the most for the Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) and a close friend of George Hislop, who has been dubbed "Canada's Official Homosexual". Elliott commented on the fact that no sponsorship for the OutGames (which OutRights was part of) came from a single oil and gas company.

The speakers covered a wide range of topics under four main categories: Creating Social Change, Essential Rights, Health and Inclusion Within. One of the speakers was Susan Cress, Chair of The OutGames, and Executive Director of AIDS Calgary Awareness Association, who had done a fantastic job of putting the OutGames together,

which was incidentally the First for North America.

Day two opened with a screening of a video produced by the Matthew Shepard Foundation which won the Special Award Courageous Response to Hate Crime, and featured Matthew and James Byrd Jr. James, because he was black, had been chained to a bumper and dragged behind a truck until he died. Matthew's mom, Judy, also spoke about Matthew's life and read us her victim impact statement, including: "If you're going to be quoting the Old Testament to me, you better be living your whole life in the Old Testament." (matthewshepard.org)



Ernestine (Devon Mills) and Morgan

Atlantic Prides: Strong Showing at International Conference

The Atlantic prides had a strong presence at the InterPride conference/Fierté Canada Pride Annual General Meeting held in Vancouver March 29 to April 1. The pride organizers conference was attended by delegates from both the US and Canada. Daily workshops covered topics from grant proposals and on-line surveys to youth outreach and rural pride mentoring. The conference was an excellent opportunity for pride organizers to network and work together on common issues. Current issues of interest to the delegates were similar to those expressed at the Halifax Community Town Hall Meeting in early March. Issues such as gender awareness and communication between organizers were hot topics of discussion across the board.

Newly elected as President of the board was Halifax's own Raymond Taavel. Also representing Atlantic Canada this year will be

Pride of Pictou County Chair, Ramona Westgate. Ms. Westgate will carry out the second year of her two-year term as Atlantic Director. PEI Pride's proposal to host the next conference/AGM in March of 2008 was also accepted.

InterPride business conducted during the conference included electing representatives of Region 7 (Canada). The role of the Region 7 directors include: representing all of Region 7 at international conferences, facilitating future InterPride meetings and sitting on at least one of the 5 InterPride committees. Directors for Region 7 are elected alternatively for two-year terms. Due to the large geographical area covered, the directors elected must currently hold a position on the executive or board of directors with FCP. Ross Chapman of Toronto



Trish Daley, Sue Keen, PEI; Ramona Westgate, Pictou County (Atlantic Canada Regional Rep) and Raymond Taavel, Halifax (New FCP President)

Pride currently holds the other of the two director positions for Region 7. For more information on InterPride please visit their website at <http://www.InterPride.org>.

For more information on FCP please contact Raymond Taavel at media@halifaxpride.ca or Ramona Westgate at chair@prideofpictoucounty.ca.

Update On Equal Rights in New Brunswick

By SarahRose Werner

Last month's issue described how an opposition MP had introduced a bill in the New Brunswick legislature that would have allowed civil marriage officials here to refuse to perform marriages that are not in accord with their personal religious beliefs. New Brunswick Attorney General T.J. Burke initially supported the bill and was quoted as saying that, "Religious rights of the employee trump the position of employment." Five days later, Burke had changed his mind: "The civil servant has the professional obligation to perform their duties as a civil servant in an impartial and a professional manner." He described the bill as "flawed" and "a step backwards." The provincial newspaper attributed this change to

"criticism by legal experts and gay rights activists."

The marriage bill was defeated on its second reading on March 14. All the "gay rights activists" who worked against it are quite proud of ourselves.

Then on Tuesday, March 27, the government introduced two bills proposing several amendments New Brunswick adoption legislation, including an amendment that would allow common-law partners, both opposite-sex and same-sex, to be recognized as couples for purposes for adoption. Both bills were passed three days later. This should put an end to discrimination in adoption

All the "gay rights activists" who worked against it are quite proud of ourselves.

that had continued to exist despite the fact that the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission ruled almost three years ago that birth registration and adoption are public services bound by the New Brunswick Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and marital status.

So, are we "there" yet when it comes to equal rights in New Brunswick? Hell, no!

For one thing, some private employers — including Mount Allison University, St. Thomas University and the Université de Moncton — are still using the discriminatory

definition of "spouse" embedded in the New Brunswick Pensions Benefits Act as an excuse to discriminate against same-sex common-law couples. A policy change by the previous government in August 2004 had already corrected this situation as far as provincial employees are concerned, but because the change was never made official by writing it into legislation, three years later the universities are still strolling brazenly through the loophole. Great example for the students, eh?

The NB Human Rights Act still does not prohibit discrimination on the grounds of gender identity

and gender expression.

The New Brunswick Medicare Physician's Manual still specifically excludes what it refers to as "transsexual surgery" from coverage.

Too many students are still the victims of homophobic and/or transphobic bullying in New Brunswick schools, while teachers who identify as LGBTTT2IQ, instead of being able to act as positive role models, must also fear harassment and discrimination.

The good news is that the current government seems willing to listen and so far, to act. We have hope, but we're far, far from being "there" yet.

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