



Safe Harbour MCC Looks to The Future

Interview with Rev. Bob Bond

By Angela Croft and Jane MacConnell

As many of the readers may be aware, in September 2008 the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church congregation lost its beloved pastor, spiritual leader and friend, Rev. Darlene M. Young. Darlene's passing put Safe Harbour into a holding pattern until the recent arrival of Rev. Robert Bond, our Intentional Interim Pastor. The following is the first part of a two-part interview with Rev. Bob, the first in a series of interviews that will be presented during his time with us.

Who is Rev. Bob Bond?

I am a fifty seven year old openly gay man from the States, Kalamazoo, Michigan, to be exact. I have lived in Michigan all my life prior to my appointment here in Halifax. I have a Master's Degree in social work which is what I did for twenty nine years



Reverend Bob Bond

of my professional life. I felt a call to ministry early in my life but could not see how God could use a gay man in ministry so I went into social work which is as close to ministry as you

will find in secular employment.

In 1988, I went to Washington, DC for the march on Washington

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Halifax Pride Faces Its Fundraising Challenges

By Hugo Dann, Chair, Halifax Pride 2009

Fiscal responsibility is enshrined in Halifax Pride's Mission & Values Statement, and we take that commitment seriously. Yet each year Pride seems to take another huge leap forward, requiring new ideas to meet the challenge of producing one of Canada's largest LGBTQ events. Over the course of the last three months, we've held four fundraisers, with events at Reflections and Menz Bar raising over \$1,500. Traditionally, our fundraising has been on that scale, rather like an inshore fishery! But with the increasing growth of the festival has come the need to cast a wider net. We're making every effort to access funding from every level of government. Closer to home, we're reaching out to the professional and business class in our community and it seems to be working. The Fancy Gay Dress Party was a truly remark-

able success. I think it's safe to say that our community has a new annual springtime event to look forward to. On this one night, we raised more than \$13,000 for Halifax Pride. Perhaps most importantly, everyone had a great time. We owe huge thanks to Gavin Crawford, Cliff Le Jeune and Gwen Dawson, their performances were world-class and their support priceless. Due credit also to our sponsors who made the event possible, first and foremost, our official host hotel, the Marriott Halifax Harbourfront. We'd like to express our thanks to Sound Systems Plus and to a number of business and community leaders, and politicians, who came forward with donations. Rod MacInnes, Hillcrest Volkswagen, Mayor Peter Kelly and the following Halifax Regional Councillors, Jerry Blumenthal, Doug Harvey, Dawn Sloane, Mary Wile and Jennifer Watts all helped sponsor community partici-

pation and showed their support for Halifax Pride. Kudos also to all Pride Board members and volunteers who helped out. But our efforts are ongoing. On May 9, at Coconut Grove on Granville Street, we're presenting Rockin' the Gaybourhood 3: Gays in the Grove. Produced by Ryan MacGrath, performers will include Ria Mae, The Heavy Blinkers, Acres and Acres, and many, many more. According to Ryan, "It'll be good, and sexy!" Then on May 23, we're presenting OUTBid! 4, Pride's annual auction at Casino Nova Scotia. We can't reveal too many details yet, but if you're looking to bid on a steamy dream date, this may be the event for you! Yes, the challenges in presenting an event on the scale of Halifax Pride are as big as the Festival itself. But as I expressed recently to the Chronicle Herald, while HRM's LGBT com-

Continued to page 8

I.D.A.H. May Events

Here are the events for International Day of Homophobia; if you don't see your community listed, please contact your local Pride or AIDS organization.

Amherst

The Cumberland Pride Society will have a display table and some members to answer questions from the public. This will take place on May 17th at the Amherst Centre Mall from 1 - 4 PM. The Amherst Daily News will interview Gerard Veldhoven regarding The International Day Against Homophobia, that will be published before the event.

Charlottetown

Please check www.arcofpei.com for updated information.

Fredericton

Integrity Eucharist for May will be on the 17th. IDAH will be the theme. 4:00pm at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton at 874 York Street

Halifax

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) will be sponsoring a rally at Grand Parade in downtown Halifax in support of the International Day Against Homophobia. The gathering will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009 at 12 pm. The International Day Against Homophobia

offers an opportunity for people to get together and reach out to one another. The national theme for this year's gathering is Homosexuality Knows No Borders. The purpose of this campaign is to make the general population, and more specifically ethno-cultural communities of all backgrounds, more aware of LGBT issues and sexual diversity. In addition to this national campaign, local leaders have also chosen to focus on the blood, tissue and organ donation ban against men who have sex with men (MSM). The ban in its current form does not protect the population from the spread of HIV, but rather it imposes unnecessary medical restrictions on men who engage in particular sexual practices. Furthermore, with no scientific justification whatsoever, the ban reinforces prejudice against Gay men and MSM by branding them as carriers of disease. This topic has been chose to illuminate the unseen ways in which homophobia is enacted in our public institutions. This gathering has the potential to raise awareness of issues that directly affect the LGBT community. For additional information, please contact NSRAP by email: nsrap@nsrap.ca

"Homosexuality Knows No Borders" is the multicultural them of this year's International Day Against Homophobia. To mark the occasion the Gay Men's Health Project of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is inviting people to contribute to a



Chris and Mike were among many people who attended the Gay/Lesbian Anniversary Dance in the Valley at the Middleton Lions Club in Nictaux. The April 4th mixer was in celebration of the 6th anniversary of the Valley Mens Coffee House Group dances. See Page 8 for more photos. Photo: Doug Bennett.

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halifax pride 09

ATLANTIC CANADA'S LARGEST LGBTQ CULTURAL FESTIVAL



UPCOMING EVENTS

From now 'til Pride Week

- May 9** Rockin' the Gaybourhood: Gays in the Grove
- May 16** Pride Pub Craw
- May 23** OUTBid! Pride Auction, Casino NS
- TBA** Pride Volunteer Fair
- TBA** Open Community Meeting

HALIFAX PRIDE WEEK

July 19 - 26, 2009

- July 18** Fred Hersch Trio
- July 19** Dykes VS Divas
- July 20** "Q" Youth Art Exhibit
- July 23 & 24** Valley Wine Tours
- July 24** Under the Big Top: Songwriters Circle
- July 25** **PRIDE DAY!**
PARADE, CONCERT & COMMUNITY FAIR
- July 26** Pride Family Picnic



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MAC Leather XI Docking in Saint John, NB

The MAC Leather Society is happy to announce that the eleventh Mr. & Ms. Atlantic Canada Leather competition will be pulling into the port city of Saint John, NB on the Victoria Day weekend of May 16-17, 2009.

This year's Leather weekend will be quite the event with contestants from all over Atlantic Canada vying for the title in both the men's and women's categories. The weekend's events will start off at the Mahogany Manor on Saturday, May 16, with the "Meet the Meat" barbecue. The contest preliminaries will take place at ELEMENT on Saturday night. Then the real fun begins on Sunday, May 17, with a Sunday Brunch from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Mahogany



Manor and a fundraising barbecue to benefit Saint John AIDS at Rockwood Park Fischer Lakes from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The eleventh annual Mr. & Ms. Atlantic Canada Leather competition will take place at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, at ELEMENT where the newest Leather ambassadors for Atlantic Canada will be selected.

So grab onto your leathers, polish up those boots and make your plans now to head into Saint John, New Brunswick during the Victoria Day weekend for what will prove to be an exciting and fun-filled Leather weekend.

For any additional information, to volunteer, or if you'd like to be a contestant and have some major fun e-mail us at MACLeather11@hotmail.com.

world map display to be set up at Menz Bar (2182 Gottingen Street, Halifax) over the May 15-17 (Victoria Day) weekend. For more information contact the ACNS Gay Men's Health Coordinator at (902)425-4882, ext. 222 or email gmhc@acns.ns.ca.

Saint John, NB

The annual "rainbow peace march" followed immediately by the service of prayer and hope to commemorate the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. This year the annual event will be held on Wednesday, May 13, due to the actual day falling on the Victoria Day long weekend this year.

Like past years, the evening will kick off with many supporters, allies and members of the Greater Saint John LGBTQ community lining up under the Saint John Harbour Bridge behind the HMCS Brunswicker (parking is free) for a moment of silence and reflection and a few words, followed by the peace march along

the beautiful Harbour Passage. Dress warmly, since it's usually cool in the evenings this time of year, and bring lots of rainbow colours, flags, scarves, banners, socks, etc., to proudly carry and wave en route to King Square. Afterwards, we're off to Centenary Queen Square United Church at 215 Wentworth St. for that congregation's open and supportive service of prayer and hope at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please email saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca or call (506) 648-9227.

To view pictures of past celebrations for the International Day against Homophobia and Transpho-

bia, please go to www.PortCityRainbowPride.com. If you would like to honour your own champion against homophobia and transphobia then go to www.pflagcanada.ca and send a card to honour that person or organization.

Truro

The Northern AIDS Connections Service invites everyone to join us. If you have any questions on this event or want to know how to get involved please contact Tom Harrison at eventsnacs@eastlink.ca or call the Northern AIDS Connection Society at (902) 895-0931.

Trans Info Session

Bedford United Church hosted a transgender information session for its congregation and other faith groups in HRM on the evening of Wednesday, March 25. A panel of presenters from the Youth Project gave the audience background in-

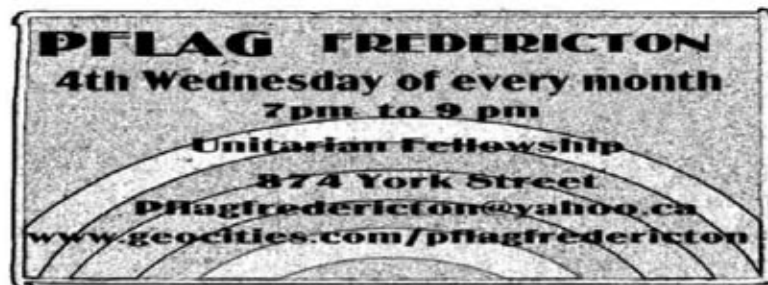
formation on the group's mission, as well as shared personal stories about their experiences as trans people or of being the parent of a trans child. The audience of 50-plus people was sincerely interested and engaged the youth in a question and answer period near the end of the evening.

The audience showed their appreciation for the panel by giving them a standing ovation for their efforts at the end of the two hour session. Anne Hebb, chair of the Inclusivity Committee at Bedford United, expressed thanks on behalf of the church to those who came out to the session as well as those from the Youth Project.

Our Cover:

Main photo: New interim pastor at MCC Safe Harbour. Photo by Anita Martinez. Smaller photos from the Big Fancy Gay Dress Party in Halifax March 21. Photos by Blake MacEwan. For more photos see page 9.

Cover Design: Cam McLeod.



Halifax Guyz Group Getting a Makeover!

The Halifax Guyz social group is currently on hold and under renovation. If you have ideas or suggestions about what you think a gay men's social group might look like (where to meet? when to meet? how often? what to do/see/talk about?) please let us know. We do hope to be back on track soon so feel free to get in touch about any questions you have and updates on the group's status. E-mail gmhc@acns.ns.ca and put "Guyz Group" in the subject line.

Did You See "What It Takes?"

Organizers of the recent national "Do you have what it takes?" HIV prevention campaign are looking for feedback on the campaign from gay men in Halifax and area. Please take a look at the campaign website (www.what-it-takes.org) and provide feedback on what you think of the campaign (whether good or bad) via the "Tell us what you think" yellow star button on the right hand side of the website home page. Your input will help guide future public education campaigns targeting gay and bisexual men. Feedback data will be collected until mid May.

Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of *Wayves*? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have 2007 back issues on line now and will be adding 2006 soon. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at submissions@wayves.ca!

Wayves

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

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

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Wayves

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Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: 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 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): 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.**

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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!

Gay Men's Health

By Angus Campbell

The Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) has always been considered a sexually transmitted infection, especially for the gay male community. Most of us know that a vaccine is available for hepatitis A and B. It's been available in the school systems for 10 years or more, and almost everyone is familiar with the ice cube commercial.

But Hepatitis C (HCV) isn't classified as an STI, yet. There isn't a vaccine and most people don't have the blood test, including gay men. Thinking Hep C is only a problem for intravenous drug users is as misinformed as believing HIV is only a concern for gay men.

Our community needs to be aware of Hep C, especially if you like to party. Participants at the CROI conference in Montreal presented proof that HCV has made its way through Amsterdam, France, the UK and New

York City via a sexual network.

We've recently learned that HIV-positive men are more vulnerable to HCV. Co-infection of HCV and HIV has serious implications for treatment. A study published in the April issue of the "Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome" reports that being infected with HCV doesn't prevent HIV-positive people from experiencing increases in CD4 cells after starting antiretroviral (ARV) therapy. This is good news. However the bad news is that it is well documented that co-infection often has negative consequences when it comes to liver disease progression. A French team theorizes that it is better to start ARV therapy earlier in order to delay fibrosis.

Gay Men's Health



A recent study of Toronto street youth, some of whom are queer, reports that 23% are Hep C-positive. Not in my backyard? In Atlantic Canada Hep C is twice the national average. In Canada between 250,000 and 300,000 are estimated to be HCV-positive. That's about five times the prevalence of HIV.

Barebacking, unprotected fisting, needles, straws, and pipes aren't the only ways of getting Hep C. Sharing razors, clippers, toothbrushes, unprotected sex toys and other personal items are not good ideas as the virus is quite hardy and can live in dried blood for up to 72 hours. HIV lasts about 20 minutes.

Tattooing and piercing can be

risky when not performed by a professional in a sterile environment with sterilized equipment. Beware of Facebook Tattoo Parties! Although I've never attended, I've heard that 10 or more people can end up sharing the "tattoo artist starter kit": one needle and one bottle of ink.

Unfortunately Hepatitis C often carries associated stigma. Many people are afraid to tell anyone they have it. Some experience judgement and discrimination. Some have been abandoned. Where have we heard this ugly story before? Is it due to ignorance and fear? Get informed. Hepatitis C is not spread through casual contact. It is totally safe to hug someone who has HCV; to kiss; to share a residence and even a life. Just remember safer sex if you're intimate and not to share personal items that may house blood.

Hepatitis C is eventually painful.

Treatment can be extremely challenging and not everyone can complete the 48 to 72 weeks. The severity of side effects can be intense, and the \$25,000 price tag is not covered by the government. Most insurance companies will pay 50 to 80%, but the patient, who is often too sick to work, has to pay the balance.

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month and here's what I recommend you do: 1) Visit your health care professional and get the vaccination for Hep A and B. It can save you from unnecessary pain and suffering. The vaccinations last for about 20 years. 2) Don't know if you've had the vaccination already? Ask to test your immunity levels. 3) And get an HCV test while you're at it. The earlier you know, the better, especially as this virus may not present any symptoms for 25 years.

AngCam59@yahoo.ca

Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden

By Bethana Sullivan

"April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing Memory and desire, stirring Dull roots with spring rain, Winter kept us warm, covering Earth in forgetful snow, feeding A little life with dried tubers." T.S. Eliot, The Wasteland, 1922.

I sit here looking out on a Wasteland day, the rain is falling in slanted sheets, driven by the howling of wind; the birds sway on the swinging birdfeeders and I think of their living, imaging it as a struggle to survive. Yet it may also be an exhilarating experience, a thrill to ride in wind and rain while being able to be feed too! Who knows?

According to Wikipedia notes on The Wasteland, Eliot attributes the title to Jessie L. Weston's book on the Grail legend, From Ritual to Romance. The allusion is to the wounding of the Fisher King and the subsequent sterility of his lands. To restore the King and make his lands fertile again the Grail questor must

ask, "What ails you?" The Fisher king is always wounded in the legs or groin and is incapable of moving on his own; the land suffers as he does, her fertility is like the dried tubers and she is barren.

And yet Eliot offers such hope, roots are re-invigorated, lilacs bud and flower in May; memory and desire are reawakened and what we hope for may come to fruition. But not unless we ask of ourselves and of others, "What ails you?" April into May reminds us to ask what needs to be born, rebirthed, relearned anew. Last month I went on at some length about diversity and the difficulties of navigating what can feel to be a wasteland of hostile and conflicting needs. I wrote: "Times change, movements recycle and we enter into a different stage of how to be in the world." The article grew out of a real frustration with lived reality, both internal and ex-

ternal. So I had to ask myself: "What is it that is ailing you? What needs to change in order to be able to enter into this new living?"

Sometimes a wasteland is just where we need to be to remember what desire is. I desire to know something different; I desire... desire. I have become stuck in my thinking, in my being, and to open to the rebirth of land and being I need to let go of old memories and plant new ones. I need to let the rains soak thought patterns and behaviour frames, making them fluid and flexible, open to change. Entering into May new memories have been created and old ones revisited; the Sanctuary Gardens are awakening to this new cycle.

The Fisher King, or the Wounded King, figures in Arthurian legend as the latest in a line charged with keeping the Holy Grail. Versions of his story vary widely, but he is always

Sometimes a wasteland is just where we need to be to remember what desire is.



wounded in the legs or groin, and incapable of moving on his own. When he is injured, his kingdom suffers as he does, his impotence affecting the fertility of the land and reducing it to a barren Wasteland. Little is left for him to do but fish in the river near his castle Corbenic. Knights travel from many lands to heal the Fisher King, but only the chosen can accomplish the feat. This is Percival in the earlier stories; in the later versions, he is joined by Galahad and Bors.

k.d. lang Winner

Wayves Magazine wishes to congratulate Seth Levinson of Lawrence-



town, Nova Scotia. He was the winner of draw for two tickets to k.d. lang's Watershed tour concert in Halifax Thursday April 16. The draw was held live on CKDU on Denise Holliday's Over the Rainbow radio 1130 Friday April 10. Wayves would like to thank all those who entered their name for the draw and also thanks to Denise and CKDU for their support.

! NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: First Friday of the Month

Wayves

Essentially Queer, Queerly Essential

Employment Opportunity - Advertising Sales

Jim Bain, advertising sales agent for Wayves Magazine, is seeking a sales associate. The successful candidate would be expected to develop new advertising formats and new clients within the Atlantic LGBT market. Duties would include writing ratecards, preparing new sales approaches, and introducing the magazine and community to new clients. The candidate would also be involved in developing and producing events to showcase the magazine and its advertisers.

The position requires strong writing and communications skills, basic computer skills, and an aptitude towards graphic arts and design. A love of meeting people and talking with them, as well as a strong sense of community advocacy is also necessary. The ability to travel in the Atlantic Provinces is required. Persistence, self-confidence, the ability to work on your own initiative and a drive to succeed would be highly valuable. Helpful, but not required, is a background in sales and/or publishing and a base in or near Halifax.

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Contact Michelle Malette 992.431.8500

Let's Make Halifax the Safest Place on Earth

From June 1 to 14, the V-Day Halifax Community Campaign will bring you the inaugural festival, "Until the Violence Stops: Halifax (HRM)." This is the first time the festival has taken place outside of the United States and we feel honored that Halifax has been considered for such an event.

The festival is a call to arms, a celebration, and a rally to bring the various communities of Halifax Regional Municipality together with entertainment, education and empowerment. The events listing for the two-week festival can be found on the

right-hand side of this page.

Other community events in the works include Screening of the V-Day documentaries "What I Want My Words to Do" and "Until The Violence Stops"; a self defense course for women; a youth art show; and the grand finale.

For more information or to get involved, sponsor or support please contact Kim MacDonald at utvs2009@yahoo.ca, or check out our Facebook site, "Until the Violence Stops Festival."

The festival is a call to arms, a celebration, and a rally

Halifax V-Week Events

- June 4, Spoken Word Event, "Word iz Bond," at the Company House: Featuring Shauntay Grant, Joi N. Payne, Tesia Rolle and Ardath Whynacht.
- June 5, "Necessary Targets" at the North End Church: A groundbreaking play about women and war, about the violence of dark memories and the enduring resilience of the human spirit. Directed by Kate Wilkinson. Produced by Catherine MacKeigan. Featuring Olga Melosovich, Elaine Casey, Pamela Harrison, Gisela O'Brien, Laura Burke, Vesna Miroslavjevic, Tiffany O'Donnell, Sharleen Kalayil.
- June 6, Junior High Basketball Tournament: Hit the Courts not your Girlfriend.
- June 6, Women's Dance: Venue to be announced.
- June 8, "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer": Groundbreaking collection of monologues by world-renowned authors and playwrights, at Neptune's Studio. Directed by Christine Daniels. Assistant Director Stephanie Kincade. Produced by Leana Todd. Featuring Nancy Regan, Leonard Preyra, Gloria McCluskey, Alison Brewer, Alexa McDonough, Sobaz Benjamin, Kathy Murphy, Karen Shewbridge, Carmen Moncayo, John Webb.
- June 9, A Men's Component with high school boys and Michael Kauffman: A group of male community leaders, activists creating a one day workshop that explores men's relationships to violence against women and girls. Michael Kaufman has worked around the world for over two decades with men and women, rethinking our ideas about manhood, challenging sexism and violence against women, and developing better relations between the sexes. His speeches and workshops sparkle with humor, passion, and insight.
- June 11, all-ages coffee-house event, "Girls with Guitars," at St. Matthew's Church. Produced by Andrea Somers. Featuring a reunion of The Three Helen's, Karen Palmer, Ria and Andrea Somers (and more to be announced).
- June 12: "Any One of Us: Words from Prison" at the Bus Stop Theatre: This production reveals the connection between women in prison and the violence that often puts them there. Directed by Jan Morrison. Produced by Leana Todd. Featuring Nicole Farmer, Tara Maclean, Deborah Preper and Julie Dingwall.

Safe Harbour

Continued from page 1

and AIDS quilt display. While in Washington, I decided to attend worship at the Metropolitan Community Church there. I had heard about this denomination and was curious. My experience in that worship service was overwhelming. I felt as if I had come home for the first time. I cried and laughed and decided this was where I was meant to be. I looked for an MCC congregation near my home in Michigan and there was none. The closest congregation was over an hour and a half away. It was not until I returned to the town where I grew up that I found an MCC Bible study nearby. I attended the Bible study and felt lead to lead them in weekly worship. I was appointed their Lay Pastoral Leader. Leading worship seemed so natural to me and I realized God had not made a mistake when I felt the call as a teenager. Eventually, after several years of pasturing Gospel of Jesus Christ MCC, I decided to go to seminary and seek ordination. This required me to leave the church and move close to Chicago, Illinois where the seminary of my choice, Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS)

was located. God opened up a chance to transfer to Kalamazoo, Michigan which is an easy rail commute to Chicago. God also provided clergy to take over Gospel of Jesus Christ MCC when I left.

There was a small church in Battle Creek, Michigan about 20 miles from Kalamazoo where I intended to worship while completing my studies. The week after I arrived in Kalamazoo the pastor of Sign of the Covenant MCC (SOCMCC) met with me and told me he had accepted a call to Louisville, Kentucky and asked me to take over as pastor of SOCMCC. I was still going to be a pastor. I attended CTS for five years and graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree. I was ordained by MCC and appointed as pastor to SOCMCC. Within the year, SOCMCC voted to close as a result of lost worship space and dwindling attendance. I was ordained and for the first time in about fourteen years, I was without a church to pastor.

I went for almost a year without an appointment. I explored the options open to me and sought some confirmation that God had called me as a

youth and had called me again as an adult. I went to training for Intentional Interim Pastors thinking I might find temporary appointments while waiting to receive a call to a long-term pastor appointment. I discovered I had many skills for intentional interim work from my previous experience as a social worker, particularly in the areas of grief counselling and conflict management.

Where was your last church posting?

I was appointed to Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, Michigan in July of 2007 and remained there until January of 2009.

When did you come here?

I was appointed to Safe Harbour MCC starting March 1, 2009.

How long will you be with Safe Harbour?

My contract is for twelve months with the possibility of being renewed for two six month periods or a total of two years. It is my hope and belief this process can be completed in twelve months.

What made you choose to come to Safe Harbour?

I was, and am, convinced this is where God could best use my gifts and talents. This was not an easy decision for me, but I am also convinced God new that my struggle with change and disorientation would make it easier for me to relate to a congregation facing change when its primary mooring was gone.

Since your arrival at Safe Harbour, what are some of the strengths you see in the church?

Safe Harbour MCC has a solid core of people who desire that it succeed. The church also has a clear

vision of purpose to serve those most in need in this community and elsewhere. Safe Harbour MCC does amazing things with its limited resources of people and finances.

Why is this a good time in Safe Harbour's history for new people to become involved with the church?

This is an opportunity for anyone to contribute to the vision of what Safe Harbour MCC needs to be and to contribute their time and resources to assure the continuing presence of a Safe Harbour MCC in HRM.

(To be continued in the June, 2009 edition of Wayves.)

Experience pays off.



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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom

A couple of pieces of sad news. First, my little feathered friend, Finch, finally shuffled off his mortal perch this week. He went quickly; he had seemed unwell for a few days and then quite suddenly, he was gone. I've never really been a fan of keeping birds in cages so I like to think his death was a welcome release and his spirit is flying free somewhere now.

The second piece of sad news was the death of gay superstar of 70's porn films, Jack Wrangler. The most interesting aspect of Jack's screen persona—aside from that cocky swagger and hot physical appearance—was the way he was completely unapologetic and unashamed about being gay. At a time when many of us were just tentatively beginning to ask for tolerance and acceptance, Jack was already proudly, enthusiastically gay. Those amazing blue eyes danced with delight in sex scenes as if to say, "Isn't this great! I'm so lucky to be gay!" A big contrast to films like *Boys In The Band* where all the gay men really hated themselves and treated their homosexuality like a chronic disease to be suffered through, with only a few laughs here and there to make it bearable. Jack was the first gay male role model I saw who was glad to be gay.

I saw him interviewed a while back in a documentary on his life and career and was charmed by his honesty and humour. Definitely a dancer to a different drum, he also made straight porn films and later married Margaret Whiting, a woman considerably older than he. Yet, as he made clear in the documentary, his sexuality was never in doubt: "Not bisexual, not confused but gay!" Some saw his marriage and his foray into straight films as a betrayal of the gay rights movement but Jack was always his own person and lived his life his way. Just as he refused to let the larger society label him as sick or a sinner, so he would not accept being put in a box by his queer comrades.

This limited acceptance is still with us, Tom. Drag queens have told me they are often treated as if they are not real members of the queer community. And look at the ads whose authors describe themselves as "non scene." In other words, I'm gay but not THAT gay. We used to call that, the closet. Furtive anonymous encounters conducted in the darkness and with the clear message If-I-see-you-on-the-street-you-don't-know-me. Not much pride there, gay or otherwise. These sexual seekers usually add "no fems, no fats, no oldies." Well, they've just rejected a huge portion of the population. What this says to me is you can only feel good about yourself if you can attract a man who looks like an underwear model—and therefore, just

like you! Boring!! And why let the media moguls with their Entertainment Tonight mentality decide for us what attractive is, what beauty is, what worthwhile is? I also take issue with those buttoned-down conservative types in our community who deplore the flamboyance and exuberance of Pride Parades, saying that this does not reflect their view of being gay. Well, good! We call that diversity, we call that difference, we call that a celebration of the many shades of the rainbow. Have we become queer bullies, Tom, merely passing along the abuse we received? We all struggled to break free of the narrow categories that were imposed on us and then turn around and use them on ourselves. We use phrases like: He's gay but very masculine. She's a lesbian? She looks so feminine. (Masculine and feminine here mean: straight-looking.) How much self-acceptance do we really have if we want to appear straight and dislike anyone who doesn't try to hide? And queer people are not just like everyone else nor do we need to be. Yes, we deserve and expect to get equal treatment as human beings but we don't have to disappear into the background to get it.

Nor does the fact that we now have the legal right to wed mean that marriage is the only legitimate relationship. A gay couple I know say they are often asked by friends—queer and straight—when (not if) they are getting married. Another narrow box to put us in and the contents of narrow boxes are usually meant for burial.

Okay, enough serious talk. Spring has finally arrived, heralded by crocuses, daffodils and bird song. The other day I saw a honeybee flying clumsily over a bed of lily of the valley, positively drunk on the scent. When the weather forecast is for rain not snow it does gladden the heart, doesn't it? Of course I'm a big fan of spring, being born during that lovely green season (hint, hint). The arrival of clement weather after the long cold tunnel of winter makes it seem as if anything is possible.

By the way, the concert given by the chorus was a triumph, Tommy. We let the music pour from us like robins rejoicing in the sunshine. Wish you could have been there.

Love ya!

Crawford

Reign 9 Embraces Spring

By Nathan Boudreau

As Mother Nature hits us with what we all hope is a last blast of winter weather, we are gearing up for an amazing spring season with lots of fun events. Our annual Investiture was held on March 29, where Empress Boom Boom and Emperor Lee handed out their titles.

The month of April was great with a barbecue and Sunday dinner held Easter weekend at Menz Bar in Halifax. Thank you to all who attended and to the bar for hosting us. The Emperor and Empress traveled during April to attend Coronation in Calgary. Be on the lookout for this year's

King and Queen of Diamonds, Allan Dowding and GiGi Ghore, as they get ready to celebrate their birthdays in May with a show May 17 at Menz Bar. Showtime is at 10:00 p.m.

An ISCANS appreciation barbecue is scheduled for May 18 at the home of Linda Publicover, followed by a great game of Rummoli at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person to play. If you want to play, be sure to bring your own pennies for the game.

Got ideas for events, or questions about upcoming events? Drop an email to events@imperialcourtns.com.


ACNS Women's Information Desk

The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia has initiated a quarterly e-mail group that focuses on HIV prevention and risk among women, and provides updates on technological/social advances for women living with HIV/AIDS.

Our e-mail group is intended for organizations that support women. However, if you are a woman and you want more information related to HIV/AIDS, you can contact Tammy

Barbour through e-mail at pc@acns.ns.ca or phone (902) 425-4882 ext. 226. Please feel free to contact us with requests for topics relevant to your community.

Did you know that you can order HIV/AIDS resources for C.A.T.I.E. (Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange) online and at no charge to you? Phone 1 (800) 263-1638 or visit www.catie.com.



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Needle Exchange Program Leaves AIDS PEI; Province Takes on Service

AIDS PEI recently received news that their needle exchange program will not receive any funding from the Department of Health. AIDS PEI has announced that they will close the needle exchange on April 1, 2009 in preparation for the province to take over needle exchange services in the immediate future. AIDS PEI, the province's only AIDS service organization, initially sought funding to operate and maintain the service.

Executive Director Mark Hanlon says while he's disappointed, AIDS

PEI will still remain committed to helping the province provide the prevention service to intravenous drug users. "Of course, I'm disappointed and I have reservations about the province taking this on rather than the only organization that traditionally wanted to run it. However, I am glad that the chief health officer and deputy chief health officer are committed to renewing the program at their level. It would be disastrous if our province didn't have one. Although, I do wonder where the

Department of Health found the money for this program, but not the original money we had asked for to maintain our reputable and already-existing program."

Despite this, Hanlon said the most positive piece to come out of their discussion is the chief health officer's commitment to getting a needle exchange in Summerside on a part-time basis, something AIDS PEI and health officials have discussed in the past. Hanlon says it will take time for users of the service to fully

trust the new operators under the province. "It's taken our organization years to build that trust and the department can't expect to have a simple handover of that trust; it just doesn't work that way. Obviously, I am concerned for the health of those people who will take time to 'win over.' We will assist them in building that trust and work with the province in any way that might be consistent with our overall mission of reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS in the province—that has and always will be

our top priority," said Hanlon.

The department will officially announce locations and other details regarding a re-launch of the needle exchange. In the meantime, AIDS PEI will close its needle exchange on April 1 and will be distributing the last of its supplies prior to that date.

Anyone seeking information or media inquiries should call (902) 566-2437 or e-mail info@aidspei.com.

Northern AIDS Connection Society

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) started off the year by being busy, with several exciting events happening so far. We recently attended first ever Health Fair hosted by the Practical Nursing Class at the Truro campus of the Nova Scotia Community College. This event was very well organized and was a very informative and educational experience for both students and community partners who attended. In the past the Northern AIDS Connection Society received funding through the Truro and Area Community Health Board to host this type of event. A piece of the work plan focuses on community development and capacity building, therefore having the students of this course take over the responsibility of hosting this type of event is crucial to the work being done in northern Nova Scotia.

The NACS hosted, in partnership with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS), a workshop on gay men's health at the St. Andrew's United Church in Truro, presented by the ACNS's Gay Men's Health Coordinator. This event was well attended with representation from all areas of northern Nova Scotia: Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland and East Hants. These types of event are activities that expected to continue

annually, as they are an important and integral part of overall health and well being.

The organization is excited about a Job Creation Partnership (JCP) opportunity with Service Canada. This partnership will enable the Northern AIDS Connection Society to hire an individual for approximately 52 weeks to work on specific programs and awareness activities.

The NACS continues to reach marginalized populations by the creation of pocket-sized brochures such as "Safer Tattooing," "Self Esteem," "Safe Zone for Gay, Bisexual and Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM)" and more.

The Spring for Life campaign was cancelled and the Fund Development Committee is looking into alternate initiatives for fundraising.

Plans are underway to have the Annual Art Auction at the Best Western Glengary Hotel in Truro this June. This event provides an opportunity to showcase work by local artists. Anyone interested in donating a piece of art or an item for the silent auction or volunteering to help with this event, please contact our office at (902) 895-0931, or e-mail us at nacs@eastlink.ca.

The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life will be held this year on Septem-

ber 19-20. There will be four walks, one each in Amherst, New Glasgow, Truro and Elmsdale. More information will become available when the summer student hired through

Service Canada starts in June. If you have any questions please contact our office at (902) 895-0931 or e-mail walkcoordinator@eastlink.ca.

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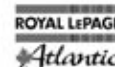


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more of the gals, Steve &
Garry, the boys, Chelsea,
Greg, Homer, Mark,
David & Norman, Doug
Bennett

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Bennett



Halifax Pride

Continued from page 1

munity may seem small in relation to centres like Calgary or Ottawa, as Atlantic Canadians we're used to hard work and we pack a lot of muscle! Halifax Pride is extremely fortunate in enjoying the support of this strong community! Happy Pride, Everyone!!

Halifax Pride Community Fair Wants You to "Get Your Act Together!" By Community Fair Coordinator, Ramona Westgate Last year's Community Fair was a huge success. This year we expect it to be even bigger and better. In fact we've grown so

much a committee has been struck to organize the festivities. One new attraction the committee is working on is the addition of a second stage in the Fair grounds. This "Community Stage" will be used to showcase youth, community groups and amateur performances. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to visit the Halifax Pride website for eligibility criteria. Get your act together soon as the application deadline is June 1, 2009.

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22 Minutes star Gavin Crawford crashed the Fancy Gay Dress Party in support of Halifax Pride, Saturday March 20, at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel.

Other special guests for the dinner and dance included performers Cliff Le Jeune, Gwen Dawson and DJ Motlette.

The Fancy Gay Dress Party is the first ever formal fundraiser for Halifax Pride Week

Festival (July 19-26, 2009).

Pictures courtesy of photo journalist Blake MacEwan. For photo inquiries please e-mail Blake: photoincane@gmail.com



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Chef's Corner



Spring has sprung and it feels long over due, don't you think? What better way to usher in this season of new life than to set up the barbecue, invite a few people over and grill up just about anything you can get your hands on. Well, this month we're going to get our hands on some boneless, skinless chicken breasts and give them a fresh and healthy marinade, reminiscent of the Greek Isles or the French Riviera. Your gas grill will work just fine, but for this type of thing I really prefer an old school charcoal or oak fired grill. The hint of smoke really plays well with the acids of the citrus and the freshness of the herbs in this recipe. Give this one a try. It works very well with pork loin or veal as well.

Chef Darren is Chef/Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, 1537 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S. Voted "Establishment of the Year 2008" by the Nova Scotia Association of Chefs and Cooks; awarded two out of three stars "Where to Eat in Canada 2009"; new member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs International." Reservations (902) 420-9626.

Mediterranean Char-Grilled Chicken

Ingredients (for 4 people)

4 large skinless, boneless chicken breasts	2 Tbsp red wine vinegar	1 shallot, minced
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil	2 Tbsp chopped fresh oregano	4-6 cloves garlic, minced (depending how much you like)
1/2 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice	2 Tbsp chopped fresh flat leaf parsley	2 tsp coarse sea salt
with zest	2 Tbsp chopped fresh mint	2 tsp cracked black pepper

Method

1. Combine all the marinade ingredients in a bowl and whisk together. Place the breasts in a zip-lock bag or airtight container. Pour the marinade over the chicken, seal and refrigerated over night.
2. Remove the breasts from the bag and pat dry with paper towel. Grill on high heat 3-5 minutes, give 1/4 turn and grill another 3-5 minutes. This creates nice hatch marks. Turn the breasts over and repeat the same procedure. (The length of time will depend on the thickness of the meat and if you are using a covered or open grill.)

Serving suggestions

I really enjoy this grilled chicken with side of traditional Greek salad and topped with tzatziki sauce.

I Am What I Amherst

By Gerard Veldhoven

Finally spring has sprung and most groups in our community are in the midst of getting ideas rolling for Pride Week. Amherst is no exception. The Cumberland Pride Society has already decided on a few events that will mark the celebrations. Activities include the flag raising on July 6, a fashion show, dinner and dance, a cookout, a family picnic. The parade is still under review. A workshop on queer parenting is a strong possibility. All the details will be in this column in the June issue of Wayves. Our website will also give details once they are complete.

The Craft and Bake Fair is all set for May 2, to run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Amherst Lion's Centre, Electric Street. Some tables are still available for this event at a cost of \$15.00; please call (902) 660-5143 to reserve one of the remaining tables.

A yard sale fundraiser will be held on July 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. For details please call (902) 660-5004 or e-mail cumberlandpride@hotmail.com.

This year, as in last year, businesses will be contacted for support in our efforts to gather funds. A silent auction will then be held at the Amherst Lion's Centre. Details will be announced in June.

The Amherst area has never experienced such celebrations and last year was the initiation of "queer recognition." We certainly left our mark, making it not only possible, but also necessary, to hold these events on a yearly basis. We have a new mayor in town and I believe he will cooperate, as did the former mayor. In any case, town of Amherst CAO Greg Herrett is in charge of flag-raising. The mayor is responsible for signing the Pride Week Proclamation. We expect a strong turnout of members of the queer and straight citizens. All our events are open to the community at large. We feel that to be of importance so a gay/straight alliance will develop in our communities. Knowledge leads to acceptance.

A number of people in our community have concerns about the eventual need of long-term care. I have also spoken with many of our seniors, and some younger people as well, who are not comfortable with, or are indeed afraid of what lies ahead. I decided to study this situ-

ation in our province and I came to the conclusion their worries are well founded. First I contacted facilities in the Amherst area and soon extended it province-wide. This study is ongoing and I will report on my findings in a few months.

As I read the April issue of Wayves, I notice a lot of preparations are in full swing around the Maritimes. I see this year as the best yet for celebrating our accomplishments and our place in this world. However, our quest is not shared by many in other lands, and I must add our own concerns about equal treatment. Much work remains, and so we must remain vigilant. As long as people such as Pope Benedict XVI and some world leaders are the bearers of discrimination, people in other lands and in our own country, our work is not done. As a matter of fact, we only have to listen to some of our neighbors and we soon know the reality of homophobia is alive and well everywhere. Now it is time to celebrate, so let's do it in fine style.

That's it from blueberry country. Till the next time, a quote from Sir Elton John: "I just wish more of my fellow queers would come out sometimes. It's really nice out here, you know."



Leonard Preyra
MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

~Anne Bradstreet

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Moncton

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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

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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.

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FREE WI-FI, Pool Table, KENO, FREE Party Roomz ATM, Visa, M/C, Debit FREE Meeting Rooms available to ALL. GBLTI 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.

September 27!

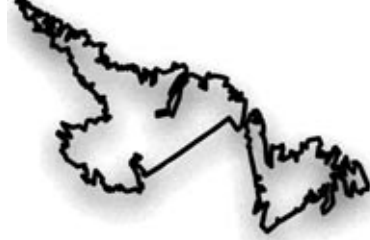
Mark your calendars. The 2009 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life. Get started with the fundraising early. Call Laura at 425-4882 x 228 or email walk@acns.ns.ca to register. Help us help others with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

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



St. John's

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



PEI

Hey!

There's nothing here for party events for PEI! Can you change that? Please, either write to Wayves and tell us what's going on or - make sure the people producing the events do! It's our job to help get people to your event!

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

Let's Talk! Features

Recent Changes To Groups & Services

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

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



Integrity Fredericton: afternoon Eucharist in the garden, Fredericton, August, 2008. Left to right: Bob Smith, Father Neville Cheeseman (celebrant), Father David Staples, Father Keith Howlett. Missing is Rob Bateman. Photo by Hank Williams.

Integrity Fredericton now meets at Unitarian Fellowship, at 874 York Street, Fredericton. The time is still the same: 4:00 p.m. every third Sunday of the month.

WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

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

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

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

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

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

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!)

assorted cities

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

Dartmouth

Healing Our Nations: 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

Fredericton

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

Upper Musquodoboit

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. (902)568-2935 email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: 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)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays: Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

Integrity: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: integrityfredericton@live.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46207976587, meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton at 874 York Street

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

Spectrum: social and support group for

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

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

Moncton

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

Moncton Line Dancing: 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: Supporting all people with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflag-canada.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

River Of Pride: 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 Moncton Region: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049 email: info@safespaces.ca web: www.safespaces.ca

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton: Vise 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.)

Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

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

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ 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

Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: 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 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.aidssaintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.port-cityrainbowpride.com, meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St

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

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

Safe Spaces Fundy Region: 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)

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com (open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noon.) at the office of Centenary Queen Square United Church at 215 Wentworth Street.

The UNBSJ Q-Collective: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LGBTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "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".

Woodstock

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

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 gemmahickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's

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

Gay Urban Youth Zone Project: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness 579-8656 (ext. 28) 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: 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!

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

Nova Scotia (902)

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

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

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.

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society:

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

(Cape Breton/Halifax/Annapolis Valley)

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society: email: tpineo@hotmail.com web: To be released

Amherst & Area

The Cumberland Pride Society: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Sunday (2-4pm)

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

Antigonish

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

Bridgewater

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

South Shore Pride Social Club: for 19 & older. 530-5986 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca, meets 3rd Saturday (— dances — 9:00PM to 1:00AM) at Call or email for location.

Cape Breton

Group Harrison Society: 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

Halifax

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

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

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

BLT-Womyn of Halifax: Bi Sexauls, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ (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): 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!!

DalOUT: 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: 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.

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

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

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

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 455-9656 web: www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society: Fundraising. 902-449-7612 web: www.imperialcourtns.com, meets 1st Sunday, and 2nd Sunday (Executive Meetings Are Currently Held Every Second Sunday) at Meeting Locations Vary

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Call or email Pastor Elaine for more information. 876-8771 email: koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca (bi-weekly at 12:30pm) at Halifax Feast, Maritime Centre

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

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

Mount Pride: GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@yahoogroups.com, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 12 noon) at The Diversity Center in Roseria on campus, and online (see email) 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.

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

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

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

Play Group for Queer Families: 422-8780 email: lynnmacdonald@hfx.eastlink.ca (3-5pm) at Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week.

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

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

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

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

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome!. 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets every Sunday (11 am) at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax

Spirituality For Lesbians: We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. 459-2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

Team Halifax: All GLBT over 18, athletes and performance artists, as well as anyone willing to help out. 422-9510 web: www.teamhalifax.com (No fixed schedule at this time, look on website for further details.)

The Youth Project: 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. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (6-9pm) at 2281 Brunswick Street. 25 and under. Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events. 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,

Trans Family Nova Scotia: We are the Parents, Partners, Family, Friends & Allies of Trans-Identified Individuals. supporting one another. 902-431-8500 email: transfamily@eastlink.ca, meets 3rd Monday (6:30 to 8:30 pm) at The Youth Project (2281 Brunswick St., Halifax)

It's Unnatural!

By Darrell Gates

Of all the judgemental statements leveled against being gay, this has got to be the worst. It invokes the perceived natural order of things, the biological intention of our creation. The basis of this observation is that anything contrary to the way God made us is somehow wrong. There is no doubt that the genitalia of humankind was meant for procreation. Even God told our forefathers to go forth and multiply. The Catholic Church is quite clear about this. You can enjoy it, but the purpose is to produce children, hopefully little Catholic children.

As a boy, before this so-called age of sexual enlightenment, masturbation was considered a sin. Indeed it probably still is in the thinking of some devoted to procreation and nothing but procreation. Old Dr. Kel-

logg went to great lengths to stamp out this practice of self gratification. Save the seed. Spilling it on the ground is unacceptable.

The use of the term "unnatural" is an antiseptic way of expressing a condemnation of an activity which, when fully described, causes distress in proper circles.

"How do gays 'do it'?" I was once asked that by a well-meaning woman who perhaps wanted to understand the nuances of gay sex. I declined to answer unless perhaps she was prepared to give me a description of their gropings. The hidden message was that she considered gay sex to be unnatural—a curiosity, perhaps, but certainly unnatural.

Of course, the problem with this observation is that being unnatural implies being wrong or unaccept-

able.

It is interesting to note that not all unnatural human activities are bad. Even the Church does not see that cloistering men and women and requiring chastity of them is simply wrong in the natural order of things. There are many human activities that could be deemed unnatural but which we as a society have declared to be acceptable. These activities do no harm and in most instances contribute good to the world and the human condition.

Love between individuals of the same sex is one of these activities. Abundant and many-faceted love between same-sex couples is surely not wrong. Love that is caring, supportive, kind and sacrificial is never unacceptable.



Pride 2009 is coming!

Our 2009 Pride issue is coming in 2 months. Contact us now at submissions@wayves.ca to have your news or advertising included! Pride 2008 photo by Cam MacLeod

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

HRM/ Bedford

Bedford United Church: 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

Kentville

Red Door, The: 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

Kingston

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 765-2821 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: facetwithpride.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

Lunenburg

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

Middleton

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

New Glasgow

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: 695-3366 email: youth.access@ns.sympatico.ca

Pride of Pictou County: All GLBT in Pictou County. email: chair@prideofpictoucounty.ca web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

New Minas / Annapolis Valley

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

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT2IQ 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

Sydney

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@acsb.ns.ca, chrstineporter@acsb.ns.ca web: www.acsb.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

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

PFLAG: 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

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

Tatamagouche

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

Truro

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

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

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

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

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

Truro Pride: 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.

Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGBT2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiu.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

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

Prince Edward Island (902)

Charlottetown

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

AIDS PEI: 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

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

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

Island wide

PFLAG Canada - PEI: 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.

province-wide

Gay PEI Mailing List: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pei-owner@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei (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.)

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Last Word

The Elephant on the Sidewalk

By Randall Perry

A few days ago I saw two women holding hands walking down Spring Garden Road. I was sitting in the window of a coffee shop and watched them as they went about their business. Nobody looked at them, directly or askance. The next day, at the same coffee shop—I live a charmed life, n'est-ce pas?—I saw two men holding hands walking down the same section of the street. The difference? People looked. Some pointed at the men, and others must have strained their eye muscles trying to look without turning their heads. I couldn't hear if anything was said to or about them. However, had something been said, the couple took no notice and went on as if nothing unusual was happening.

The proverbial elephant in the room had suddenly appeared on the sidewalk.

A short time ago I was in Montreal, during which time I spent most of my visit in the famously large and well-appointed gay village. I saw all kinds of public displays of affection from all kinds of couples. I, too, walked hand-in-hand with a new friend (who has since become my American boyfriend, complete with pet name) one chilly morning, stopping on various and sundry street

corners to exchange kisses. Nobody looked. Or, if anybody looked, we didn't notice, as such displays in this area of Montreal are commonplace.

No elephant on the sidewalk.

The phrase "ghettoized behaviour" tends to be tossed around when it comes to public displays of affection by gay couples, that such displays are only tolerable within established gay neighbourhoods. It could be that the majority of gay couples only feel comfortable when expressing even the smallest amount of affection within the established "safe spaces" of a ghetto, bar or other queer-friendly or -themed establishment.

I understand the comfort that comes from safe surroundings. In 2009, though, I believe it's time to move beyond the confines of "what will the neighbours think?" Forty years after Stonewall, 31 years after Harvey Milk and 28 years after the Toronto bath-house raids, it's time we stopped being concerned about how

others might react to us. Believe me: I do know this is far easier said than done. I grew up in a small village in rural P.E.I. and spent a good deal of my adult life in Charlottetown, its small capital city. The all-seeing eyes and omnipresent social note-taking were realities in my life for far too long.

Spring is here and it's time for me to change my ways. No more worrying about what the neighbours think. I'm throwing caution to the wind and embracing life, my boyfriend, and all the trials and joys that come with a life well-lived. It's time to walk down the street hand-in-hand. It's time to smile. I invite the rest of the world to join me.

The sooner we as a queer community throw all our cautions to the wind the elephant on the sidewalk will become another piece of jetsam from the past, sucked up by the street sweeper or blown away by the wind. Good riddance.

Thanks, NSRAP!

Wayves wishes to sincerely thank Kevin Kindred and NSRAP for sponsoring Big Fancy Gay Dress Party tickets for Wayves team members to attend this event. It was very much appreciated and a real demonstration

of how community organizations continue to work together and support one another. Building a stronger community, one step and one action at time.

Letter

Dear Wayves.

I am writing to respond to a letter that you published in the March 2009 edition of the paper about the Mollyz softball team (now referred to as the "CoHo team" for Copenhagen games and I will refer to them as such for the remainder of this letter). This letter went on about two brunch events that happened at the same time on — one for the CoHo team and another for Halifax Pride at the same time.

I am most upset at Wayves for publishing the letter under "Name withheld upon request."

The letter made several accusatory remarks about the CoHo softball team, to the point of saying that members of the team are discriminatory against Menz bar on the basis of its name.

Wayves has on many occasions covered articles about social injustice against our gay/lesbian community, and I was disappointed that this letter promoted discrimination and hate within our community. The author themselves said it was a "Rumour" — why propagate a rumour?

If you want to use "Freedom of the Press" or "Free Speech," that is fine — but the author should not have been a coward and been able to put their name to their letter and opinions!

I feel I know these ladies on the CoHo team and am confident that the self-professed rumour is untrue.

I have some other problems with the letter, and since I cannot address the author directly (because they chose not to reveal their name), I'll just give my points below:

(1) I have talked to members on the Halifax Pride Board, and some have told me that Halifax Pride is currently NOT in a financial deficit. I'll do my part and ask them again.

(2) I think it is great that the Halifax gay/lesbian community is grow-

ing and has more events to attend.

It is upsetting that we can't be in two places at once, but the last time I checked it is bad etiquette to leave a party/brunch that you are hosting, and the CoHo team couldn't leave the packed Company House to go attend another event.

Our community is growing, we all won't be able to compare social calendars. It's an unfortunate fact of life, but we are going to have to accept this as our community flourishes.

(3) I am confident that Doug and David realize that their efforts and numerous contributions are very much appreciated.

I know they help out several organizations here in Halifax from the Youth Project, to Halifax Pride, to the East Coast Rainbow Softball Association, to Cafe DaPoPo — and I am probably leaving out a few more. Please keep up the good work guys.

Curtis Cartmill



Last month's question was, "All Canadians have suffered a terrible winter. If next year's winter is forecast to be similar, what will you do? Where will you go?" Some interesting responses were submitted by the faithful readers of Wayves.

Some were to-the-point with their answers: "South!" said one; "Be glad!" said another; "Back to bed!" said a third. (Could one be glad to go back to bed in the South? Depends on the gentleman or lady already in the bed...)

A couple of respondents are content to stick around. "I will probably not go anywhere. However, between now and next winter I will be setting up a wind turbine in my yard, and I will also be planting windbreak hedges on the nor-east side of my property," said one green-thinker. The other was still fully, lovingly ensconced in winter: "I'm gonna shovel snow, like every year, this is Canada, love it or leave it! So much for global warming, eh!"

A former Dartmouth resident now living in Tasmania advised: "Do what I did 41 years ago and move to Australia! Brilliant year round climate with snow in the mountains for those who just cannot live without it!!!" Tempting.

Finally, we've been given a talking to: "Spare me with the 'terrible winter' stuff... we live in Canada and winters like the ones we just had are normal. If you don't like it, you shouldn't live in Canada!" Yes, hun, we know from winter. It would be un-Canadian (or, more properly, un-Haligonian) to keep complaints about winter to myself. Now bring on the heat so we can complain about THAT!

This month's question

Are you planning to do anything to mark International Day Against Homophobia on May 17th? Tell us at www.wayves.ca!

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Waves
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