



Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe Celebrate Their Tenth Pride

June 28, 2009 will mark the fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall riots. This year being a significant one, River of Pride has chosen to use the International Pride Theme for 2009: "Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights."

This year Greater Moncton will celebrate its tenth Pride with monthly activities leading up to a week full of Pride, August 15-23. This year's Pride Parade and Rally will be held on Saturday, August 22.

The River of Pride will host a Colour party every first Saturday of the month at Triangles. The Colour parties are the main fundraising events of the year. Red and Orange, already held, were a success with more than 200 supporters each in attendance. This year, the River of

Pride committee has chosen to reach out to other non-profit organizations in the Greater Moncton area, to help raise funds and awareness for each of them.

The Red party was held on February 7, 2009. For of AIDS awareness, River of Pride partnered with SIDA AIDS Moncton and raised \$400 for Pride and \$100 for the partner.

The Orange party, representing hunger awareness, River of Pride partnered with Food Depot Alimentaire, a food bank distribution centre. The party raised \$400 for Pride and \$100 for the partner, along with donated non-perishable food items.

The Yellow party, representative of cancer awareness, will be held on April 4. River of Pride will partner with the Canadian Cancer Society.

Other scheduled Colour parties include May 2 (Green), June 6 (Blue), July 4 (Purple) and August 1 (Pink). Galaxy of Stars is tentatively scheduled for May 22.

River of Pride 2009's confirmed sponsors for Pride Week thus far include: Triangles, Delta Beausejour, Starbuck's Champlain Place, Mark's Work Warehouse, Menz Bar, Empire Theatres, Mooshead, Seadogs, Downtown Moncton Inc., La Teraz, Staples and YMCA

The administrative committee consists of a hard working group of volunteers, including: Roger Poirier, Chair; Gregory LeBlanc, Treasurer; Ed Oldford, Secretary; Roland Bastarache, Coordinator, Sponsorship; John Doiron, Events; Ben Theriault, Volunteer; Victorin Duguay,

Webmaster; Remy St. Coeur, Volunteer-at-large; Robert LeBlanc, Volunteer-at-large; Lynn LeBlanc, Volunteer-at-large.

River of Pride is currently looking for more volunteers, as well as individuals to fill the two vacant positions of Media Relations and Parade Coordinator.

For further updates, interest in vacant positions and sponsorship please visit our website at www.fiertemonctonpride.ca or e-mail riverofpride@hotmail.com.



Roger Poirier (River of Pride) presents a cheque and non-perishable food to Yves LeBlanc (Food Depot Alimentaire)

Valley Youth Project Pilot

With great excitement we announce the launch of the Valley Youth Project. We aim to support queer, trans, lesbian, gay, bisexual and allied youth by creating a new 8-week pilot project in

Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley and surrounding areas. The Valley Youth Project is organized and facilitated by two dedicated volunteers with support from the Halifax Youth Project. The project will begin on Wednesday,

March 11, and run through to the end of May. We'll meet most Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the New Minas Civic Center located at 9209 Commercial Street. All youth aged 25 and under are welcome. Free bus tickets are available, and come for free food and activities.

It is our hope that you, as a friend and ally of queer youth, can help us spread the word about the Wednesday night drop in. Contact us for a copy of

By Lynnne Laurent

It is with a heavy heart that I write this article, but it must be done. On February 18, 2009, Blue Moon Bistro closed its doors forever, much to the surprise and dismay of our community. It is the end of an era that has spanned 11 years, first as Club NRG then later as Blue Moon. It will be missed. Unfortunately, the expense of keeping the bar open far exceeded my ability to make enough money to keep it going. Be that as it may, I am extremely proud of the fact that Blue Moon was a community space, and it was supported by many wonderful people over the years.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Don Hunt for being so understanding and tolerating of all of

our poster and hang them around your school, office, and town.

Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995, or e-mail us at valleyyouthproject@gmail.com.

my plans (especially the ones that fell through) and for letting me stay open for as long as I could. To Ed Savage, Bruce Hayre (aka Mz. Vicki), Troy, Kris, John Paul, Ryan, Rick, Nick, and everyone else who helped me at the

It is the end of an era that has spanned 11 years, first as Club NRG then later as Blue Moon.

bar, thank you from the bottom of my heart, I could have never done it without you all. To all of the organizations that passed through the doors of Blue Moon and made it their own I apologize for the abrupt closure and hope that you understand why it is the way it is, and know that I appreciate all of the support you gave to the bar and to me. To Doug from Menz Bar and Stephen from Reflections: thank you both for all of the experience and "cross-support" we've afforded all three bars over the years.

I'd like to also thank the many people who came to the bar on any given night and enjoyed partying with us. You have definitely lost a great place for cheap drinks, relaxed

atmosphere, and the chance just to be who you want to be on that particular night with no hassles or problems. I think that is the part that I will miss the most, the people.

In closing, I urge everyone to support the gay bars wherever you live. You can't complain about a bar closing if you didn't go to it in the first place, or if you ran it down in a blog or a chat room. If you want your favourite spot to stay open and flourish, you have to make sure it stays open by going, supporting, treating it as if it is yours. Since none of us have money trees growing in our backyards, a business relies on the patronage of their customers to sustain.

Menz Bar, The Company House, Reflections—these are your neighbourhood bars in Halifax. Please visit them and keep them alive, keep them going for our community. Keep them going for me, because after all of this, I'm going to need a few smart cocktails and some fun times!

Goodbye, Blue Moon. I will miss you very much.

Goodbye, Blue Moon!

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k.d. lang

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The Week The Women Went

By Paula Arsenault

Anne and Paula here... some of you may have seen our recent "outing" on CBC in "The Week the Women Went." Interestingly enough, we have had little response about our being a Canadian reality show lesbian couple on national TV. We're not sure why—perhaps we were too normal? Or, perhaps we did not fit the lesbian couple image most straight men want to have.

Anne was shy and did not want to be embarrassed by having our trailer shown "in the raw" to Canada. Paula wanted to take a spa vacation so she signed up to take part in the show. The show's producers took an interest in our family and we ended up having a film crew shadow Anne throughout the week. Anne overcame her shyness quite well, and if you go to episode 4 on the CBC website, you will see how well she did.

Paula was sent away with over 160 women to a vacation spot in New

Brunswick, but she wanted to go home after 3 days. She is not a great socializer and as it was a social experiment—there was lots to be social about. But she stuck it out and came home to a more independent spouse, who stayed home with the teenager boy, did all the regular chores, showed up and worked one day at the "men's" project AND surprised Paula with a re-decorated living room AND painted floor!

Most people would say the show was great for the profile of Tatamagouche, and that as such we will have a great tourist season. It gave the locals a look into all the work that goes into making television and hopefully it will inspire some people to look at possible careers in this industry. On the other hand, Paula feels that as a social experiment it has had a profound impact that we have been left to deal with. As a community we have a severe lack of social supports, for example, there is a one year waiting

list for mental health counselling. She questions the ethics of this type of "experimenting" with a lack of debriefing and follow-through.

Our family was impacted when our boy/nephew return to his father in New Brunswick. He pulled out of high school, months away from graduation. Perhaps this was as a result of all the emotions participating in the show raised for us all. On a positive note, Anne and Paula got to meet Wendy and Connie, who recently moved to Truro and were featured on the reality show, "The Biggest Loser." Watching the show each Wednesday night with a local lesbian couple who have a big TV and DVR was a great way to forge a friendship.

Was it worth it? We did raise the profile of married same-sex couples, living in rural areas and having children. Anne works in the local hospital and has only received posi-



Left to right: Paula, Anne, (The Week The Women Went Season 2) Connie, Wendy (Taking It Off Season 4)

tive feedback—her most memorable was the 72-year-old woman who was supportive of her being so "out." Finally, we got our moment of fame

and now we are out to anyone who know us or will ever know us, and of course Paula got a lovely chocolate brown living room floor.

ISCANS: A New Reign Begins

By Nathan Boudreau

Well, as you saw in the last issue, the annual Coronation Ball was held recently and we crowned the new Emperor and Empress. As soon as that was done, we were on our way with Reign 9 with plenty of events in the planning.

The week after Coronation both the Emperor and Empress (Lee Bent

and Boom Boom Lubalicious) and their Imperial Crown Prince and Princess (Nate N!-Bent and Elle Noir) hit the campus of St Francis Xavier University for their annual show, Priscilla Queen of the Highlands. It was well attended and everyone had a fabulous time.

With no time to waste, keeping up with a busy schedule, Empress Boom

Boom was away during the weekend of February 27 in Moncton for the ninth annual Diamonds Divas Revue, then back in Halifax for the King and Queen of Diamonds Pageant at Menz Bar. Allan Dowding and GiGi Ghore were crowned the new King and Queen of Diamonds.

Next issue: more event updates for ISCANS and Reign 9.

AIDS P.E.I. Recycles Cell Phones for Dollars

AIDS P.E.I. has launched one of the first cell phone recycling for dollars

program in Atlantic Canada.

The program, sponsored by the Shelter Alliance in Florida, allows AIDS PEI to accept used cell phones from individuals and organizations and turn those cell phones into cash. The money collected from the cell phones will be used to provide direct support for people living with HIV/AIDS in the province as well as preventative education programs. Executive director, Mark Hanlon, stated the program is both beneficial to AIDS PEI and to the environment. "Not only are you supporting our goals, but you're preventing potentially hazardous metals from entering our landfills," he says.

The cell phones are recycled by the Shelter Alliance and are sold to developing nations with emerging mobile technologies. Older phones

are broken down to remove their precious metals (like nickel and copper) and any potentially toxic metals are disposed of properly.

Individuals wishing to recycle their used cell phones can drop them off at 144 Prince Street, Charlottetown, or at any of the three Telus mobility locations in the province, or at the Habitat for Humanity Restore, located at 365 Mount Edward Rd, Charlottetown.

For more information, check out

Our Cover:

Best Outfit Winners at the Red Party, February 7, 2009 at Triangles in Moncton.

Photo: Remy St. Coeur
Design: Cam MacLeod

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Apr 3, May 1, Jun 5, Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 4; that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax): Mondays Apr 6, May 4, Jun 8, Jul 6, Aug 10, Sep 7. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Apr 13, May 10, Jun 14, Jul 12, Aug 16, Sep 13. Help build the paper – no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location. **On the stands, in the mail, and online the fourth Friday of every month.**

Wayves

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

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

Advertising: Jim Bain, Advertising Manager, email at ads@wayves.ca or call 902-889-2229. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

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Atlantic and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to submissions@wayves.ca and tell us where we should be!

Is "Straight-Acting" Healthy?

By Angus Campbell

I was browsing the internet the other day and saw the infamous phrase, "seeking straight-acting," advertised one too many times. That got me thinking. Isn't a straight-acting male one who puts his penis in a vagina? I've always understood that to be the basic/ultimate act of being straight, hence the "straight act."

There are many straight sexual acts. Even I caved to curiosity and social pressure to perform a few of them myself. But I find the expression "straight-acting" is rather insulting to my gayness, actually to our collective gayness.

I believe what some men are really in search of are masculine men—more specifically, masculine gay men. But there seems to be a problem using both "masculine" and "gay" in the same sentence. Do they only exist in hypersexual Tom of Fin-

land cartoons?

I've done some informal research and found many listings, especially in Atlantic Canada, from men who claim to be bisexual and are in search of straight-acting men such as themselves for hook ups. They state they are single, and I can't help but wonder when was the last time they had sex with a woman?

Don't get me wrong. Bisexuality does exist. I've befriended bisexual men and women. They have told me of their biggest common struggle: that most people don't believe or understand them. Many think they are gay and just can't accept their homosexuality, or that they just haven't found the right partner yet, or that bisexuality is just a transition from hetero to homo. And in many

cases the latter is true, but this is far from being an absolute.

I've listened as they speak of distinctive pleasures they get from men and others from women, or some explain that it's the individual they are attracted to, not a specific gender. Who am I, or better yet, who are we to deny their claim? When I was first coming out I didn't appreciate anyone telling me what I felt for another man was "just a phase."

Normally I would ignore this "straight-acting" phenomenon, but its effects have crossed the gay border without a passport in a world where bisexuals have dual citizenship. For example, you may have seen reference to MSM (Men who have Sex with Men—not to be confused with

Men Seeking Men) in health literature. We sometimes see WSW in reference to lesbians. Oddly enough we don't see MSW or WSM terminology.

Why must those of us who identify as gay or bisexual be described by behaviour rather than our self-accepted sexuality?

Is this sending a subliminal message that it's either hetero or other?

In my opinion, "straight-acting" is a prime example of internalized homophobia and its message is not so concealed. And homophobia, internalized or externalized, is never healthy for anyone!

When you think about it, "straight-acting" accurately describes a man who may be trapped in the expect-

tations of an existing or expected straight relationship. He feels forced to act straight and deceive unsuspecting women, when his inner desires are longing man-sex. Rather than judge him, perhaps we can offer him hope and encouragement.

We're a very diverse community from the ultra-femme to the über-masculine, from bitch to butch as it were. Some of us may sing Broadway tunes while others enjoy hockey, and some of us like both, maybe concurrently even. And many of us who have responded to the call of "come out, come out, wherever you are" have learned that gay can be good, gay can be loving, gay can be accepted. Gay can be healthy.

AngCam59@yahoo.ca

... but its effects have crossed the gay border without a passport in a world where bisexuals have dual citizenship.

Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden

By Bethana Sullivan

The mind a sea of confusion, of murky water and endless, no exit tunnels. To write in this state of existential tension seems to be impossibility. Yet it reflects my current reality. So here goes, trust the process, let that old saying about creativity emerging from chaos be true here.

I was speaking with a feminist, lesbian friend the other day, an old political activist (old as in "time past," not as in "infirm due to age"), who said that no one in her life today would know her in that way. The way of social action common ground meetings, consciousness raising circles, banners flying high marchers, bullhorns leading the way as we sing of bread and roses. I too share that history as women, feminists, lesbians of a certain age range do. (Not to be exclusionary, as men were also there.) Times change, movements recycle and we enter into a different stage of how to be in the world.

Out here in the harbour, I am

part of an environment group that is part of a larger visioning community for our area. We are a diverse group, known by name but not by history, nor by labels. No one knows for sure who is straight, who is gay, who is married, what our work is and so on. It is a group of shared values in terms of environment (this is probably an overstatement) but in other ways it is like many groups I have been part of over the years; different in our assumed meanings, perceptions, responses and understandings of how things work politically and socially. What is familiar and seems to be a thread of connection between past and present is the perceived need to control and shape diversity so as to

avoid the messiness of conflict, of feelings, of differences in general. The code word phrase today is about how to move things forward in the least obstructive way. There seems to be an overlay of the peaceable community values in its most benign yet destructive way.

For example, there is a problem with one group of community members having a different vision; our response to it is diverse according to personality and history yet is similar in that we really want it to go away so that we can get on with the serious business of saving the environment. Over and over, I see this happening in groups, no matter the purpose or goals. It is about survival, not rela-

tionships; it is about inclusivity if you don't rock the boat; diversity if we colour ourselves calmly. Differences are messy. Differences point us in the direction of our most necessary growth for survival and living. How is it that this keeps being lost in the need to move forward? I am mad about it, yet I must curb my passion because passion must be controlled, must be cognitively scripted in dialogically appropriate ways. Passion has the potential to be uncontrolled, uncontrollable and unscripted in "scary" ways (think "Taser" here.)

It seems to me that opening up to diversity in its many forms of culture and community is such a big change, and more importantly, is what calls for a deep shift in paradigm. We all hear and talk about the paradigm shift from "power over" to "power with" yet we don't necessarily have the skills to ground that change. Along with that comes the need for the existing power holders to control the political process by divide and conquer. I see that happen when certain groups get a little attention from government and before you know it, they are dancing the avoid-the-shifting-word-bomb jig in order to reap the parsimonious government, corporate, or foundation harvest.

We must learn how to be together politically and socially in ways that reflect the passion of our bodies, minds, feelings and spirit. So in one way, not knowing who is straight or gay, who is a boss and who is unemployed is probably a good thing as the ground is being levelled. However, it is a problem when it is a reflection of the need to control, to let outcomes dominate process or a reflection of a more insidious way of controlling diversity. Diversity is inclusiveness of the whole and knowing a whole lot about process and content.

At times it seems to me that diversity has created such fear and discomfort that the uses of oppressive practices have become mainstream in our daily work and life.

"Power-over is maintained by the belief that some people are more



valuable than others. Its system reflects distinctions in value. When we refuse to accept those distinctions, refuse to automatically assume our powerlessness, the smooth functioning of the systems of oppression is interrupted. Each interruption creates a small space, a rip in the fabric of oppression that has the potential to let another power come through." Starhawk, "Truth or Dare: Encounters with Power, Authority, and Mystery." Harper and Row Publishers, Toronto, 1987.

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I Am What I Amherst

Editor's note: Gerard's column was bumped from the last issue due to space constraints. Our apologies; here are both columns.

March

By Gerard Veldhoven
Chair, Cumberland Pride Society
Since the last column the Amherst scene has changed. Aside from the new title for this column and I am anticipating some comments, this area has come of age. I am speaking of GLBT activities that kept us on our toes. Planning and achieving a successful Holiday Gay-la Celebration was a lot of fun. A fabulous turn out for this event proved we are able to do anything and call it a resounding success. Sounds arrogant, I know, but our members really did a fantastic job. It was abundantly clear that the queer community in Amherst is ready for all sorts of celebrations!

One reader thought our pricing was a slam against singles as the tickets per couple was somewhat lower. It was an effort to boost attendance

for couples. Most guests were singles and not one single person complained about the price. That does not indicate, though, that all events will be priced this way.

A new secretary was installed at our November meeting: Lisa Hill-Power took over from Dana Osmond. Thanks go to Dana for her tenure as of April, 2008, and so we welcome Lisa to her new position. Lisa hails from Kentucky and is married to Melissa Power. They have two children, Amy and Teresa.

At our January meeting a committee was appointed to deal with July's Amherst Pride Week. The other committee will look after membership issues. In view of our attempt to guide a terrific organization, we must also bear responsibility to make certain it remains so.

April

One would never know it by looking out our windows in Atlantic Canada, but a hint of spring will soon be evi-

dent. The queer community is always ready to celebrate spring, whenever it appears. The Cumberland Pride Society is one organization that always approaches its members to bring forth ideas as to what activities would most benefit our communities.

The Cumberland Pride Society will host a craft and bake fair on May 2 at the Amherst Lions Den, 7 Electric Street, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Anyone interested in renting a table may email us at cumberlandpride@hotmail.com or call Mel at (902) 660-5143. The cost is \$15.00 per table. We will also accept donations for the local food bank.

At our February meeting we set up committees to plan the various events slated for the next number of months in Amherst. One such committee, a group of 6 members, will begin deliberations shortly to set up the activities for Pride Week. This year celebrations will be held from July 6 to July 12. Aside from the flag-raising at Amherst Town Hall, other events

will be organized to display the queer community in a bright and cheerful light. We promise to have an even bet-

A Pride Parade is certainly a strong possibility. We are ready to party ...

ter July than last year. As progress is made announcements will be posted on our website at cumberland-pride.sytes.net

Our webmaster, Chris Trenholm, has been busy reshaping the Cumberland Pride website. This is work in progress and the website committee will meet regularly to make certain we include as much information as possible.

May 17 is the International Day against Homophobia. The Amherst Daily News has promised an article explaining the importance of recog-

nizing the various aspects surrounding this very special observance. Cumberland Pride will hold a public event on that day. Plans are underway; watch for an announcement to follow.

On a sad note, one of our most ardent supporters has lost her mother at the age of 90 years. Rita Davison has been a constant source of support for Cumberland Pride. The mother of two gay children, one living in Rochester and the other in Ontario, Rita feels the GLBT community must be a viable part of our society. She is a vital part of the queer community and by showing her support feels closer to her son and daughter. We offer our sincere condolences to her and her family.

Quote of the month: American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

Port City Rainbow Pride

By D. S. Mack MacKenzie
Port City Rainbow Pride held its Annual General Meeting at the Saint John Free Public Library in Market Square on Wednesday, March 11, to pass the torch from the old board to the new. While the present executive crew appeared to be anxious to hand over the reins, some emotion was evident in the voices of the outgoing president and vice-president of PCRP. Catherine Sidney, standing behind a rainbow-adorned table and podium, opened the evening by thanking the many supporters over the years while she was at the helm. She outlined the many accomplishments of the organisation not the least of which was the affable amalgamation of most of the LGBT groups in the Saint John area.

"Port City Rainbow Pride has acted as an umbrella organisation and partner for the past few years to the following groups: The UNBSJ Q-Collective, Centenary Queen Square United Church, PFLAG Canada Saint

John-NB Chapter and Fundy Safe Spaces," said the outgoing president. She acknowledged the involvement in and active participation with special guest speakers like Mark Tewksbury and Alex Sanchez as well as the contribution to various charities such as PFLAG Canada, Skate To Care for Mental Health, partnerships with the Saint John Theatre Company and helping poorer members of the local LGBT community with the provision of tickets to Pride Week events that they may not otherwise been able to afford. She thanked Jim Crooks and Carl Trickey for their long standing support not only of PCRP but of the Saint John community in general over the years with hands-on support and providing their business and home, Mahogany Manor as a safe space for meetings and fundraising events.

Vice-President Ross Leavitt, husband of well-know local LGBT advo-

cate and supporter Wayne Harrison, warned of the dire consequences if the new board does not invigorate the community and encourage more involvement. He talked about the sky

Vice-President Ross Leavitt warned of the dire consequences if the new board does not invigorate the community and encourage more involvement.

being the limit if more volunteers and younger volunteers stepped forward. He paused frequently to compose himself as he reflected on the many lives that have been touched as a result of this organization and the many people associated with it over the years. He talked about how exhausting it has been for the small crowd of volunteers to put on the sporadic dances throughout the years, and the Pride Week Festival held every August following the New Brunswick Day

holiday. Though his address appeared like a polemic at times, he made eye contact with everyone in the room and made sure his points about stepping forward were heeded.

Catherine then handed the podium over the Fred C. Rowe, who has served as Treasurer and de facto webmaster. Rowe reported the revenues and expenses for the past two years and provided the audience with copies of the written (general) expense statements. A few questions came from the floor about these financial statements including the lack of revenue for the past year and the hefty expense for web services. One person noted that the web page for the past number of years had been



Out-going Vice President, Ross Leavitt (far right) and Out-going Treasurer Fred C. Rowe (centre) listen to Out-going President Catherine Sidney (left) discuss the many accomplishments of PCRP.

costing the organization less than a few hundred dollars per year and this new one is costing close to a thousand dollars per year with a start up of over \$1500.00. Rowe explained that the agreement with the new provider, a Saint John company, was entered into by someone other than himself and that he was not aware at the time of the costs or the details of the agreement, it would have to be assessed by the new board.

Cont'd next page

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Hey Tom

Spring is here, or at least that's what the calendar says. I, however, reject this official pronouncement and prefer to wait for new grass, birds building nests and warm sunny days before declaring the arrival of the green season. Oh, I understand the mathematics—well, just barely—of equal daylight and darkness, the rotation of the earth's axis and movement around the sun, but Mother Nature's calendar seems to work on a different schedule with a lot of variation depending on location. Does one have to choose between Mother Nature and the scientists?

As for scientists, they often seem to disagree with each other these days. Recently I read a new scientific study which stated that men who have or had frequent sex or masturbated often in their twenties (duh! Yah think?) were more likely to develop prostate cancer. This of course goes against a previous scientific study whose conclusions were exactly the opposite. I mean, how did they conduct this inquiry? Gather up patients with prostate cancer and casually ask them, "By the way... uh, did you have sex often or jerk off a lot when you were in your twenties? Ah, you did. Interesting." Or was this a thirty year project where they followed young men from their early adulthood until now? One group free to enjoy their bodies and sexuality and the other group shut away in a monastery under tight supervision with their hands tied to the bedposts when they slept—this would be the control group. Or maybe they somehow experimented with mice. Remember when they used to blow cigarette smoke on the poor little rodents until they died and then extrapolated the data to apply to humans? I'm imagining tiny screens with XXX films of Mickey and Minnie, miniscule doses of Viagra in the water bottle and a sling instead of the wheel.

Another new finding says that red wine—for years touted as the reason that Mediterranean people have such a low rate of heart disease—is actually not good for your heart or general health. Let's hope no one tells the happy, healthy people of Italy, Greece and France.

Shouldn't these announcements come with a warning like political surveys do? You know, like accurate to within 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. I mean that leaves quite a lot of wiggle room for those of us who have been counting on the wine to undo the harm of the extra cheese we had on the pasta.

And it's not just scientists who delight in bad news. Newspaper and television publishers salivate every time some economic "expert" makes another dire prediction. Bad news is apparently very good for their business. If there isn't a murder, car ac-

cident or celebrity death to lead the news, the next best thing is yet another pompous ass in a suit who says, "It's only going to get worse, folks." And is it mere coincidence this same pompous ass just happens to have a weekly radio/TV show and/or brand new book on how to survive these difficult times?

Opinions get paraded as facts. CNN promos say The Best News Team on Television and Campbell Brown calls her show No Bias, No Bull. Wait a minute, they gave themselves those titles. I could call myself The Best Letter Writer in Nova Scotia but that wouldn't make it true. (Doesn't mean it isn't true either... I do write a pretty mean letter.) As my mother used to say, "Self-praise is no recommendation." (We'll go into the self-esteem issues arising from this another time.)

The most hilarious example of people's gullibility was the reaction to the ending of The Bachelor. People were outraged when Jason first asked Melissa to marry him and then—only minutes later—changed his mind and proposed to Molly. The "minutes later" was actually six weeks; it was only minutes because it was edited for television. Calling itself reality television, doesn't make it believable or real. Twenty-five young women competing for one man is a hetero wet dream that bears the same relationship to reality as the plots for gay porn films.

And when it comes to religion, every faith claims the truth and each group insists it has the only truth. A while back a proselytizer was bold enough to come to my door with religious tracts and the usual miserable, pinched-face child in tow. Her group has long preached doom and gloom, and takes a kind of smug satisfaction in the world's woes. She beamed a pitying smile at me while her nose curled as if she smelled the sulphurous odours of hellfire around me.

I looked at her pamphlets, told her not to believe everything she read. I longed to tell her the sulphur smell was probably her own farts, that she should get rid of the whale bone corset, have a glass of red wine and loosen up. Instead, I closed the door on her and went back to enjoying my life.

Love ya!

Crawford

punoqun Call for Submissions

punoqun is Atlantic Canada's literary annual, written by Atlantic Canadians and published by Wayves.

For punoqun 2009, we want submissions of fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction from writers living in the region, to be published and launched in September. Submit your best work, since there are no restrictions on style or substance.

Original, unpublished work from all four Atlantic provinces is encouraged. Fiction and creative non-fiction submissions should be no longer than 1,500 words; 500 word maximum for poetry. Manuscripts can be e-mailed to punoqun@wayves.ca as attachments or text directly within the

e-mail. If submitting by postal mail, manuscripts must be typed double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 paper. If you wish to use a pseudonym on your work, please provide your real name, which will not be used, in addition to the pseudonym.

For those of you who submitted material for the 2008 edition, which was not published, there's no need to re-submit. All submissions for the 2008 issue will be considered for the 2009 issue.

Deadline for submissions is Saturday, July 11, 2009. If submitting by postal mail, please postmark by this date to Wayves, P.O. Box 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S1.

Port City Pride


Cont'd from previous page

The evening ended with nominations from the floor and Ms. Sidney reporting that the current secretary, Marcy Walton, sends her regrets for tonight's meeting but that she would re-offer. The first nomination from the floor came from Mack MacKenzie, who nominated Jim Appleby and Don Uhryniw. Additional nominations made from the floor and accepted were Jesse Redmond, Fred C. Rowe and Lorne Brown. The new board agreed to have Rowe act as interim president until a new executive is selected from the board. Due to the weather conditions that evening, the new board decided to keep the nominations open for a few more weeks to allow others to put their names forward. The next board meeting will be held in early

April. The date and location are to be announced.

PCRP would also like to thank the individual members from the PFLAG Canada, Saint John-NB Chapter for their generous contribution of treats for the post-meeting reception, special thanks to Star Bucks for their contribution of hot and tasty coffee. PCRP has become a supporter of PFLAG Canada's Communities Encourage Campaign and committed to making a small monthly contribution to that worthwhile organisation.

For more information on PCRP and to see pictures of the AGM, please check the website at www.PortCityRainbowPride.com. If you would like to volunteer please call (506) 648-9227.



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Trans Atlantic

By Michelle Malette

When you first look down into the face of the little bundle you're passed at the hospital, you have no idea what life holds in store for either of you. Being a parent is a challenge in its own right. Being the parent of a child who is transsexual presents unknown challenges but also plenty of opportunities for triumph and joy along the way.

As a young child, our oldest daughter always seemed to seek out and identify with the kids who were on the fringes of acceptance. As Liz got older it was the alternative crowd, the Goth kids, the nerds, the D&D enthusiasts. She was shoved into lockers, bullied and chased home on more than one occasion. We saw counselors, looking for depression or learning problems. Nothing. Somewhere inside she always felt different... didn't identify with the mainstream. People will ask me if I saw "signs" but you can look back in hindsight and make anything fit.

Liz first came out to us in grade seven as gay, to unconditional acceptance. The second time she came

out as bisexual. The biggest impact of these admissions was to puzzle over how we might put guidelines in place that still allowed for sleepovers with friends. Ultimately we went with the "what the hell" approach and allowed kids of either sex, with an open bedroom door policy and the threat of living room sex education and/or safe sex talks with me. Only had those talks twice...once with a boyfriend and once with a girlfriend... quite satisfying I might add.

When Liz came out as trans it was a very different story. There was bravery and persistence to her credit, confusion, anger and frustration to mine. I truly believed she was ashamed of being gay. I didn't understand what being transgendered meant. I knew the mainstream media version. I thought Liz was trying to push the envelope. This is incredible to me now, but it does allow me to have empathy for others.

I wanted someone to talk some sense into Liz, to tell me that I knew my daughter better than she knew herself. What I did find was someone

who kindly listened and gently talked some sense into me instead. Kind and non-judgemental throughout my early months of questioning and faltering, while helping me locate good resources, sharing books, and reliable information. Julien Davis,

What do you mean you still call her by her male name and use male pronouns in her own home?

the Support Services Coordinator at the Youth Project, helped educate me about what being transgendered does, doesn't and can mean, leaving me empowered to help myself and before the end of the year, able to reach out to others. I'm in this good place now, partly because of the support and friendship I found at the Youth Project.

The slap in the face that jolted me into reality, the push off the cliff that I needed to get serious, was an appointment with Liz's psychiatrist last spring. "What do you mean she still was dressing in male clothing at

home?" she said, "What do you mean you still call her by her male name and use male pronouns in her own home?" I was defensive... who was she to judge? I cried angry, then sad, helpless tears. Devastated for Liz and then very angry with myself, I came to the realization that real acceptance and support were the only options.

So that is the beginning of our story. My oldest daughter Liz is a political activist, environmentalist, artist, student and so much more. She is also transsexual. She came out to me a little more than a year and a half ago, but it took me a good six months to really hear what she was telling me. She is incredible, brave and I admire her. In the last eighteen months, I've experienced learning and growth on a very steep curve. Many youth and adults have come into my life, all of whom I admire simply for the dignity with which they hold themselves and the unapologetic way they live their lives, despite the external pressures of society. I've founded a peer support organization for families and

allies of trans-identified individuals called TransFamily Nova Scotia. I've also taken on the challenge of bringing PFLAG back to Halifax. I'm an activist and an advocate. I love my daughter fiercely and I'm committed to this journey she has asked me to share with her. I believe that sometimes our children shape our lives just as much as we shape theirs. I think that is not such a bad thing.

Trans Family Nova Scotia meets the third Monday of each month, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St., Halifax. During the first hour, guest speakers address a variety of issues related to trans issues. Participant led discussion for the last hour. All conversation is strictly confidential. For more info please contact Michelle Malette at (902) 431-8500 or e-mail transfamily@eastlink.ca.

An evening of Star Trek fun and prizes!

Who? AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia What? Double big screen feature: Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan and Star Trek: First Contact When? Saturday, April 4, at midnight Where? The Oxford Theatre, Oxford Street, Halifax

Contact ACNS now to purchase tickets. Cost for the double-bill is \$22.50. We accept cash, Visa and MasterCard. Please contact Laura

Toole at (902) 425-4882, ext. 228 or e-mail fund@acns.ns.ca. Or feel free to just drop by.

If we sell 250 tickets we will raise \$5,000.00. If we sell out we will raise more than \$10,000.00 in support of programs and services that make a difference in the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS across NS and supporting those at risk through our

prevention efforts.

And don't forget to join us on Thursday, May 7, 2009 for the sixth annual BMO Financial Group Bid for Life! Dinner and Auction. Contact Laura Toole or e-mail us for tickets. Don't miss out on this fabulous event in support of HIV/AIDS programs in Nova Scotia.

Canada's Human Rights Record Under Fire at UN

Canada was slammed at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UN-HRC), following stiff questioning by many States, exposing our government's dismal record on human rights both at home and abroad.

John Sims, Canada's deputy minister of Justice, was on the hot seat for over two hours as he tried miserably to respond to a barrage of questions from states such as the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom on everything from domestic violence, the rights of indigenous peoples to the right to access health services by lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified (LGBT) peoples.

No surprise to Egale Canada, one of 50 organizations who submitted evidence to the UN Office

for Human Rights in preparation for today's review. When questioned on governmental best practices for LGBT peoples, Sims was ill-equipped to respond, passing the buck to the private sector saying workplaces provide safe meeting spaces for gays and lesbians. His failure to acknowledge trans-identified people at all was glaring.

"It's a sad day when other States comment that they dream of the Canada that used to be vocal and the consummate advocate for the most vulnerable in society," said Helen Kennedy, of Egale Canada.

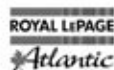
Egale Canada is Canada's LGBT human rights organization advancing equality, diversity, education and justice.



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Fetish Accompli

By Don Murchy and Karla Dolan, Coordinators

We are pleased to announce that the sixth annual Fetish Ball will be held on April 25, 2009 at the North St. Church, 2600 Fuller Terrace, from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Admission is \$10, payable at the door. Live entertainment begins at 9:00 p.m. The "Best Fetish Wear" contest will start at 11:00 p.m., and hands-on demos, Dom/sub silent auction, and vending by Halfway Creations will be held

throughout the evening. There will also be a bar, DJ, photographer, and door prizes.

The Fetish Ball is the biggest fundraiser for several local charities as well as a number of local fetish groups. This year's main charities are the Halifax Sexual Health Center and the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

Rouge Fatale will host the Ball, with entertainment by Miss C of Pink Velvet Burlesque, fire performance by Molotov, suspension pull by Amber

Thorpe of Adept Tattoos, and fashion show by Night Magic Fashions. Hands-on demos throughout the night include flogging, bondage and violet wand. A play-piercing and fire play demo will also take place.

Please keep in mind that no one under the age of 19 will be permitted on the premises, and our local nudity bylaws must be upheld. "Nude" means the showing of the human male or female genitals, pubic area or buttocks with less than a full opaque

covering, or the showing of a female breast with less than a full opaque covering over any portion thereof below the top of the areola of the breast.

Please feel free to come to the event as yourself, and be as creative and expressive as you like within the expressed boundaries. This is an event to have fun, support some local charities and fetish groups, connect with some of the best Dom/mes and subs in the Maritimes, and enjoy

some erotic and exotic entertainment. Our mission is to provide a fun, supportive atmosphere where we can feel free to be who we are among other like-minded individuals, while at the same time helping our community. We hope to see you there.

A big thank you to our sponsors Venus Envy, Night Magic Fashions and Halfway Creations.

The ARChive

Did you know that in December, 2008, the international community marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)? If you didn't—or if you don't know what the UDHR is—this column is intended for you.

I've been working in the international human rights arena informally and formally for almost 10 years now, with a specific focus on sexual orientation and gender identity. As I talk to friends and community members in the Atlantic provinces, I realize the huge interest in engaging on international issues, despite a lack of understanding about the key issues and how to become involved. My organization, ARC International, is so named because it attempts to create

a bridge where those gaps exist, and I've decided it's time to create that bridge right here at home, through this column.

Getting back to the 60th Anniversary of the UDHR... this year is monumental because of a new initiative at the UN General Assembly in New York to have a public statement delivered taking note of human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity around the world and calling for action. These kinds of statements are not new within the UN system, but there has never been such a statement made at the General Assembly. In addition, no such statement has ever received support from all regions of the world. This year, for the first time, a number of

African countries will sign on to the statement, joining those from Asia, Europe, North America, and Latin America.

The US, despite an Obama transition in place, has not indicated their support

Thanks to a coordinated effort between international and domestic groups like Egale Canada, our country will sign the statement. It is important to note, however, that they had to be lobbied to indicate their support. When I first began this international work formally in 2003, we could count on Canada to take a leadership role of these types

of initiatives. That leadership seems to have cooled off under current conservative governments.

As I have to write this column before I head to New York to follow the events as they unfold around this new UN declaration, I cannot know for certain that all will go smoothly. The Vatican has been very vocal in their opposition and tries to exert leverage within Catholic-dominated countries throughout the world, especially in Latin America. The US, despite an Obama transition in place, has not indicated their support. And we can expect that, not unlike recent political events here in Canada, there will be many procedural barriers placed in front of those who seek to

make this declaration.

Please stay tuned for an update in my next column, and please contact me at kim@arc-international.net if you want to find out more information about the topics discussed, or have a suggestion for an international issue that you'd like to me to discuss.

Kim Vance is a founder and Co-Director of ARC International, based in Canada and Switzerland. ARC International uses a unique community leadership development model to foster international linkages and networking, facilitate the development and use of tools to engage in international advocacy (particularly within the UN), build leadership and capacity, and engage in direct advocacy.

HIV+ Gay Men's Social Group

It's Thursday, March 12. The room is warm and comfortable, the atmosphere is relaxed, and the conversation flows freely. Before we know it, two

hours have gone by. In those two hours the men present share their feelings, their experiences, their journey to this moment, as gay

men living with HIV. It is very empowering, this openness and feeling of trust, and in those two hours the men reclaim some of the laughter and gay camaraderie that so many of us have lost to HIV.

The group is still in its infancy, but already I can feel that the men who show up value this time together, and the opportunity it affords them for building new friendships. Friendship and support is extremely important for anyone living with HIV, and this group provides just that.

If you are an HIV-positive gay

man, you owe it to yourself to come and check out this group and invest a couple of hours of your time. You have nothing to lose, and everything to gain. The group meets the second Thursday evening of each month at the ACNS offices. Light snacks are provided, but the most important thing served is friendship. Hope to see you soon.

For more information please contact Support Services at the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia at (902) 425-4882, ext 225 or e-mail sc@acns.ns.ca.

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Survey on Homophobia in Schools

By Susan Rose

The First National Survey on Homophobia in Canadian Schools has been funded by Egale, the University of Winnipeg, and SVR/CIHR. The lack of solid Canadian evidence has been a major impediment faced by educators who need to understand the needs of LGBT students in order to respond appropriately and to assure the school community that homophobia is neither rare nor harmless but a major problem that needs to be addressed.

The results from phase one of the survey are extremely disturbing. LGBT students are telling us about their horrible journey, how unsafe they feel in school, and how they feel unworthy because they are excluded

from the curriculum. You be the judge, the stats are as follows: 75% of LGBT youth feel unsafe in places like change rooms, washrooms and hallways; 50% of straight students agree that at least one part of their school is unsafe for LGBT students; 87% of transgendered students see these places as unsafe; 75% all students reported hearing expressions such as, "that's so gay" every day in school; 50% have heard remarks such as "faggot," "queer," "lezbo" and "dyke" daily; six out of ten LGBT students are verbally harassed because of their sexual orientation; nine out of ten transgender students and three out of ten straight students have been harassed because of their expression of gender.

The schools where our LGBT youth are included there are some positive things happening. For them the survey shows schools where anti-homophobia policies are well known to students, parents, and administration that students are less likely to hear homophobic or transphobic comments and they are more likely to report it to staff and parents when they do, and staff are more likely to

intervene. They feel safer, more accepted and more attached to their school.

What students have told us in the First National Climate Survey on Homophobia in Canadian Schools is that speaking up works, and that they want the adults in their lives to do their part, too. They are weary of seeing teachers and principals look the other way. And they are grateful

to the many dedicated school staff who have worked to make schools safer for everyone in their care- not everyone but them.

I'll leave with a quote from Audre Lorde: "Silence and invisibility go hand in hand with powerlessness."

DalOUT Scholarship

By Lisa Buchanan

On January 11, Menz Bar kindly played host to a fundraising brunch where DalOUT presented the first annual DalOUT Scholarship.

The purpose of the scholarship is to assist Dalhousie students who can demonstrate a contribution to the LGBTQ community and to promoting awareness and acceptance of sexual diversity. The scholarship is made possible thanks

to a levy which DalOUT has received from all Dalhousie students since 2007.

The selection committee was very impressed with the applications they received and decided to divide the \$1500 scholarship between two very deserving students, Matthew Numer and Jaklyn Andrews.

Numer is an interdisciplinary PhD student. He has designed a doctoral programme to investigate the effectiveness of policy and programming aimed at the sexual health of young gay men. He hopes his research will illustrate why after three decades of health promotion and education efforts, HIV transmission among young gay men is on the rise. In addition to his academic work, Numer has facilitated workshops on diversity, and sits on the Board of NSRAP and OUTAlive!

Andrews is a Masters student in Health Promotion. Her research



explores sexuality from a standpoint that acknowledges diversity and possibility. The title of her thesis is "Exploring the Sexual Health Needs of Transgendered Youth in Nova Scotia." The purpose of the project is to understand whether transgender youth in Nova Scotia get their sexual health needs met and to describe sexual health-related community resources that are potential assets for this population.

DalOUT is pleased to be able to recognize the contributions of these two Dalhousie students. The society would also like to thank Menz Bar for their continued support and the members of the community who braved the snow to attend brunch.

Lisa Buchanan is the President of DalOUT, Dalhousie's LGBTQ Society. For more information about the society, visit <http://societies.dsu.ca/dalout>.

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Ninth Annual Diamond Divas A Success

Diamond Divas are Gems to CARA Helpline

Articles & Photos By Joe Black
Moncton's Capitol Theatre was a rocking and happening place on Saturday, February 21, when the Diamond Divas and Friends took centre stage for their ninth annual benefit for the Crisis and Referral Agency Helpline.



Julia Jeffries performed as Bette Midler

"With performers from all over Atlantic Canada pulling together and volunteering their time and talents, it made this year's annual event the largest ever DDR benefit for the CARA Helpline," stated producer and Master of Ceremonies Steve Laviolette. This year's Revue set a new record with audience attendance of 728, and raising over \$8100 after expenses.

The Revue brought entertainers involved in previous years, as well as some amazing new talent that left those in attendance wanting more. "To all involved with this event, from the performers, the stage crew and all the others behind the scenes, along with both Steve Laviolette and Wayne Richard, I'd like to thank each and every one of you who

volunteered your time to assist with making this such a success," stated Karen Eustace, Executive Director of the CARA Helpline.

The production team would like to extend personal thanks to performers Julia Jeffries (Bette Midler, Madonna, Judy Garland); Kara Mylk (Diana Ross, Jennifer Hudson); Boom-

Boom Lubalicious (Tina Charles, Vanessa Amorosi); Savannah (Celine Dion); Kimberly Diamonds (Amy Winehouse), Danny B. (Gilda Radner), Linda K. and Norma R. (George Michael and Elton John); and Gilbert

and Company (The Beatles and Barbie), as well as everyone else who took the time to help out.

The performers, characters and impersonations that took part this year were phenomenal and pure



Gilbert and Company perform as "The Beatles and Barbie"

enjoyment. A special thank you is to be extended out to ECMA Nominee, Shirley Albert, for joining us this year to do what she does best, singing her heart out. And that she did, leaving everyone tapping their toes and wanting more.

attending for a quick hello, some pictures and yes, autographs too.

Next year the Diamond Divas Revue will celebrate its tenth anniversary, scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2010. Hope to see everyone there.

The annual Silent Auction was also held in the lobby of the Capitol while the performers mingled with those

Savouring the Food & Wine of Nova Scotia



This yearly event showcases some amazing fare from across the province. Top: Dirty Nelly's pub manager, above: Randall's favourite Chef from Le Caveau, right: Chives Bistro, Grand Pre, Far right centre: Raymond can hardly believe that it all tastes as good as it did! Top right: The bubbly Karen Foster, owner of Premier Wines & Spirits. Top centre; Photograph credits go to Randall Perry - pictured. See The Last Word (p 18) for more on this event.

Expose Yourself!

We are quite sure Halifax isn't the only happening place in Atlantic Canada and we'd like to see more of you! Got pictures of a LGBTQ event in your area? Send it to us: submissions@wayves.ca



A Weekend Out With Gay Guerillas & Sonny D

Friday Feb 28 (CoHo),
Saturday March 1 (Menz)

Halifax

Fetish Ball

Hosted by Rouge Fatale

Photographer: BigD Model: Shade



April 25th, 2009

North St Church
2600 Fuller Terrace
Halifax

\$10 at the door
8pm - 1am (Show begins at 9pm)
Fetish wear encouraged

Charity event with performances by:

- Miss C of the Pink Velvet Burlesque
- Fire performance by Molotov
- Suspension pull by Amber Thorpe of Adept Tattoos
- Night Magic fashion show

There will also be:

- Demos
- Best fetish attire contest
- Dom/Sub silent auction
- Door prizes
- DJ Bludston

*There will be **NO PICTURE TAKING PERMITTED**
(Excluding designated areas)

*No one **under 19** will be permitted entry

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Chef's Corner



No longer truly wild, most of these mushrooms are now cultivated and available at your local grocery store, yet they are still unknown to many of us. If you like mushrooms then you really want to make this recipe part of your repertoire. It is easy to make, keeps for up to a week in the fridge and can be used in many different ways. It's great over linguini topped with fresh Parmesan cheese, amazing over any white fish, chicken, pork or veal.

Chef Darren is Chef/Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, 1537 Barrington St., Halifax, Chives was voted "Establishment of the Year 2008" - Nova Scotia Association of Chefs and Cooks; since 2007 awarded two out of three stars by "Where to Eat in Canada"; rated in the "Top 100 Restaurants in Canada" by Wine Access Magazine; and accepted into the international gastronomical association of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs".

Creamy Wild Mushroom Sauce

Ingredients

2 Tbsp olive oil (for roux)
1 Tbsp whole butter (for roux)
2 Tbsp olive oil (to sauté mushrooms)
1 Tbsp shallot (minced)
1 clove garlic (minced)
2 Tbsp white AP flour

1/2 oz dried porcini (ground into a powder)
1/4 cup Dry Vermouth
2 1/4 cups chicken stock
1 lb (Total) fresh, cleaned and thinly sliced King Eryngii, crimini, and oyster mushrooms

1/2 cup 35% cream
1 tsp fresh picked thyme leaves
1 tsp fresh chopped chives
2 Tbsp Bousin cream cheese (optional)
Fleur de sel and fresh ground white pepper to taste

Method

1. Heat a medium size saucepan over medium heat. Add the oil, then shallots and garlic and cook until translucent. Add the flour and powdered dried porcini to the pan, stirring with a wooden spoon to create a roux. Whisk in the wine, then the stock to create a veloute (velvety smooth sauce). Lower the heat and simmer the sauce stirring occasionally so that it does not stick. (8-10 min)
2. While the sauce is simmering, lightly sauté the fresh mushrooms in a skillet over medium high heat. Add the sautéed mushrooms to the veloute. Stir in the cream and herbs. Simmer on very low heat uncovered for another 8-10 min remembering to stir often so it does not stick. Swirl in the cheese until completely melted in. Season to taste and you are ready to serve.

Children and the Gay Father

By Daryl Gates

On the surface it looks quite encouraging. Many gay fathers will tell you that they have been accepted by their children. This new generation has shown an inclusive attitude towards gays. There is support for rights and equality. They have friends who are gay; they have walked in a Pride Parade, they have supported gay causes and they have spoken up when the conversation turns to slurs or mockery. This remarkable evolution has been a great blessing to all.

The nature of families has also changed. More often than not gay fathers are included in family celebrations. Religious holidays and birthdays not only include the father but sometimes even the new partner. This healthy acceptance is built on forgiveness, openness and love.

Not every gay father gets this new family. Some are still working toward it, others come from such damaged relationships that there is little hope for them and there are those who, for various reasons, are not interested.

I am on the journey to that family.

One bump along the way has been particularly significant for me and that is the relationship with my son. I thought he and I had covered and discussed everything. He is very accepting of men who are gay and could be said to be representative of the new generation—enlightened and accepting. Of course he nailed me to the wall, so to speak, about the way in which I had treated his mother. It is a long story but he is quite correct and honourable in defending her. But he also met my partner with hospitality and friendliness. Everything seemed to be okay until one day he had a kind of melt down, which revealed things that I had never even thought about.

For him, my revelation about being gay during his childhood, youth and young adult life raised many questions, concerns and observations about our relationship. It put a cloud over all those activities and things that were a part of our relationship. The questions and implications were horrendous. Suddenly there was doubt and suspicion where there had been fun and bonding.

I share this as we gay fathers must never forget that we have a special impact on the lives of our children, an impact that we perhaps have never fully realized.

More so than regular fathers we need to be more aware and sensitive.

My son and I are working it out.



**NEXT ISSUE
DEADLINE:
First Friday
of the Month**

Maureen MacDonald

MLA - Nova Scotia
Halifax Needham

3115 Veith Street
Halifax, NS
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Mirror Image Foundation

By Patrick McAtamney, Co-Founder
Transsexualism is a rare condition where someone is born in the body of the opposite sex. Many of these individuals seek treatments such as therapy, hormone replacement, and surgery. This is a very expensive process that is not currently covered in Nova Scotia, despite being covered in other provinces across Canada. Last April, a group of friends organized a fundraiser to help my boyfriend afford his upcoming surgery. Due to our enormous success and seeing the amount of community support, and how badly our community needs this

kind of service, we have decided to continue our efforts. Now officially registered as the Mirror Image Foundation, we hold biannual fundraisers to help as many transgendered individuals through out the province as we can. Aside from raising money, we are determined to encourage the government of Nova Scotia to join the rest of the progressive provinces of Canada to cover the costs of transitioning. Our ultimate goal is to make organizations such as Mirror Image obsolete. This past weekend we held our second event

to fundraise for our current recipient, Kris Figueroa. Kris has been an active member of the community for many years; Chair of the Youth Board of the Youth Project, he also sits on the Pride Committee. The event catered to many forms of entertainment including readings, drag performances, burlesque, and Lucas Silveira, transgendered frontman of the popular Canadian band The Cliks. While the show was a tremendous success, we did not reach our monetary goal of \$6500, the minimal amount we need to cover Kris' chest surgery next

month. With all the work Kris does for us, what better way to give back than to help him feel comfortable in his own body? If you're interested in donating towards his surgery and the cause, please contact my fellow Co-Founder, Lanti Steele at Lanti@MirrorImageFoundation.com

Lucas Silveira performs at Venns Emy Friday March 6. Silveira, the transgendered front man for The CLIKS, also performed at a Youth Project Fundraiser earlier that evening. Photo: Maggie Haywood.



Hfx Youth Project: Support, Services & More

The Youth Project provides support and services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth across Nova Scotia. The Project has been running since 1993 and provides a safe, supportive, youth directed environment where youth can access information, peers, support, and social activities. The Youth Project strives

to meet the needs of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth across Nova Scotia regardless of geographic region, socio-economic condition, race, religion, gender, sex, ethnicity, etc. The Youth Project provides support, education and information to youth, their friends and families, school, social services, organizations

and the community.

Support Services at the Youth Project include:

Individual Counselling—this free, confidential service is available to all youth 25 and under throughout NS. Self-referrals and referrals from other agencies are accepted. Our Support Services Coordinator, Julien Davis, is available to travel to meet with youth who are not able to come in to our agency in Halifax. Some reasons for requesting supportive counselling could be: questioning sexual orientation or gender identity; wanting to come out to friends/family; facing harassment in school or from peers; relationship issues; employment assistance, etc.

Referrals—we are able to provide referrals to youth looking for an LGBT-friendly doctor, therapist,

addictions counsellor, employment program, etc. We are also able to refer transgender/questioning youth to specialized therapists or psychologists who are able to provide counselling and/or to assist in the transitioning process if desired. We are also able to connect parents/family to relevant support groups.

Support Groups—we currently offer two social-support groups for youth, both are facilitated by Julien Davis and a trained volunteer. Both groups meet once per month. Please check our website for meeting times or contact the Youth Project. "Transformers" is a social-support group for transgender, transsexual, genderqueer youth or youth who are questioning their gender identity ages 25 and under. "LGBQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Queer)" is a social-support group

for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or questioning youth ages 12-18.

Food Bank—we have a food bank onsite, offering canned, packaged, and frozen foods (no fresh produce or dairy) and toiletries. Contact the Youth Project to arrange for more information and to access the food bank.

Resources—we have many resources available free to youth such as information packages on sexual orientation or gender identity, packages for parents and service providers and Homophobia Hurts; a manual for teachers (a cost of \$10). We have also produced a book by and for transgender youth called Transmissions, available for free to youth (a cost of \$5 for service providers). We also have an extensive lending library with books and movies. We are able to mail out all of our resources to youth throughout the province.

Tutoring—we offer tutoring onsite at the Youth Project to youth who are preparing to write the G.E.D. exam.

Health Services—we have a nurse available twice a month to offer STI testing, sexual health counselling, and referrals. We also have free condoms and lube available onsite.



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902-429-5500

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AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces. email: AtlanticCanadianLesbians@groups.msn.com web: groups.msn.com/AtlanticCanadianLesbians

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

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

GaySpaces, Fredericton: Free postings of GLBT-friendly places to live in 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.)

Healing Our Nations, Dartmouth: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: director@accesswave.ca web: www.hon93.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 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project, Upper Musquodoboit: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. (902)568-2935 email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

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

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

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

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

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Editorial meeting one Monday night a month; layout one Sunday a month; email us to be notified of meetings & deadlines!)

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 Moncton, Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

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.aidsaintjohn.com

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton: Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.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 and area: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: integrityfredericton@live.ca meets 3rd Sunday (at 4 pm in Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton at 874 York Street)

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.

PFLAG, Moncton: Supporting all people with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday — please call) at 7:30-9:30pm, University of Moncton, Adrien-J.-Cormier Bldg., Room 302

PFLAG, Sackville NB/Amherst NS: Support and education for GLBT21QQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

PFLAG, Fredericton: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

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

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

River Of Pride, Moncton: Organizes, promotes and produces Moncton's Pride events!. email: monctonriverofpride2008@gmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca, meets 1st Sunday, and 3rd Sunday (contact ilaisha@nbnet.nb.ca for further meeting and event dates) at Triangles bar 234 St.George St. Moncton NB

Safe Spaces Fundy Region, Saint John: Committed to ending discrimination around issues of sexual orientation in youth. email: safespaces@gmail.com web: www.safespacesfundy.com (See our webpage for schedule of meetings and socials etc @ www.safespacesfundy.com)

Safe Spaces Moncton Region, Moncton: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049 email: info@safespaces.ca 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.

Spectrum, Fredericton: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum, meets every Tuesday (See webpage for schedule.)

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

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 Youth Advocate and Fam-

ily OutReach, Woodstock: Books, movies, advice, directions, contacts, 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

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

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

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gemmamhickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's Pride, St. John's: St. John's Official Pride Organization. 709-746-6564

Nova Scotia (902)

Acadia Pride, Wolfville: Acadia Student Union's LGBT21Q group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

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

Affirm United, Halifax Metro: GLBT & Friends support, action and worshipping community within the United Church. 461-4528 email: alstew@eastlink.ca

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Sydney: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@accb.ns.ca, christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Halifax: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)425-4882 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous, Halifax: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: courage449@yahoo.com web: www.rationalunacy.com/cout, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews United Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, 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 - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. Call to confirm worship times as occasionally we have a 10 am combined service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

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

Bluenose Bears (BnB), Halifax: BnB is a private men's membership based social group for Bears and their admirers. Membership Fees are \$5 for a year. Event Fees are \$1 for Members and \$2 for Guests. Email for more info!. email: BluenoseBears2008@yahoo.ca (Social Gatherings are generally held once a month, on a Tuesday evening.) at Menz Bar (often) but venues vary. Sorry, no 'drop ins'. Members and their Guests only!!

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre, Sydney: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbsu.ca (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: Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive

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

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

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

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

Girl-ish Productions, Halifax: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. email: girlishproductions@yahoo.ca web: www.girlish.ca

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. (902)371-8752 email: groupharrisonsociety@yahoo.ca web: groupharrisonsocietydancespi.piczo.com, meets every Saturday (of every month Admission \$6.50 -\$5.50 for members- Restricted 19 yrs and over) at 780 Upper Prince Street Horizon Achievement Centre (Kinsmen), Sydney

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

Halifax Sexual Health Centre, Halifax: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 455-9656 web: www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca

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

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

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

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 TBA

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

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

PFLAG, Halifax: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (902-431-8500) at Halifax Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St

PFLAG, Sackville NB/Amherst NS: Support and education for GLBT21QQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-list-e.asp?RegionNo=6&ProvAbbr=NB, meets 2nd monday (Phone or e-mail for meeting location and details.) at Sackville:112 Main Street or Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG, Truro: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 662.3774

PFLAG, Sydney: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month at 7:30pm. No meetings for July and August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health, New Glasgow: 695-3366 email: youth.access@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 and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: info@pridecapebreton.com web: www.pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

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. email: chair@prideofpictouco.unty.ca web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

Pride Week, Halifax: Producers of Atlantic Canada's largest LGBTQ cultural festival. 431-1194 email: info@halifaxpride.ca web: www.halifaxpride.ca (July 19 - 26, 2009)

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, Franklyn St. All very welcome.

Queer Play, Halifax: A Queer performing arts group in Halifax NS. 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 web: thereddoor.ca (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 150 Park Street
RESPECT, Truro: Students Making Healthy Decisions. 893-6300 email: respect@nsac.ca at P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3

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

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: safeharbour-mcc.com, meets every Sunday (11 am) at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society:

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

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

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County, Bridgewater: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.LunCo.cfsh.info (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead.) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On

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 Sunday of each month

The Cumberland Pride Society: Social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Sunday of each month from 2-4pm. Contact information: Gerard Veldhoven at 902-660-5004 or E-mail: gaylords.1975@hotmail.com

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday and First Saturday of each month

The Annapolis Valley Gay Men's Coffee House meets every Thursday Evening from 7-9pm. Also on the first Saturday of each month we host an over 19 gay/lesbian dance from 9pm-1am. There are various themes for dances so call or e-mail for directions and info to the following: 902-765-2821 or menembracingmen@hotmail.com or 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 (except July)

Wileville Dance. Smoke free. Door prizes. Cash bar. Must be 19. For more details call 530-5986 or email info@southshorepride.ca or go to www.southshorepride.ca

Cape Breton

Last Saturday of the Month

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.

Every Saturday

The Group Harrison Society dances 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. at the Elks Club (Upstairs), 101 Bentinck Street, Sydney. Admission for members with cards - \$5.00 Admission for non-members - \$6.50 19 & over. ID requested. Security Guards on site. Bar on Site. DJ plays a good mixture of current

chart toppers & classic dance hits with the odd slow song. Please come out to enjoy yourself & show your support so these weekly dances can continue!

Charlottetown

...see Prince Edward Island

Fredericton

April 3

Spectrum is hosting it's second annual gay prom on April 3rd. It will be open to the general public, gay and gay friendly alike. It will be at the UNB Student Union's ballroom at 9:00pm and will likely run until midnight (or one am if the SU permits). It will be a licensed event so you must be legal age to attend. And since it is prom, formal attire is required! \$8 a person or \$6 for students.

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 gynkr@stu.ca or call 450-3870.

Third Sunday of each month

GLB ANGLICANS AND FRIENDS Integrity is a nonprofit 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, to which all people regardless of sexual orientation are welcome, is followed by a coffee hour discussion, starting at 4:00 PM on the third Sunday of each month at the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton at 874 York St. For more details email us at integrityfredericton@live.ca.

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

boom! Nightclub, 474 Queen, Fredericton. 506-463-BOOM (2666). THU: dance karaoke. FRI: CIRCUS = house trax, go-go dancers. SAT: POWER = mainstream dance. SUN: live bands & DJs. Latest info: boomnightclub.ca.

Halifax

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 Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax 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.

East Coast Rainbow Softball Association Schedule: July 6, 13 @ 3pm & 4:20pm, St. Francis Field; July 20 @ 1pm - DYKES vs DIVAS! The Commons Field #9 (Canada Games Diamond) plus two other games TBA; July 27 @ 3pm & 4:20pm, St. Francis Field. (see most up-to-date Schedule at www.ecrsa.ca)

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 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 DISCUSSION GROUP! This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered womyn's Only! -Free Group, NO Dues, NO Fees- MEETINGS are every second SUNDAY. @6pm - 7:30pm(Please remember when applying to this group, send full name and a contact number or call sue at 499-0335, everything is kept PRIVATE!) LOCATION: DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S CENTRE 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) To join: Come to a discussion night or send us your e-mail address or call a moderator (Sue @ 499-0335). If you have any questions. A discussion group for Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered 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 Sundays. <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/> or sueandrews1964@hotmail.com

First and Third Wednesdays

<< Events

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.

July 31, Aug 14, 28, Sept 11, 25, Oct 9, 23

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

Aug 3, 17, 31, Sept 14, 28, Oct 12, 26
Koinonia Ecumenical Church – Meaning 'community'. Services bi-weekly at 12:30pm at Halifax Feast downtown. Pastor Elaine, 876-8771 or koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca

September 27!

Mark your calendars. The 2009 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life. Get started with the fundraising early. Call Laura at 425-4882 x 228 or email walk@acns.ns.ca to register. Help us help others with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

Halifax Youth Project Calendar

Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site in Halifax. Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events. Website: www.youthproject.ns.ca Phone: 902-429-5429 Email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca

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 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

The Company House
Retro at the CoHo with DJ Motlette (19+) 2202 Gottingen Street, Halifax Friday, April 10 (Good Friday) & Friday, April 24 9pm \$5. What do you get when you combine some Madge, Jesse's Girl and a dose of Shoop? Retro at the CoHo with DJ Motlette! Don't miss the next ones – Friday, April 10 (Good Friday) and Friday, April 24. Retro and requests for all in Halifax's newest music and arts space. Check out the Retro at the CoHo facebook group or motlette.com for more details.

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 Guyz Group

A safe space for gay and bisexual men to come together to develop social networks and talk about their experiences. Meets in The Library at Menz Bar, 2182 Gottingen Street, Halifax. Meets: 6 - 8 p.m. For more information: 902-425-4882, ext. 222, or email gmhc@acns.ns.ca

Halifax Bar & Business Calendar

MENZ BAR

2182 Gottingen St, Level II
www.MenzBar.ca (902) 446-6969
FREE WI-FI, Pool Table, KENO, FREE Party Roomz ATM, Visa, M/C, Debit FREE Meeting Rooms available to ALL GLBT Groups, Organizations & Associations BOOK YOUR FUNDRAISER TODAY! Mondayz 2 for \$5 Night (Two 20oz Draught or Two Domestic Beer or any Two Well Shoots) for only \$5 BUCKS! \$2.50 SHOOTERS all night. TOONIE Tuesdayz Buy any Beer, Draught, Well Shoot or Liquor at the regular price and get a 2nd for only \$2.50 BUCKS! \$2.50 SHOOTERS all night. Wednesdayz Karaoke with Bear777 from 9:30pm till 1:30am. Door Prizes, Drink Specials, Week End Bar Passes, Toonie Tune JACK POT min. \$200 and GROWING! Mystery Song is \$300, 1st Prize \$25, 2nd Prize \$50. \$2.50 SHOOTERS all night! Thursdayz POOR BOY Night - 60oz Pitcher of Draught ONLY \$12.50, \$2.50 Shooters & 2-4-1 HOT DOGS all night long! Fridayz Dance Party with house DJ Needles & DJ Bear. FREE Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! \$2.50 SHOOTERS all night. Saturdayz Dance Party with house DJ Needles or DJ Bear. FREE Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! \$2.50 SHOOTERS all night.

REFLECTIONS

5184 Sackville Street, (902) 422-2957, toll free (877)422-2957, www.reflectionscabaret.com, Open 7 days a week, Mon-Sat 1pm to 4am, Sun 4pm to 4am, Manager: Stephen Filek

SEADOG'S SAUNA & SPA

2199 Gottingen Street, Look for 3 Black Anchors on Door, Online shopping at: <http://seadogs.ca/> POPPERS - Toys - Lube Cruiseline Sold Here Debit, VISA, M/C (902) 444-3647 * Fully Licensed Bar: Cum for the Men, Stay for the BEER. Regular Hours: 24 Hours on all Long Week End! Mon - Thur 4pm - Midnight Friday Open at 4pm Sat. 24 Hours, Sun. 24 Hours, Closing at Midnight Mondays "Students Night" FREE LOCKER with valid I.D. *BEER BUST* All Domestic Beer \$3 "TOONIE" Tuesdays \$2 OFF Lockers *BEER BUST* All Domestic Beer \$3 Wednesdays "Hump Night" (Get 1/2 pass for your next visit) *LIQUOR BUST* All Bottled Liquor \$4.50 Thursdays - Naked Night (Towels Optional) *LIQUOR BUST* All Bottled Liquor \$4.50 "FOREPLAY" Fridays - Orgy in the Maze.... *HAPPY HOUR* 4PM TILL 9PM Saturdays "Early Bird Special" (6AM TILL NOON - lockers \$8.50 - Rooms \$15) *HAPPY HOUR* 4PM TILL 9PM Sundays "Early Bird Special" (6AM TILL NOON - lockers \$8.50 - Rooms \$15) *HAPPY HOUR* 4PM TILL 9PM - FREE 30 minutes Cruiseline card after 4pm!

The Company House
Retro at the CoHo with DJ Motlette (19+) 2202 Gottingen Street, Halifax Friday, April 10 (Good Friday) & Friday, April 24 9pm \$5. What do you get when you combine some Madge, Jesse's Girl and a dose of Shoop? Retro at the CoHo with DJ Motlette! Don't miss the next ones – Friday, April 10 (Good Friday) and Friday, April 24. Retro and requests for all in Halifax's newest music and arts space. Check out the Retro at the CoHo facebook group or motlette.com for more details.

Moncton

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009

River of Pride Presents: YELLOW PARTY at TRIANGLES! A portion of the Door supports Pride initiatives www.fiertemonctonpride.ca. RIVER OF PRIDE WILL BE DONATING A PORTION OF PROCEEDS TO THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

Every Thursday

LGBT AND FRIENDS VOLLEY BALL! École carrefour de l'acadie gym. No experience required. Info: Rodge at 204-4704 and Oscar at 955-9217 \$5.00 / player includes refreshments.

Tous les jeudis

VOLLEY BALL POUR LGBT et AMI-E-S. École carrefour de l'acadie. Aucune expérience requise. Infos: Roger 204-4704 ou Oscar 955-9217. \$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.

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 Street, Moncton NB E1C 5B1, (506)857-8779

Wednesday – Free pool with happy hour all night. Learn to line dance FREE with Jean-Marc – starts at 8:30, followed by Karaoke at 11:00. The Wednesday card club still meets at 8:30 also.
Thursday – House Party with DJ's Sonny D and Just Jack at 11:00. \$4.00 cover. Student's get staff prices all night with student card.
Friday – it's request night. Dance to all your favourite tunes all night long. Cover \$5.00
Saturday – Best dance music in town with DJ daBoss. No cover till 10:00. Happy hour till 11:00. Admission \$6.00.
Sunday – Free pool and happy hour all night. Monday & Tuesday – Closed.
Check out our monthly event page at www.trianglesbar.com and keep up to the Pride events – www.fiertemonctonpride.ca

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. www.portcityrainbowpride.com/ for more information.

SATURDAY MAY 16

Meet & Greet MAC LEATHER XI B-B-Q 5 PM TO 9 PM Mahogany Manor
11 PM TO 1 AM Meet & Greet Contestants, Elements Bar

Sunday May 17

10 AM TO NOON: MAC LEATHER XI SUNDAY BRUNCH ; 1PM TO 4PM MAC LEATHER XI DAY AT THE PARK: B-B-Q (PRIDE SAINT JOHN), GAMES & PRIZES; 9 PM TO 11 30PM MAC LEATHER XI CONTEST; MIDNIGHT TO 2 AM: WINNER VICTORY PARTY

MONDAY MAY 18/09

9 AM TO NOON: WINNER BREAKFAST; NOON: GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION ON NEW OFFICER, FINICIAL REPORT, PRESENTATION TO PEI MACLEATHER XII PEI PRIDE WEEKEND 2010

Saint John Bar & Business Calendar

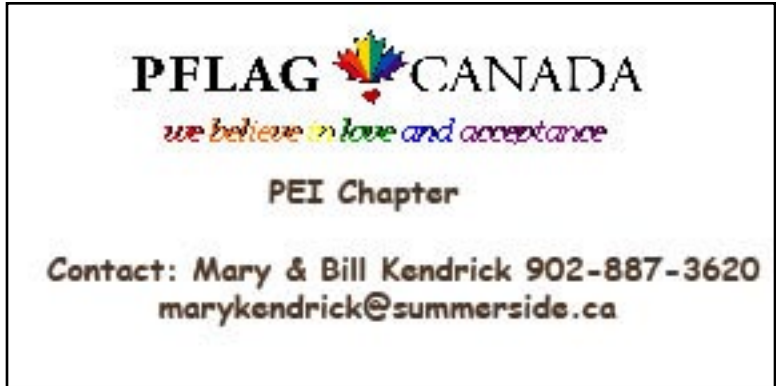
CLUB MONTREAL

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 – 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.



Groups Cont'd

Brunswick St., Halifax)

Truro Pride, Truro: A group supporting GLBT individuals in the Colchester County. 895-0931 email: truropride@hotmail.com, meets every Wednesday (6:30 p.m.) at FairTrade Cafe on Prince Street, between Commercial and Dominion Streets.

Universalist Unitarian Church, Halifax: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500 email: uuchurch@eastlink.ca web: chebucto.ca/religion/UUCH, meets every Sunday (10:30) at 5500 Inglis St

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House, Kingston: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 765-2821 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: faceitwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception of in November. There is two dances held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

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

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

WomynZone, Halifax: Social activities for womyn who love womyn in the Halifax region. email: womynzone@eastlink.ca web: www.geocities.com/womynzone

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

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>
Winter Hours
Open Fri&Sat Nights 10pm-late
No cover before 12 Friday
No Cover before 11 Saturday

Sydney

...see Cape Breton

Truro

First Sunday of each month

Rainbow Proud: We are the LGBT community of Truro and surrounding areas. We are an organizational group that meets to plan activities ie: parades, outings, dances and such. We meet the first Sunday of each month. (Taking a break during summer months) We could always use some more help, so if you are interested in joining our group or if you are looking for information about the LGBT community, check www.rainbowproudnovascotia.ca

WAYVES DATES!

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

Wileville

...see Bridgewater

Prince Edward Island (902)

Abegweit Rainbow Collective, Charlottetown: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.ca, meets 2nd Tuesday (7:30 PM) at 144 Prince Street

AIDS PEI, Charlottetown: AIDS PEI creates a supportive environment for PHA's to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 144 Prince Street Charlottetown, PE C1A 2R6

Gay PEI Mailing List, province-wide: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pei-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-pei> 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 (E-mail us for further details.) at 144 Prince St.

PEI Pride, Charlottetown: Organizing The Island Pride Festival. (902) 388-0969 web: www.peipride.com (See webpage for meetings www.peipride.com) at 286 Fitzroy Street

PFLAG Canada - PEI, Island wide: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pflagpei@eastlink.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca, meets 3rd Tuesday at Ferry Road Centre, 24 Ferry Road, Cornwall, PE or Stratford City Hall check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.

Last Word

In the Garden of Eatin', Baby!

By Randall Perry

Blah! Who wants to watch the news these days? What with all the talk of recession, job losses, corporate bailouts and collapsing economies it makes you want to switch off the radio and television, line the cat pan with today's newspaper, unplug the internet and tuck into a fine vintage from Jōst or Grand Pré. If only the world's problems could be solved, at least for a few moments, by a nice glass of wine!

During times of economic stress, the natural tendency for people is to nest and stay close to home. However, most people are loathe to allow their creature comforts to fall by the wayside. You may not be able to have that great Bardolino five times a week, and certainly not in that superb upscale Italian restaurant... but snuggled up to your honey with take-out pizza, some

candles and an inexpensive Chianti in front of reruns of "The Sopranos" (sorry, couldn't resist!) might be a viable substitute.

I recently attended the Savour Food and Wine show with Wayves managing editor Raymond Taavel at Halifax's Marriott Harbourfront Hotel and was amazed at the sheer scope and variety of the presentations. (I understand that a similar event will be held in Charlottetown at the end of May. I suggest you go. Seriously.) I was also heartened to see some "family" at the event, both as attendees and presenters, and eventually met up with some Wayves advertisers. I was treated to a flurry of gesturing hands courtesy of Karen Foster of Premier Wine and Spirits and got to sample some incredible peasant soup and home-made biscuits lovingly served up by the good folks at Chives Bistro.

I also met up with Rod MacInnis of the Mortgage Centre, another Wayves advertiser, and sampled a wide array of food and spirits from former and potential new contacts. By the end of the evening I was quite full and very appreciative of both my bed and the wide culinary landscape of Nova Scotia.

During the thick of the event it was difficult to get around the displays because of the sheer number of attendees. It was obvious to me that, despite pronouncements of doom and gloom from one end of the stock market to other, we're living our lives as per usual, even if we're keeping a closer watch on the purse strings.

This is a perfect time for us GLBT folk in Atlantic Canada to support our own: our businesses, our supports, our friends, our family. Every month dozens of ads from queer

and queer-friendly businesses from around the region appear in Wayves, businesses offering a wide variety of products and services at competitive prices. I've patronized a number of them in the past, and continue to do so. It may sound somewhat obvious coming from me as associate editor of this magazine, but really, the more we as a community step up to the plate and drop our cash into the coffers of those who support us, the more we all benefit from increased visibility and ever-expanding choice, not to mention the possibilities for personal and professional networking in regions with a lack of GLBT-focused establishments.

Additionally, when it comes to those GLBT and friendly businesses who don't already advertise in Way-

ves, now is also a perfect time to recommend they do. While you make the recommendation, drop off a few copies while you're at it. The more people in the know, the better the resulting network, and we will be all the better and stronger for the effort when the recession ends.

And it will end, believe me. We've weathered these financial downturns before. Until then, remember that while pinching our pennies and curling up in front of the television we still need to grant ourselves permission to indulge once in a while. The garden of eatin' is best experienced when we add a little bam to the banal, and there's nothing better than finding those zesty little additions right in our front yard.

Letters

Dear Wayves:

I was walking in downtown Halifax waiting to see a movie when I seen a "poor" "black" male standing there in front of me smiling and holding a cup.

I tried to put myself in his shoes and tried to see how it would be to be "poor" although I didn't know his story and never will, I still knew it was hard to ask others for money, others you don't know at that.

So I thought to myself, that as a moral perspective that I follow what I go by and that is "treat others the way you want to be treated" so if I ever became poor, I wish there was a person like me out there to help me out.

I walked past the man and smiled and put three dollars in his cup, as I slowly walked away the man said "god bless you my child" i turned and smiled and said thanks. A second after that he said "WAIT" very fast and said to me, "Are you gay?" I looked at him with a curious face and replied the truth, "Yes." He then walked up to me and put his fingers in the cup, took the three dollars out that i had given him and put it in my hand and looked at me and said, "Go get tested."

People like that to me deserve what they got and i hope he is poor for a very long time.

Trevor James Lamkin Halifax , NS

Hi there!

This is Hank Williams and I am writing on behalf of Integrity Frederickton. I am the treasurer and was just leafing through the latest copy of Wayves. I noticed that you had us listed in one spot as meeting at St John's church in Oromocto and in another spot it says we meet that Christ Church Cathedral. Both these locations have changed. Unfortunately, despite our having asked permission and gotten it from Bishop and Chapter, the cathedral remains outside our use (it's a long story!). Therefore we are now meeting at the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton at 874 York Street. The time is still the same (4:00 p.m. every third Sunday of the month). It is always a eucharist to which all people regardless of sexual orientation are welcome. Our contact e-mail address has also changed. It is now integrityfredericton@live.ca

I would appreciate it if you could make the necessary changes. The listing for David Staples can also be deleted. He recently stepped down as our president after a long, productive and very faithful period of service to us and the gay community.

Sincerely,
Hank Williams Treasurer, Integrity Frederickton

PFLAG 
CANADA
...is returning
to Halifax!!

Join us on the
first Thursday
of every month,
6-9pm at the
Halifax Youth Project
2281 Brunswick Street

Contact Michelle Malette
992.431.8500

Employment Opportunity

Calendar of Events Editor

Wayves is searching for a person who wants to know it all - -

All the events!
All the parties!
All the bars!
All the meetings!
All the support groups!

Duties include organizing and maintaining our Calendar of Events feature. Access to a computer, the skill to use it, and a telephone are required. The position pays an honorarium with increases based on the growth of the feature. Direct telephone expenses will be paid. The successful candidate will be expected to aggressively track down event information and develop contacts with the Atlantic LGBT Community for Wayves. Open to residents of Atlantic Canada. E-mail applications to submissions@wayves.ca

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Last month You Tell Us asked, "Do you think same-sex marriage ceremonies should follow heterosexual traditions, or should we create new ones? We received 12 varied responses, edited for brevity: No one felt we should follow heterosexual traditions to the letter. Six basically stated that it is the couple's choice including, "... any kind of marriage ceremony should be the way the couple wants them, gay or straight"; "Some will like a traditional approach. Some will go for a very distinctive and unique ceremony. It doesn't need to be an either/or choice"; "... given the earliest background of the institution as a property transaction, like in some societies still today, we should be thinking about how to make ceremonies that reflect the present-day fact of marriage as a union/partnership of free people, uniting themselves by choice"; "I think tradition is in the eye of the beholder. Heterosexuality is diverse and comes in many different cultures. Do whatever feels right"; "I think that both same-sex and heterosexual marriages should follow/create whatever traditions the individual couple desires"; and "We created a nice back yard wedding with some tradition and some new things too." Six people felt we should create new ones including, "... why are we asking our family/friends to join us and what is the best way to share this commitment with them? Should our guests have the chance to speak? ..."; "I think that since today's society treats LGBT people different and make us feel like second class citizens that we should make our own marriage ceremonies and traditions ..."; and "Yes we should start our own traditions because as people who are supposedly as creative as we are, we shouldn't be content to accept the tired clichés of the established traditions in which we were not allowed to take part."

This Month's Question

All Canadians have suffered a terrible winter. If next year's winter is forecasted to be similar, what will you do? Where will you go? You tell us at: wayves.ca



Photo: Gordon Sleigh

Atlantic Canada's Largest LGBTQ Cultural Festival

UPCOMING EVENTS

From now 'til Pride Week

Rockin' the Gaybourhood 3
Menz Bar Pasta Dinners
Pride Pub Crawl
OUT bid! Pride Auction
Open Community Meetings

HALIFAX PRIDE WEEK

July 19 - 26, 2009

Dykes vs Divas
Valley Wine Tours
Under the Big Top: Songwriters Circle
22nd Annual Pride Parade, July 25
Pride Concert & Community Fair, July 25
Pride Family Picnic

More theatre; more music; more film; more fun! More great travel bargains!

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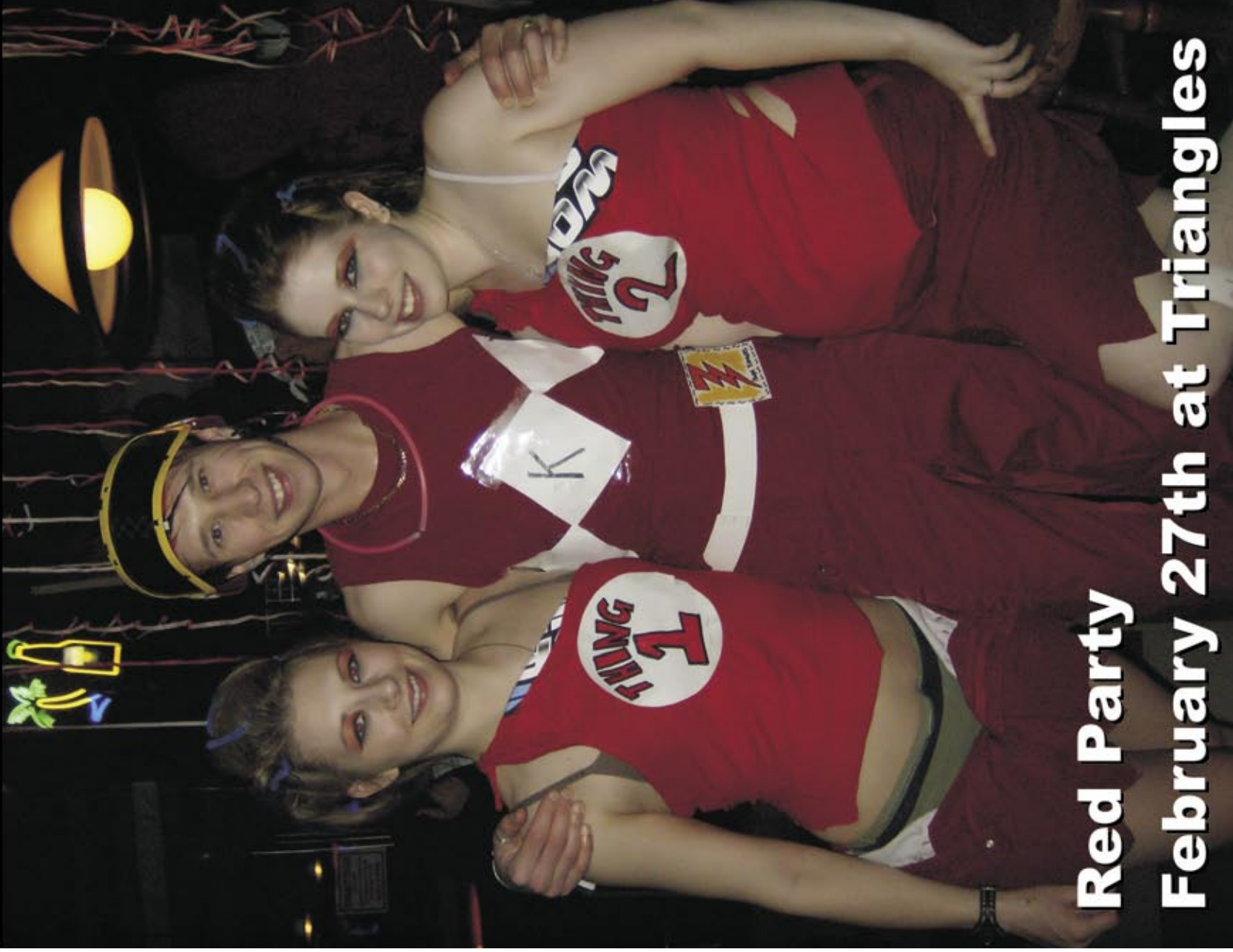
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Waves

April 2009



**Red Party
February 27th at Triangles**