

# Wayves

## Another Truro Fiasco



Mayor Mills

Story By Wayves Staff with contributions by Gerard Veldhoven and Al McNutt

A report in the Halifax Chronicle Herald quotes Truro's mayor, Bill Mills, as being upset again with the local queer community. He wants Wood Street closed to transportation as he and town council fear gay men are congregating at Victoria Park, looking for sexual favours. If one decides to pounce on us because some of us meet up at a park for sex, then one must assume, as in this case, Mills is adamant about striking out against us one more time. Truro does not have a gay bar where people may meet prospective individuals for sexual activity. So it seems

*It seems as if it is quite acceptable for straight sexual activities in that area, in which case this becomes a matter of discrimination...*

uses that wonderful gift called "gaydar." All cities and towns have a cruising area. Victoria

entirely logical to have a certain place in the area where encounters may take place. Having said that, it also seems entirely logical to be somewhat prudent and not bother those that do not wish to be there for that sort of activity. It seems easy enough if someone Park is the spot in Truro. Mills also indicated that he would be prepared to have the same policy if straights use that spot for pickups. Who is he kidding? Does he really believe gays are the only ones frequenting Victoria Park? Straights also cruise and no doubt end up in Victoria Park for a rendezvous—it's

## Wayves Halifax Meeting

The Wayves community meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. This Halifax face-to-face get-together will feature a short talk by Benjie Nycum, LGBT activist, founder of Young Gay America Magazine and YGA Magazine. There'll be finger food and lots of time to talk about the magazine and network with community leaders and queer literati.

The goal of the meeting is to get some feedback to people from whom we don't usually hear, kick around some ideas for the upcoming year, and get some more people involved with Wayves!

The meeting will be at The Hub, Halifax, second floor, 1673 Barrington Street, above Certainly Cinnamon.

Bring your friends, bring your ideas and bring your (figurative please) bricks and bouquets!

called parking. The fact remains that the mayor is just continuing his attack on the queer community, and we're witnessing the resulting uproar.

Picking on the members of the queer community is totally unfair. Straight people cruising must be held accountable for their actions, if indeed they have to be held accountable. It seems as if it is quite acceptable for straight sexual activities in that area, in which case this becomes a matter of discrimination against

our community by a mayor and a town council already known for being homophobic. The Pride flag fiasco a couple of years ago amply demonstrated just how Mills and his cronies handled that case.

All this raises an interesting question: how did the mayor receive all this information? According to him, "The spot has been discussed on the

Cont'd to Truro, next page.

## Safe Harbour MCC Community Service Pride Awards

On Saturday, December 12, SHMCC held its Rev. Darlene Young Memorial Dinner at St. Matthews Church. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Community Service Pride Awards. This year the board decided to give the award to two people who support our community.

Rev. Elaine Walcott is a strong ally of SHMCC and the LGBTIQ community. Elaine supported Rev.

Darlene's ministry and provided spiritual and physical support to Darlene during her illness and transition to life eternal. Elaine supported SHMCC during its time of loss and grief. She lead worship services and provided spiritual nurture to the community. Elaine has also participated in the ecumenical worship service during Pride Week and was a very visible and vocal supporter marching in the Parade.

Ed Savage has worked tirelessly for the LGBTIQ community in both personas, as Ed and as "Boom Boom." He served as Co-Chair of Halifax Pride during a period when Pride grew significantly in scope and prestige. As Empress of ISCANS, Boom Boom has worked to promote many area charities raising much needed funds, including Manna for Health, a charity supported by ISCANS and near to the heart of SHMCC.

*Pictured here are Ed Savage, Angela Croft, Rev Elaine Walcott, Jane MacConnell, and Rev Bob Bond for Safe Harbour MCC Presentation of 2009 Pride Awards at Rev Darlene's Young Memorial Christmas Dinner December 12, 2009. Ed Savage and*



*The Rev Elaine Walcott have both been honored with 2009 Pride Awards. Ally Rev Elaine Walcott could not be more pleased to be recognized for outstanding service and contribution to the GLBTIO communities acknowledging leadership and dedication in promoting diversity and equality while Ed Savage recieved the 2009 Pride Contributor Award*

## QUEER ACTS Comedy Night

By Chad Smith

Preparations are already underway for the next instalment of Halifax Pride's LGBT theatre festival,



QUEER ACTS. A call for submissions for next summer's festival has already been announced, and a QUEER ACTS Comedy Night is taking place at The Company House on January 18.

With participation from numerous local actors and comedians, the QUEER ACTS Comedy Night will highlight local comedic talent while raising awareness of the theatre festival. The evening's lineup will include a very talented newcomer to the Halifax comedy scene, Megan McDowell. Megan won the CBC series, "Next Comedy Legend," and has just returned home to Nova Scotia after working with Second City in Toronto. The evening starts at 8:00 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the door. All proceeds go to support QUEER ACTS and Halifax Pride.

A call for submissions for the 2010 edition of QUEER ACTS was recently announced. Produced by Halifax Pride, the inaugural edition of the festival met with considerable critical and popular success. Showcasing five very strong productions including Mary Ellen MacLean's "Frankie" and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," organizers hope to repeat this success next summer. Companies and performers of varying styles from throughout the Maritimes are encouraged to submit a proposal. Halifax Pride in consultation with the QUEER ACTS organizing committee will review the proposals and selected participants will be asked to provide a completed production for performance during the week-long festival.

"Last year we had two very strong

shows visit us from Toronto. I'm definitely interested in bringing in work from outside the Atlantic region, but I have no doubt that there already exists within this area a wealth of really fantastic queer oriented work. I see this festival as a wonderful opportunity to highlight that work and present it to a very enthusiastic audience," says festival

director Adam Reid. Included with the proposals, organizers ask that companies clearly state the project's relevance to the LGBT community and its supporters.

For more details about the call for submissions or the QUEER ACTS Comedy Night, please write to queeracts@gmail.com.

## Regular Columns

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March Deadline: Friday February 6 (first Friday of every month!)



# Events Around Atlantic Canada

## Triangles: New Hours

Effective immediately the hours of operation at Triangles are being changed. We will now be closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, and will re-open as usual at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday night. This is mainly due to the loss of the VLT's at the club (thanks to the greed of The Atlantic Lottery Corp and the Shawn

Graham government in this province!) and the slowdown in sales on those evenings due to that loss. We apologize to our faithful regular customers who will be affected by this, but it's business as usual for the rest of the week. You have our heartfelt thanks for your support and patronage.

All the best, Evie & Stella

## Queer Acts Call

The Queer Acts Theatre Festival, a Halifax Pride production, announces a call for submissions for its 2010 edition to be held during Halifax Pride Week.

Queer Acts is a week-long festival, July 19 to 23, that highlights theatrical work of relevance to the LGBT com-

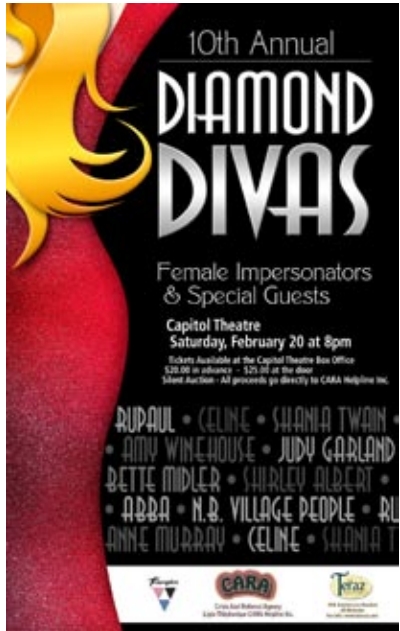
munity and its supporters.

Interested individuals and groups are encouraged to submit a proposal, including a short summary of the project and its relevance to the queer community, a bio of the company or those involved, excerpts or a completed script, general technical re-

quirements, anticipated run time and any other pertinent information.

Please send completed proposals on or before Feb. 15, 2010 to: Halifax Pride's Queer Acts Theatre Festival, 2281 Brunswick St., Halifax, N.S., B3K 2Y9.

# Diamond Divas & Friends Celebrates Ten Years



What started 10 years ago as a few strokes of a pen on a blank napkin has since grown to be the biggest, best and largest fundraiser in the Maritimes, assisting the Crisis And Referral Agency (CARA) Helpline Inc. This year you cannot miss what will be happening at the Capitol Theatre on February 20, 2010.

What started out with perhaps 60 people in attendance on a cold, snowy February night in 2000 played to over 720 people in 2009.

The 10th Annual Diamond Divas Revue & Friends, which is the essence of fundraising for the CARA Helpline's survival, is gearing up for what will prove to be the most fun to hit the Capitol stage in its 10-year history.

The best of the best in female impersonation and more is back to help in what is looking to be the most successful year for the

CARA Helpline. Amazing talent from across the Atlantic Provinces will be taking centre stage on February 20, with a few surprise returns from years gone by.

Karen Eustace, Executive Director for CARA Helpline states, "Back in 2000, little did we know just how much this show would grow. The Diamond Divas Revue has become one of the top 'Sold Out' shows at the Capitol Theatre. It is the only one-of-its-kind show in the area and is enjoyed each year by people of all ages. Performers from all over the Maritimes come together - at no cost to our agency. For this, CARA Helpline Inc. is very grateful."

The CARA Helpline "Silent Auction" will also be held in the lobby of the Capitol Theatre, with many wonderful and affordable items up for bids to assist in raising additional funds.

Tickets are now available for

\$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door from the Capitol Theatre Box Office, 811 Main Street, Moncton, NB. Call (506) 856-4379 or visit [www.capitol.nb.ca](http://www.capitol.nb.ca).

Be sure to get your tickets early

and come out for what will be a most astounding evening of fun, laughs and good times to keep a most necessary agency within Moncton in operation.

## Truro

Cont'd from pp. 1

Internet, with men exchanging e-mails to set up times to get together." Do we dare assume Mills has been browsing the Internet to gather information, or is someone being a pretender hoping to lure men into action? This person could then report back to Mills with the desired information.

We know this sort of thing takes place worldwide on a daily basis, and Mills, being the homophobe he is, would no doubt relish such an adventure to take down the gay community another notch. The fact remains Mills and Truro town council is determined to take action against those that dare invade Victoria Park to partake in activities that—hopefully—are well-hidden from public view. The police may at-

tempt to intervene but their efforts likely will only target gay men and it is doubtful that straights would be handled on an equal basis.

This is another Truro fiasco and one that may well define the town's future regarding equal treatment. Perhaps the esteemed mayor should resign and make way for someone who shows more tolerance and friendship to the queer community. Now we may well find another story related to this latest Truro incident. Other places have gay cruising areas and they have existed for many years, yet one does not hear about complaints in the media about what takes place. Halifax, Moncton, Sydney, Amherst and so on, all have

their "favourite hook-up spots." If meetings are held in confidence and at a secluded location, city and town councils should not interfere with singling out the queer community. This sort of activity is not for everyone, but the fact remains interference is not the answer to a problem that has been highlighted by an intolerant mayor and council. How they arrived at details surrounding this issue is a mystery and most likely the answer may be found at Mills' door. He should disclose just how he became so aware of the details.

Then again, perhaps we should ignore his ranting and ravings about our community. However, in this case, silence is definitely not golden!



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# Changes Coming to Safe Harbour MCC

As reported in the May and June 2009 issues of *Wayves*, Safe Harbour MCC (SHMCC) is in an intentional interim process in preparation to call a long-term pastor to serve Safe Harbour MCC and the Halifax Regional Municipality. This process has reached an important turning point. Members and friends of SHMCC have engaged in activities to remember, celebrate, grieve, and release their past in preparation for their future. The church has conducted a survey to identify the spiritual and church needs of the community and several persons have participated in a study group, "Create a Healthier Church." The survey con-

cluded at the end of November and the study group ended the first week in December. The church has a committee to create a profile of SHMCC and the HRM. The profile will be provided to potential candidates for the pastoral post at SHMCC so they know the church, the community, and the desired pastoral skills.

Another committee, the pastoral search committee, will be responsible to review the profiles of clergy interested in serving SHMCC and selecting those candidates they wish to interview for the position. The committee will submit the name of one candidate to the congregation

for election as the long-term pastor for SHMCC. If the candidate does not receive a majority vote for election, the name will be removed from the list and will not be eligible for additional consideration. The search process will start again until a submitted candidate is elected by a majority vote of congregational members.

Rev. Bob Bond has served as the intentional interim pastor since the first of March 2009. He has been responsible for guiding the congregation through the stages of the interim process. Those tasks will be completed with the completion of the study group, the formation of

the church profile committee, and the pastoral search committee. Rev. Bond has given the board of SHMCC notice that his responsibilities here will be completed by January and so has asked to have his contract terminated January 31, 2010. His last day leading worship at SHMCC will be on that day.

We encourage those who are interested in the future direction of SHMCC to check our web site regularly ([www.safeharbourmcc.com](http://www.safeharbourmcc.com)), call us at (902) 453-9249, or join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. at 3115 Veith Street where Young, Devonshire, and Veith streets come together.



## Northern AIDS Connection Society News

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) is currently conducting surveys on gay men's health. NACS has always made an appearance at the local dances in the Truro area, providing HIV/AIDS prevention and educational material as part of its work in the region. The purpose of the surveys is to find out what the gay community knows about its health,

to find out what the community's needs are, and to see if those needs are being met. The survey will also be a useful tool in helping the organization better serve communities more efficiently and effectively.

NACS' first annual open house on December 11, 2009 was a warm holiday event where guests were taken on a journey into the past, looking

back on how the society first started and its many accomplishments along the way. In the vein of "A Christmas Carol" it allowed guests to view the past and present programs and work of NACS, and also provided a glimpse into the future of the organization. If that wasn't enough, guests also had a bite to eat with a splash of Christmas spirit.

As you all know, the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life is the Society's main annual fundraiser. The turnout for the Walk was very good this year, and the support from all the communities in the northern region of Nova Scotia is growing. All the hard

work and dedication from the teams, volunteers and sponsors has paid dividends, not only monetarily but in recognition and stronger partnerships with community groups.

AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day are two very important events that happen every year. This year many events were held in Nova Scotia's northern regions to remember all who have passed away due to HIV/AIDS complications, and those that are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Four panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt were on display in Amherst, New Glasgow and Truro.

There were also church services that helped communities reflect on what AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day mean, and why universal access and human rights are vital to the delivery of harm reduction message on the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Society hopes that everyone had a great holiday season, and that everyone gets energized for the year ahead. 2010 holds lots of exciting new endeavours for the organization, and is looking forward to any and all challenges through the year. Happy New Year, everyone!

## Pride Revs Up for 2010

By Nathan Boudreau

Halifax Pride is revving up its engines and is ready with lots of events and fundraisers leading up to Pride Week 2010. I have to extend a mighty big thank you to all those who helped out over the holidays leading up to Christmas with our Christmas tree tags. The trees were so lovely decorated with all those tags with names of those showing support for Halifax Pride.

By now you have heard of our raffle. With an approximately 1 in 80 chance of winning a prize, ticket holders stand an excellent chance in this \$10 draw. With a grand prize of \$500, these raffle tickets would make a great stocking-stuffer or give you a chance to recoup some of that hard spent Christmas cash. A night at the Atlantica Hotel and a \$50 gift certificate from My Mother's Bloomers are also up for grabs, and only 250 tickets will be sold. Contact a member of the Pride Committee via our Facebook or our website, or e-mail [chair@halifax.com](mailto:chair@halifax.com). Be sure to get your tickets fast as they are sure to be hot items. Draw

date will take place on January 23, 2009 at the Halfway to Pride celebrations at Reflections Cabaret.

Be sure to take in our monthly pancake brunches at Menz Bar from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on January 17 and February 21. Other upcoming fundraisers include an online auction featuring items valued under \$100, such as entertainment packages, restaurant vouchers, household items, and more. Special movie screenings, a bingo night, the annual OutBid auction and more are in the works.

Keep in mind the upcoming second annual Fancy Gay Dress Party at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront on March 20, 2010. Last year more than 200 guests attended this dinner and dance, and over \$13,000 was raised for Pride, and a fancy gay old time was had by all. Keep an eye out in the new year for headliner announcements.

If you would like to be involved in sponsoring Pride, have any ideas for fundraisers, or would like to get involved with the sponsorship/fundraising committee, contact Tanya Bloomfield at (902) 980-1000 or Rosie Porter at (902) 209-7073.

### Important WAYVES Dates!

#### Issue Content Deadlines:

**Fridays:** Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2; 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](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) any time!

#### Production Meetings (Halifax):

**Mondays:** Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 5. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

#### Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 11. Help build the paper – no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

**We are on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month.**

### Our Cover:

Award-winning comedian Megan McDowell comes home to Halifax. Check her out during Halifax Pride Queer Comedy Night at The Company House on January 18.

Cover Design: Cam MacLeod

### 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](http://www.wayves.ca), and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have lots of back issues on line too. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto: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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distributors in Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) and tell us where we should be!



# 2009 Wayves Year In Review

By Wayves' Staff:

It's that time of year again. We look at some of the highlights from our region during 2009.

## January-February

2009 marks the tenth anniversary of the murder of Matthew Sheppard. Two community performances will be held over the course of the year, one by the Dalhousie's Theatre group in January-February and then a reading at The Company House in October.

Stepping Stone launches a new website.



The province of New Brunswick announces it's doubling its funding for needle distribution programs as part of World AIDS Day 2008 efforts.

Chris Aucoin becomes the new Men's Health Coordinator for the ACNS.

Diamond Divas once again makes a strong performance in Moncton, raising thousands of dollars for the local CARA Helpline.

## March

The Lesbian Memory Keepers Workshop launches the Lesbian History Project.

Ryan McGrath launches his CD, "In My Own Company."

Ellie Dexter, semi-regular contributor, debuts with a challenging article on lesbian themes in the mainstream media.

The Company House opens on Gottingen St.

Café DaPopo theatre troupe celebrates their two year anniversary.

Halifax Pride launches the first

"Big Fancy Gay Dress Party," featuring headliner Gavin Crawford.

## April

Valley Youth Project pilot launches in the Annapolis Valley.

Saint John Port City Pride elects their new board.

DalOut presents its first scholarships to Matthew Numer and Jaklyn Andrews.

kd lang's Watermark tour stops in Halifax before going to Moncton, Sydney and St. John's.

## May

Safe Harbour brings in an interim pastor, Bob Bond, to prepare and oversee the congregation's transition to new leadership since the passing of Rev. Darlene Young in 2008.

International Day Against Homophobia events held throughout Atlantic Canada.

ACNS launches new e-mail group focusing on HIV prevention amongst women.

PEI needle exchange funding program is taken over by the province.

Gay Lesbian Annapolis Valley Coffee House group celebrates their sixth anniversary.

ACNS Bid for Life Dinner and Auction at Casino Nova Scotia.

## June

"Pride Season" begins in Atlantic Canada.

Anita Martinez joins Wayves and debuts with a series, "Blast from the Past." It delves into Anita's extensive collection of photographs from the LGBT community with participation from members of the LGBT online history project.

## July

CampOUT!, a new camping experience, explores LGBTQ activism in the Maritimes at the Mermaid and the Cow campground.

Halifax



fax

Pride gets Hallmark status along from

with funding HRM.

PEI celebrates Pride.

Queer Rebel Days, a week of events actions parties and workshops established as a counter to established Pride events. (Subversive!)

East Coast Softball Association expands with over 100 participants and Halifax Gay Rugby is launched.

Wayves profiles Halifax local publisher Jessica Bowden and "Teens Now Talk" magazine.

## August

Fierte Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe celebrates 10 years and conducts its first community forum bringing together queer activists, educators, and straight allies.

Amherst Pride group designates an LGBTQ family day during their Pride celebrations.

Camp fYrefly, a kid's camp for LGBT youth, comes to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Saint John Pride hits a snag with official events being cancelled. Individual community members and local businesses rally to save the day and organize events for Port City Pride Week.

Tre Lamkin becomes the newest Wayves contributor, lending his unique youth voice to the magazine.

Susan Rose explores homophobia in the educational systems in the context of 40 years after Stonewall and EGale's first National Survey on Homophobia.

## September

Communities across Atlantic Canada raise thousands for AIDS through walks.

## October

NSRAP Rev Darlene Young Community Hero Award presented to Kim Vance.

NB Human Rights Award presented to Woodstock women's hockey team.

Halifax treated to "Cleophas and His Own" screening and talk.

## November

Antigonish celebrates its sixth Pride week. Rainbow Warriors youth group created.

Sana Cavanaugh becomes the new Sydney PFLAG Coordinator.

Activist and fundraising icon Mz Vicki celebrates 50 years.

St. Andrew's United Church, Truro, becomes the latest LGBT affirming church ministry in Atlantic Canada.

Lulu LaRude Scholarship Auction



rais-flec-

es \$4K at Re-tions Cabaret, Halifax.

Nova Scotia recognizes International Transgender Remembrance Day and is marked for the first time November 20.

## December

AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS day presents a high profile in Atlantic Canada as organiza-



tions across Atlantic Canada through Facebook to highlight, coordinate and publicize activities

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# I Am What I Amherst

By Gerard Veldhoven

Another year, another opportunity to use the next twelve months gathering more brainpower to achieve additional assurances that equal treatment will be ours to enjoy. That is the message I would like to share with you from the icy marshlands in this part of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Like all areas, we are in the midst of trying to figure out the most efficient way for the queer community to finally see an open window to what seems like a journey with no end in sight. The task is daunting, but achievable. I am aware of the lack of support from media outlets, and without their assistance it becomes extremely difficult. Mostly, television and newspapers report on controversial issues that will attract viewers and readers, generally ignoring positive developments. We need them to reconsider and initiate action

by beginning to listen to the needs of our community that truly benefits GLBTQ citizens.

One event held during Pride Week in Amherst was a GLBTQ parenting workshop, the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada. This was a perfect opportunity for the media to attend and share the information with the community at large. A television station was asked if someone could cover at least part of the event. Someone from the newsroom suggested to me to contact the weekend producer. I phoned him and left a message, but he never returned my call. I made a similar attempt with the Chronicle Herald. I spoke with the reporter responsible for the Amherst and Truro areas, but again no one was interested. The exception was the Amherst Daily News. They

sent a reporter to cover the event and his report was very positive. I share this with the readers to indicate how much work lies ahead. As a New Year's resolution, and hopefully others can be persuaded to do likewise, renewed efforts on my part are in the

*Mostly, television and newspapers report on controversial issues that will attract viewers and readers, generally ignoring positive developments.*

works. Let's approach media outlets for discussion towards a positive outcome. We need them. The Amherst Daily News has been extremely supportive so far and I am certain we can count on them in future.

The Cumberland Pride Society had a Holiday Gay-La celebration on

December 19. At the time of writing this column, a definite number of attendees had not been determined. However, it looks as if it will be close to last year's event. A society member is organizing a bowling team which will add to this year's regular activities in Amherst. Since we had the dinner and dance, there was no regular meeting of Cumberland Pride in December. The next meeting will be on January 18 at Hertz Hall, Trinity St. Stephen United Church, Ratchford Street in Amherst from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Presently, newsy items are at a minimum. However, in the next issue of Wayves, I will certainly be able to report more on what's happening in the marshlands of Nova Scotia as planning Pride Week 2010 begins in earnest. This year's celebrations will be from July 5 – 10. Other activities



will be announced as they are finalized, along with Cumberland Pride's ongoing plans to be involved in community affairs. Amherst has a large queer population and it would certainly benefit the whole community if more folks became involved in positive educational programs to form a gay/straight alliance.

From the queer community in Amherst and area, a Happy New Year.

# ISCANS Wraps Up Reign IX

By Nathan Boudreau

Hello from the office that I call my desk. Another month has come and gone and here we are starting off a brand new year. We may have rung in a new year, but ISCANS will soon be bringing its year to an end. Be sure to check the center of this issue to see what special events we have planned

for Coronation week.

As always, I have to extend a big THANK YOU to Menz Bar for hosting us again in December for our annual TurnAbout show. It was a blast and great time had by all. You really should have seen the boys sporting their once-a-year heels—naturals I tell you!

Also I can't forget to send out big CONGRATS to all those who won awards at this year's ISCANS Community Awards. We had such a great response from the new format and new awards. Thank you to all who came out and helped us honour those in our community. As always, if you have any comments or sug-

gestions, don't hesitate to let any of us know as we would love to hear from our members and our community. You can also send an email to [events@imperialcourtns.com](mailto:events@imperialcourtns.com).

throughout the region.

Over the course of the year Wayves had the honour of publicizing four marriages and an anniversary in Atlantic Canada. We're sure there were more.

Our new and regular contributor/columnists Angus Campbell (Gay Men's Health), Bethana Sullivan (Ramblings from the Sanctuary Garden), Darren Lewis (Chef's Corner),

Crawford Hastie (Kibitz and Bitch), Ian Mullan (Ask Ian), Nate Boudreau (ISCANS), Randall Perry (The Last Word) continued to share their unique thoughts and perspectives about life, love, health, art, food, and politics in Atlantic Canada.

We changed our Events section (now on page two) and added a more comprehensive "where to find Wayves" on our website. And for the first

time we advertised on OutTV with a 30 second ad spot.

To our many advertisers, Wayves thanks you for your continued support. Please support these businesses whenever you can.

As we look back on 2009, we look forward to new challenges and new beginnings 2010 will have to offer all of us. Check us out at [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca) and Facebook: "Wayves Magazine Rocks."

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## Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Happy New Year, Tom!

Well, we made it through another year, old friend. Now, we just have to survive the next few months of winter. The poet who wrote that April is the cruellest month had obviously never spent January and February in the Atlantic provinces! I hate the f\*\*\*ing cold and I bitterly resent those eager athletic types who are always off skiing or snow shoeing and then coming back all rosy-cheeked and smiling, and blathering on about how much they love winter and snow and the bracing, cold air. Feh! These are the same people who never salt their food, talk about body fat in tiny percentages, never eat the skin on a chicken and lie about penis size on their online profiles. I try to maintain a fairly healthy lifestyle but I also like to indulge in the occasional hamburger, mac-and-cheese or chocolate cheesecake.

One of my survival secrets is to deny current reality by looking back on the memorable events of the past year.

First, there was the Anthill's birthday party. I won't reveal which birthday it was—a lady never tells another lady's age—but it was the usual intimate gathering of 30 or 40 of her closest friends and family, and she looked, as always, fabulous. The party was given by her equally fabulous husband, Fisherman's Freud. The conversation, like the wine, poured out in a constant stream for hours creating a delightful din.

Just before that was the concert of Bach's Christmas Oratorio given by our university chorus. Once again—toting my own (or rather our collective) flügelhorn—it was a sold out house with a standing ovation at the end. Very satisfying!

2009 was the fortieth anniversary of Stonewall which got a lot of press. I always find it odd that no one seems to mention the decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada in the same year, which occurred with much less fanfare. Our "Stonewall" revolved around the demonstrations about the bathhouse raids in Toronto and also the Klippert case. Klippert had been sentenced to life imprisonment for homosexuality before it was decriminalized and the drawn out legal battle to get him released had long term repercussions for all of us queer citizens.

Even though we Canadians tend to downplay our achievements, we might be forgiven for feeling a bit of smugness when we view the lack of movement towards queer rights south of the border. While Obama is still pondering Don't Ask, Don't Tell, our military celebrated seventeen years of queer inclusion. Now, I'm not saying that every queer soldier feels fully accepted and respected, but I do rejoice in the fact that it is not even a topic for discussion anymore. It saddens me to watch Maine and California gain and then lose same-sex marriage rights and to have such advances as have happened given so grudgingly.

Okay, back to the fun memories of the year past. For the first time a premier of Nova Scotia took part in a Pride Parade when Darrell Dexter happily waved and smiled in Halifax, in the fourth largest Pride event in Canada. I think every small historic step like this solidifies the place of queer Canadians, both legally and socially.

Okay, now let's get on to guilty pleasures. My favourite television discovery is the show Glee! You won't be surprised, I'm sure. After all it is about a group of oddball high school students—including an out gay kid—who are the geeky, awkward teens, not accepted by the cliquish "A" group, and they belong to a show choir: a club for singing and dancing. I know! It is like the sweetest vicarious revenge for all of us whose high school years were less than ideal, to make an understatement. How lovely to watch a show whose heroes sing show tunes! Heaven!

Speaking of show stoppers: Adam Lambert. The kid has a great set of pipes on him and not only did he stop the show at the American Music Awards, he got dropped from several subsequent appearances after kissing a male musician and crushing another man's face into his crotch. I know I've said this a hundred times but, why is it that you can show Clint Eastwood blowing someone head off with a handgun during prime time but the simulation of someone giving head is shocking? Madonna kissing Britney was titillating but nothing like the reaction to Adam Lambert's performance. The treatment of Lambert is both homophobic and sexist.

Now from sexism to sexy, we have Levi Johnston, who posed for Playgirl, showing everything but his johnson. Johnston has come under fire from some in the gay community for not being buff enough, for teasing by not showing off his full monty. I say, look, he's a good-looking, natural, nineteen-year-old kid who got pushed into the limelight and has handled himself with poise and class. When he was told that Playgirl was mostly viewed by gay men, not women, he just shrugged and smiled. The best part of all of this hoopla is the fact that it is driving Sarah Palin crazy.

Here's to a bright and beautiful 2010!  
Love ya!

*Crawford*

## Hfx Pride AGM, 2010 Board Elected

On Thursday, September 17, Halifax Pride held its Annual General Meeting and election of Board of Directors for 2010. Approximately 25 people were in attendance.

Membership in Halifax Pride is defined as anyone who's been on the board or volunteered their time with the organization in the previous year. There were nineteen members present for the 2010 board, and ten Board positions were available for election by the assembled members. The new Board comprises: Tanya Bloomfield, Nathan Boudreau, Angela Croft, Kris Figueroa, Kimberley Fowle, Don Goss, Daniel MacKay, Liz McQuaid, Adam Noble, Rosemary Porter, Adam Reid, Ed Savage, Trent Slaunwhite, and Kathy Walsh.

The Society passed one change to the by-laws: to revert back to the Co-Chair format prior to 2007. It was agreed that the experimental organizational structure Pride operated under for 2008 and 2009 did not meet the needs of the organization at this time.

Pride officials estimated that Parade spectators numbered around 60,000 in 2009; there were an estimated 14,000 people in the Parade. Community Fair attendance was estimated to be over 10,000. 2009 saw the greatest number of participating organizations at 142 registrations with forty booths and several food vendors at the Community Fair.

The financial report showed a budget of approximately \$150,000 with no significant income or losses for fiscal 2009; however the statement was deferred for approval because of outstanding accounting discrepancies. At press time these figures were not available (no new date for 2009 budget reconciliation has been set), but Wayves was assured that once the Halifax Pride Board had reconciled their books the information would be made available.

In October the new board members met on retreat and determined 2010 board positions. This year's board is as follows: Co-Chairs, Elizabeth and Ed; Treasurer, Kim; Secretary, Don; Parade Coordinator, Angela; Sponsorship, Tanya; Fundraising, Rosie; Community Fair & Fete Coordinator, Tanya; Volunteers, Kathy; Graphic Designer, Wade Carrol; Media Liaison, Liz and/or Ed Media; Theatre Coordinator, Adam R.

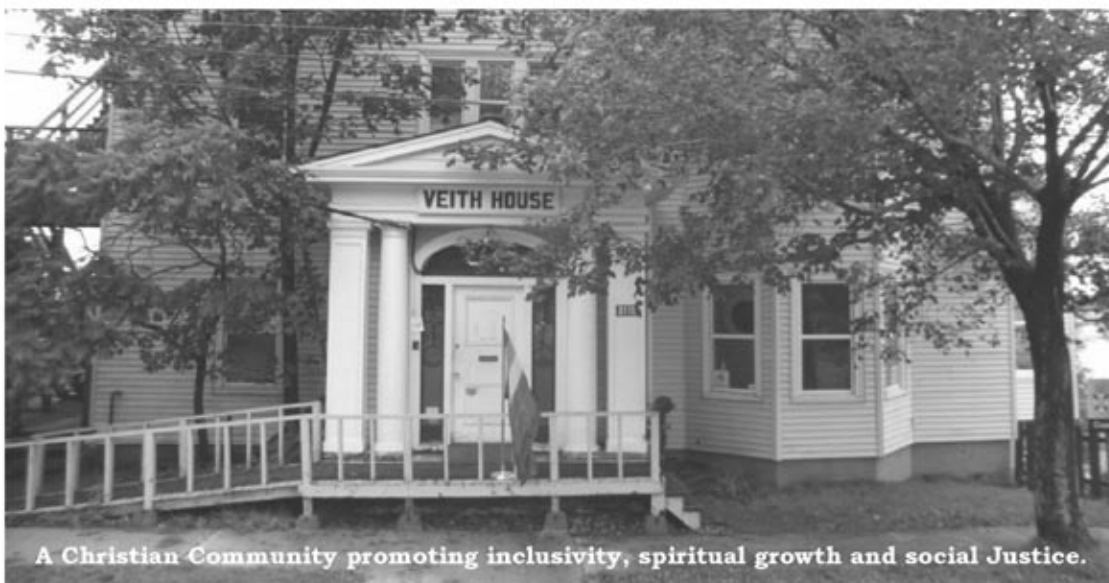
A number of sub-committees have also been struck: Volunteer Committee, Kathy; Parade, Angela; Finance, Kim; Community Fair, Tanya; Merchandise, Adam N; Queer Acts, Adam R.

If you have any questions about Pride in general email Co-chairs Liz or Ed at chairs@halifaxpride.ca. Halifax Pride is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, e-mail Pride at volunteer@halifaxpride.ca.



Front row: Kathy, Ed, Kris; second row: Angela, Tanya, Rosie, Kim, Trent; back row: Dan, Nathan, Adam R, Liz, Don, Adam N

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## Blast From The Past: Pandora Magazine, June '98

First published in September 1985 as a one year project, Pandora was a paper written by women, for women and about women.

This issue's cover is a photo of a distribution get-together to assemble and prepare Pandora for mailing. Because Pandora often contained lesbian issues (oh my!) and some people complained (even post office workers), it was mailed in plain brown paper bags. It took quite a while to stuff inserts into the paper, stuff papers into bags, seal, label, stamp and conform

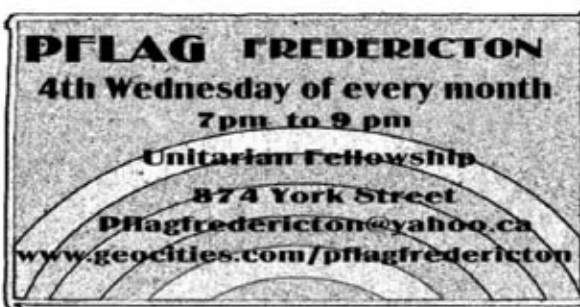
to second class mailing requirements.

Left to right are Elaine Wright, Mary Petty, Kathy Coffin, Amanda LeRougetel and Marie Paturel.

The photo was originally on the cover of the June 1988 issue of Pandora and credited to Sara avMaat, and was probably taken in March 1988.

Thanks to Deb Mathers for the magazine from her archives, and Anita Martinez for the great idea for this Blast From The Past, and to the History Club for writing the caption.

If you're interested in joining the History Club, email [daniel@bonmot.ca](mailto:daniel@bonmot.ca) or google "Halifax Gay History Project."



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## Coronation Week Events

Thursday February 4th, 2010

The In-Town Show

Reflections Cabaret - 5184 Sackville Street

9:00 p.m.

Admission - \$5.00

Hosted by

Their Most Imperial Sovereign Highnesses

Imperial Crown Prince IX Nate N! Bent

&

Imperial Crown Princess IX Elle Noir

Saturday February 6th, 2010

Hospitality in the Host Hotel

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Protocol submissions for the upcoming Coronation Celebrations in Halifax must be submitted electronically (by email).

If you are planning on attending, please forward your protocol to me, Nina Diamonds, at either [prime\\_minister@imperialcourtns.com](mailto:prime_minister@imperialcourtns.com) or through my personal email address of [nina\\_diamonds@yahoo.com](mailto:nina_diamonds@yahoo.com)

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Friday February 5th, 2010

Hospitality in the Host Hotel

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

10th Annual State Dinner

Menz Bar - 2182 Gottingen Street

7:00pm - 9:00pm, \$30.00

Followed by

The Out of Town Show

9:00 p.m.

Admission - \$10.00

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Sunday February 7th, 2010

Victory Brunch (\$25.00)

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11:00 a.m.

Tough Drag Show

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# Chef's Corner



Once the holidays are over, it's time to cut back on all the excesses and wait for the credit card bills to come rolling in. If you think that maybe you've over done it a bit, here's an easy and frugal recipe that will taste great, and not break the bank. Comfort food is great at this time of year and the greatest part about this recipe, is that it all goes into the slow cooker. You can prepare everything up to two days in advance and leave the crock pot in the fridge until you need it, which helps with your week's menu planing. (Who am I kidding, who plans menus anymore?) But for those of you who

are busy enough and need to think ahead, this will work great. All you need is a side of Caesar salad, crusty garlic bread, good parmesan cheese and a couple of bottles your favourite red table wine.

Chef Darren is Chef/Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro 1537 Barrington St., Halifax, NS. Chives is a member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs" world gastronomical association. Awarded 2 of 3 stars in "Where to Eat in Canada" since 2005 and recently chosen for having the "Best Cuisine" in N.S. by "Taste of Nova Scotia Awards 2009." Reservations call (902) 420-9626. [www.chives.ca](http://www.chives.ca).

## Slow Cooker Pasta Sauce

### Ingredients

Recipe: Serves 4-6 people

1 lb lean ground beef	1 package Club House brand spaghetti sauce mix	1 bulb fresh garlic (all cloves minced)
1 lb hot Italian sausage (removed from casings)	1 small can tomato paste	1 shallot (minced)
1 large can stewed diced tomatoes	1 bottle Classico tomato basil sauce	1 (8oz) package button mushrooms (sliced)
1 can Campbell's beef broth (undiluted)	1/2 cup red wine (optional)	2 Tbsp dried basil
	1 large onion (small dice)	1 Tbsp dried oregano
	1 large green pepper (small dice)	

### Method

1. Sauté the ground beef and sausage meat until browned. Drain excess fat and place in the slow cooker.
2. Clean out the pan and the sauté the onions, shallots, garlic, mushrooms and dried herbs until they take on some colour. Add them to the cooker. Place the green peppers raw on top.
3. Combine the tomatoes, paste, broth, wine tomato sauce and spaghetti mix and pour over the meat and veggies.
4. Cook in slow cooker on low setting for 6 hours.

### Serving suggestions

Serve tossed on spaghetti or linguini with fresh grated parmesan cheese.

# Lunenburg Spa and Wellness Centre Winter "GayCation" Getaway!

emOcean, a Living Well Centre in the heart of Old Town Lunenburg, is pleased to announce Nova Scotia's first homegrown Gaycation Getaway Weekend, on February 19-21, 2010.

"Not everyone can jet off to Palm Springs or Key West during the winter so we decided to offer a fun-filled, affordable getaway weekend this winter aimed at gays and lesbians," says Rosanne Balsom, president of the gay-owned and -operated emOcean Living Well Centre.

The package will include two nights' accommodation in a local Lunenburg Inn (Smugglers Cove Inn), a wine and cheese reception on Friday evening, a three-course dinner on Saturday night, followed by a performance by award-winning stand up comedian Michael Best. Following the show, guests will attend the South Shore Pride Gay and Lesbian Dance at the Wileville Firehall. Sunday morning, there will be a pool party brunch on the deck of emOcean's indoor saltwater pool. "It's always 84 degrees!" says Rosanne. In addition, the mostly-inclusive price for the weekend will also include a \$50.00 credit for aesthetic services (relaxation massage, manicure, pedicure,

etc), complimentary aromatherapy steam shower and use of the pool.

The Gaycation weekend will be a first for the South Shore and quite possibly for Nova Scotia. "There are many travel companies that cater to the gay and lesbian market but we'd like this to be the start of something home-grown with a definite down-home feel to it," says Rosanne.

One of the key elements emOcean would like to incorporate into this weekend is the ability to be yourself—with no pretence. You can come to Lunenburg, enjoy the architecture,

shopping, scenery and hospitality, and not have to worry about dress codes. It's a great way to bring people from all parts of the Maritimes (and beyond!) for a weekend of fun and relaxation close to home.

Michael Best, a Halifax writer/comedian, recently moved to Lunenburg and is very excited to be a part of this weekend. "It's been great living in Lunenburg," says Best. "I've been to the gay dance in Wileville and thought it was loads of fun. I think this is a fabulous endeavour on the part of emOcean."



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## Weekend Details

Dates: February 19-21, 2010  
Price: \$399.00 per couple plus taxes (single price - \$249.00)

This includes: two nights accommodation in the heart of Old Town Lunenburg; Wine and cheese reception on Friday evening; \$50.00 spa credit per person; Complimentary aromatherapy steam shower; Use of heated, indoor saltwater pool; Three course dinner on Saturday night; Entertainment by Canadian Comedy Award winner Michael Best; Excursion to the South Shore Pride Gay and Lesbian Dance in Wileville, Pool Party Brunch

For more information, contact: Rosanne Balsom or Wanda Bower Veinotte, emOcean – A Living Well Centre, 296 Lincoln Street, Lunenburg, NS, (902) 640-8484, [www.emoceanspa.com](http://www.emoceanspa.com), [wellness@emoceanspa.com](mailto:wellness@emoceanspa.com)

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# Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden

## After the Great Celebrations Have Passed, What Then?

By Bethana Sullivan

I long to write about family, about what family means, how families nurture, teach and provide safe haven; I long to write with hope, humour and the coming celebrations; I long to write of the deepness in my soul; of light and love in my heart; But what of the secrets, walled and silent; What of the grief, cell bound, weeping in empty rooms; The light is leaving, has left those left behind. It is hard to see and still love, to be close and fear not.

My opening words situate me in what this time of year means to me. It is a rich, deep time, though the ever-shrill call to be happy, bright and cheerful does weigh me down. By the time this column is read Hanukkah, the Winter Solstice, Christmas, New Year, Kwanza, and Small Christmas will have been celebrated (or not) and passed into the memory book of our lives. The light will be short, though on a day like today, sunlight streams in my window, warm and cool at the same time. It is thin light and the shadows it creates are sharp and

deep, different from the soft-edged shadows of summer. Darkness is approaching but it is not the darkness of the "dark night of the soul," it is the darkness of reflection and renewal, of being deep in the cells of our bodies. But if cheerfulness silences sadness, laughter stifles hurt and brightness overcomes shadows than this cycle of the year will become just something to get through; worse, it will cost a lot of money and energy as efforts are made to buy a way out of the darkness into the light.

I have not decided what I am celebrating or how or who with, all I know is these experiences in real time will have passed as the great celebrations prepared us for the darkness to come.

In class recently the topic for discussion was how family is defined. The majority of the adult students see family as a genetically linked nuclear

and extended unit. But when one person spoke about family as being a shifting fluid experience with birth family and genetically-diverse family blending as life affects and changes us, the door opened for others to speak of family in more diverse ways. So people spoke of all male, single moms, divorce and blended

*After deciding who is family we can then turn our attention to the kind of values our families need to nurture.*

families. And finally, we hear about GBLTT families, rainbow families. Choice makes for diversity. Thus family can be experienced in our work, school, political and other communities. After deciding who is family we can then turn our attention to the kind of values our families need to nurture. In the stories told it seems clear that children often experience being told who to be, and over time, come to embrace this experience as having strengthened them. The parental stance is one of conviction of how one should be; an-

other stance might be one of curiosity about who one could be. Curiosity might open the family space to the authentic self who is open to feelings and experiences different from one another yet accepted, thus fostering a real sense of intimacy.

Over the last 30-40 days we probably have all experienced family in its richness and in its poverty. Depending on our own stories we will have been open to what is, struggled, gotten depressed, fought, wished it were different, avoided some family, joined with others. As this deepening time of darkness is now fully upon us it offers a time to explore our own misunderstanding, illusions and unresolved suffering. The memory of light will be with us, of being cared for and heard, of caring and hearing. Whether feeling connected or not, our family stories will continue to teach us about who we are; in our celebrations we become co-creators of a shared narrative which will speak of our culture, the meaning of family and possibly a secure sense of our place in it.



Let's build capacity for darkness, acceptance of everyday natural dark moments; let's revel in joy when authentic and learn to discern the difference. My personal winter task is to strengthen my capacity for connection through work.

## Ask Ian

Dear Ian,  
I'm a single gay man living in Halifax. I haven't had much luck in my search for love, but surprisingly I have found a very reliable fuck buddy. It's perfect in that we have great sexual chemistry, get along very well but maintain a satisfying relationship based purely on meeting our physical needs. Another upside is that since I'm having my physical needs met I'm better able to tell when I'm having a real emotional connection with a new guy I meet, and when I just want to get laid. My worry though is that I've grown so comfortable with this fuck buddy relationship that I might neglect other opportunities that arise. So Ian, do I keep the buddy or do I ditch him and focus on finding a long-term guy?

Dear Single Gay,  
First off, a fuck-buddy is fine. I have no issue with it. It works gang-busters for people especially when they don't have time to have a relationship but aren't interested in a new partner every night.

But I question if this is the way to go if you want to find love in the new year. If you don't think things are going to get serious with this guy, and you seriously want the full meal-deal relationship, then dump

him. Do it with some class, set the boundaries and put him outside those boundaries. If you have someone for sex and friends for your emotional

*Set the boundaries and put him outside those boundaries.*

needs you'll be hard pressed to go looking for a cow when you have a fridge full of milk.

I know you said this is ideal for you because you're able to tell if it's an emotional connection with a guy, and not just wanting to get laid. I call your

bluff. That's like saying, "Because I eat a lot of pancakes for breakfast I'm able to appreciate waffles." Waffles are pancakes! Only they're more work! You have to pour the batter into the waffle maker and wait longer until they're fluffy and perfect. You have all the makings of a waffle, you either need to pour this guy in or go searching for new batter.

Treat yourself to a waffle (if you don't have one already) this January and February and we'll see you in March. To ask Ian a question, e-mail him at [ian@trrrash.com](mailto:ian@trrrash.com). He answers all questions.



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# 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.

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

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

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

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

Healing Our Nations: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: director@accesswave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Healing Our Nations staff meet once on a weekly basis. Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project: 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)

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

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

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

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

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

## New Brunswick (506)

### Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. 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 list-serv 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 Fridays during the school year. See webpage for location.)

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.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday — please call) at 7:30-9:30pm, University of Moncton, Adrien-J.-Cormier Bldg., Room 302

River Of Pride: River of Pride INC. is a wholly volunteer-managed, non-partisan, not-for-profit committee that organizes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Two-Spirit Pride events in Moncton-River-view-Dieppe to commemorate and celebrate vast diversity within our communities. email: riverofpride@hotmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

Safe Spaces Moncton Region: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049

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. )

Mount Allison University, Sackville

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

### 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 GLBTT21QQ 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.portcityrainbowpride.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 gemmamhickey@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) 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)

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

Hepatitis Outreach Society: Since 1999 the

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

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:

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

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

Amherst

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

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)

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.

### Halifax

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

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (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

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. Please call to confirm worship times as occasionally we have a 10 am combined service. ) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

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

Bluenose Bears (BnB): 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.

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

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@yahoogle.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

Mount Pride: GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@yahoogle.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 (3-5pm) at Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week.

Pride Week: Producers of Atlantic Canada's



largest LGBTQ cultural festival. 431-1194 email: info@halifaxpride.ca web: www.halifaxpride.ca (July 19 - 26, 2009)

prideHealth: prideHealth is a program of Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre. If you are a member of the pride community and need support with any kind of health care call Anita our Clinical Nursing Specialist, number below. She is available free of charge, offers complete confidentiality, and can also give you support if you are experiencing homo or transphobia. prideHealth- improving safe access to health care. 220.0643

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

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

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: safeharbour-mcc.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)

Universalist Unitarian Church: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500 email:

uuchurch@eastlink.ca web: UUCH.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30; see website for special events) at 5500 Inglis St

Kentville

Red Door, The: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 web: thered-door.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: faceitwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception of in November. There is two dances held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

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

## 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, christineporter@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: sdc@cbusu.com (M-F 9-4pm. Call or drop by for event listings, Ally Training, and Anti-Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshops!) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

Group Harrison Society: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. (902)371-8752 web: groupharrisonsociety-dancespi.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

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@pridecapebreton.com web: www.pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

## Tatamagouche

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

## Truro

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.)

## Wolfville

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

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

## Prince Edward Island (902)

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

Gay PEI Mailing List: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pe-owner@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pe at All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list.

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

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: 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.

## Charlottetown

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

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# The Last Word

## Notes from a Bookish Life

By Randall Perry

I grew up with my nose stuck in a book. "You're going to LOOK like a book!" my mother would tease. "You're going to turn into one!" Thankfully that perplexing prediction never came to pass, and even though I have been accused more than once of swallowing the dictionary I will never kiss and tell when it comes to drunken nights of three-page pleasure with Merriam-Webster and Oxford Canadian.

From my recollection I was reading and writing (well, printing) even before I entered Grade One. I can't remember a time when books were not available to me. Reading is something I on the one hand take for granted for its ubiquity and on the other hand know can sometimes be a major political act or statement. Reading can be at once a simple pleasure and at the same time a powerful and act of self-creation.

Recently I've been reading Chris-

topher Bram's excellent collection, "Mapping the Territory: Selected Nonfiction." If you've seen the film "Gods and Monsters," based on his novel, "Father of Frankenstein," then you know who I'm talking about. In one of the essays, "A Body in Books," Bram speaks of "reading" his way into homosexuality and the books he read during his formative years he used "as tools to construct [him]self." I had somewhat similar experiences, however looking back in time my reading choices were limited compared to what young people have access to in today's online world. Superhero comics, pulp romance novels, MAD magazine and the Merit Student Encyclopedia (1967 edition) were my building blocks to a wider world of reading to come.

When I was in high school, it was rumoured the school library had a copy of the just-published "Reflections of a Rock Lobster," a short memoir by Aaron Fricke, then 19

years old, who arrived at his sexual awakening innocently when he sought to take his boyfriend to the senior prom and was denied. The possible existence of the book in the school library was gleefully whispered about and being the school fruit it was another way of getting under my skin. "Did you read the book about the Cock Lobster? I bet you wrote it!" became a question I was asked almost every day for three months.

I was crushed. Here was a book that could possibly answer some of my questions about my own existence. At that age, it represented an answer to the question of the meaning of life itself. Imagine growing up gay in Cumberland, Rhode Island... imagine growing up gay in Tignish, Prince Edward Island!

The very first book I read that dealt positively about being gay was an anthology from the mid-1970's titled "After You're Out: Personal Experiences of Gay Men and Lesbian

Women," edited by Karla Jay and Allen Young. It was the fall of 1985, my first year of university. I was barely unpacked before I was browsing the stacks at the library, specifically in the HQ76 section (look it up). By the end of my freshman year I had read the contents of the entire stack dealing with gay life... the wonderfully good books AND the shockingly bad. Many of my long-asked questions had been answered. I hungered for and sought more truths.

One of the first gay novels I read was Michael Tremblay's "The Heart Laid Bare." Set in Montreal in the 1980's, it's the story of forty-year-old Jean Marc, who never expects to fall in love with twenty-something Mathieu, four-year-old son, Sébastien, in tow. I was drawn to the portrayal of two men as a loving, committed

couple, one of whom is a devoted father who manages to get along well with his ex-wife while standing up to the ugly prejudices of her meddling family.

The novel was a breath of fresh ink for me almost 20 years ago, after years of finding only neurotic, self-destructive gay characters in lurid pulp fiction. It resonates differently now that I'm past Jean Marc's age; when I picked up the book I was barely Mathieu's. It's one of a handful of books I come back to again and again because with each reading I discover something new about the text and about myself.

The books I've read through my life didn't make me gay; they instead made a gay man out of me, curious about the world, adventurous and inquisitive.



### Randy Duplak

Randy passed away in the palliative care unit of the Victoria General, on December 11, 2009 at age 62. He is survived by his partner, Thane Ehler of Halifax; brother, Lawrence Shayne (Linda) Duplak (Winnipeg); nephew, Colin Duplak (Winnipeg); and niece, Chelsey Duplak (Toronto).

He held a decade-long tenure as a lawyer for the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission and co-wrote,

with Royden Trainor and John Yogis, "Sexual Orientation And Canadian Law" (1996), a book on the evolution of gay rights in Canada. He was Chair and Founding Member of the Morton Memorial AIDS Foundation, and a volunteer with AIDS Nova Scotia, Morton House, and the NSPWA Coalition. Most recently, he was a mediator/facilitator for the Community Justice Society, and a member of the Halifax Chief of Police's Diversity Committee.

Randy's personal interests included gardening, cooking, art, travelling, good food and wine. Randy generously offered his home garden on Tower Road as part of the very first Halifax Pride Week Garden Tour in 2004.

## Letter

To Wayves:

Please extend my sincere gratitude to the Wayves team for placing so much Aids Awareness Week and World AIDS Day information in this month's issue. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Maria Mac Intosh, Executive Director, Coalition of Nova Scotia



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### Last Month

The question asked was, "Are the men you know richer than the women you know?" The seven answers received all answered in the affirmative. Of the responses:

"On average men still make more money than women, simple as that. So, combine the income of two men versus two women... you do the math."

"In 2008, New Brunswick women working full or part-time earned on average \$16.46 per hour and men, \$19.16 per hour. That's an average of \$32.92 per hour for a lesbian couple vs. \$38.32 for a gay male couple. So of course male couples have more money!"

"Yes, probably because they focused on better paying careers. The lesbians I know opted for more traditional-styled 'female' careers and the men went into 'male' careers. Proving that we're not that much different than straight society."

"Male-dominated society abounds still—men have always made more \$\$ than women in general. Add children to the mix and women are closer to the poverty line again... be they hairdressers, chefs, designers, comedians, when a man works in a profession, even a female dominated profession, they are respected and compensated more than women in the same profession—even unfortunately by women themselves."

### This Month's Question

In 2009, equal marriage lost in Maine—the most "Atlantic Canadian" of the United States. Uganda has introduced an anti-homosexuality law that includes a death penalty. Are we now going downhill on GLBT equality? What will we see for GLBT rights in 2010?



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