



Community, Police Rally Around Sydney Attack Victim

by Peter Steele

I grew up less than twenty miles from Sydney, Cape Breton, and it is the place I call home. A town of a little more than thirty-two thousand people, it is where much of the Island's gay, lesbian and bisexual community centre their social gatherings. We are a community to which I have referred countless times as one of the most accepting and respectful in the country and one I continue to be proud of. Unfortunately, in the early morning hours of Sunday, February 28, a cowardly and vicious attack was made upon members of our community by three young assailants, likely high school age.

Pride Cape Breton hosts two dances a month, on the second and last Saturdays, and they have been a huge success with patrons young and older, with a sprinkling of gay-friendly individuals who appreciate the great hospitality and friendly atmosphere our community enjoys and

encourages. For more than twenty years, the Island's gay community has been able to gather publicly without threat of harassment or violence until now.

At approximately 2:00 a.m., two young men were leaving our South-end Community Centre dance when they heard "faggot" yelled from a car approaching from behind. When the car stopped and the individuals exited the vehicle, one of the two victims tried without success to negotiate a peaceful encounter. The other was viciously assaulted and knocked to the ground. Soon after, two women approached and the assailants fled off in what may have been a blue car. We are thankful for the women's help. However, they left without giving their names. It is unsure if the two women attended the same dance or if they just happened upon the scene, but we ask that they come forward to give authorities an account of what they witnessed. If

they wish to remain anonymous, we ask them to phone Cape Breton Crime Stoppers at 562-8477 (TIPS) with any information they can provide.

This brutal attack was cowardly and premeditated. These three assailants would have had to drive around the area of the Centre several times waiting to find anyone leaving the dance, stalk their movements as well as wait in an area where there was the least likelihood of the vicious act being witnessed. The three young men even cowered to two approaching young women.

After receiving news of the assault, both the gay and straight communities were shocked by this

heinous crime. The people of Cape Breton are known for their compassion towards one another and this incident has rocked the very core of the region's people and outraged many. Chief of police, Miles Burke, shared this same sentiment in a call to me and expressed the force's determination to solve this hate crime as quickly as possible, giving the case high priority status. We believe these culprits will be caught soon and we, as a community, will be sure their crime will not be treated lightly. Homophobic attacks of any kind will not be tolerated in Cape Breton.

I am pleased to say that the victim of the brutality is doing better but continues to deal with the hurt and embarrassment of the attack. A school teacher by profession, he's been a positive influence on his students so to learn that young individuals were behind the assault, was even more devastating. It is not

believed the assailants attend the school where he teaches, nor do we believe they knew either of the two victims. The victim has taken time off work and has had counselling. He is overwhelmed by the attention the incident has garnered. Yet the many calls and e-mails of well wishes and support have helped in his healing process. We hope the community itself will also continue to heal. True healing, however, will occur when justice is served to the young men who committed the cowardly and vicious assault.

Please come forward with your information if you witnessed the attack or if you noticed a vehicle circling the area of the Southend Community Centre on the night of the attack. No matter how insignificant you may feel your information, it may be the very piece of the puzzle the police are looking for. Please help bring closure to this case. Please, let's bring peace back to our community.

Harper's Canada Excludes Equality Rights

by Kevin Kindred

The dominant mood among LGBT activists in Canada right now is a complete and utter lack of surprise in the federal government's handling of LGBT equality issues.

We've read the reports that Immigration Minister Jason Kenny used his power to edit out references to LGBT equality from the guide to Canada for new immigrants. Staff had recommended that, in order to prepare for life in Canada, newcomers need to understand that homosexuality is not a crime here and same-sex couples can marry.

These features of the Canadian legal system are well understood to Canadians—even those who aren't entirely comfortable with them. For many immigrants, these laws could be vastly different from their country of origin. We are leading the world in recognizing LGBT equality and new Canadians need to know this in order to understand their new home.

But with the stroke of a pen, the Minister made that part of the Canadian landscape—the part where my community and I reside—invisible to outsiders.

This is hard enough to swallow,



but if it was a simple editorial decision, I may be able to accept it. After all, a booklet only has so much space and Canada is a big place to get to know. But the Minister made another, more telling, change; one which concerns more than just the LGBT community. Where the booklet describes the rights set out in the Charter, it mentions everything from the right to vote, to mobility rights, to freedom of religion and minority language rights. However, there is one glowing exception; there was no mention of equality rights. Staff suggested it be

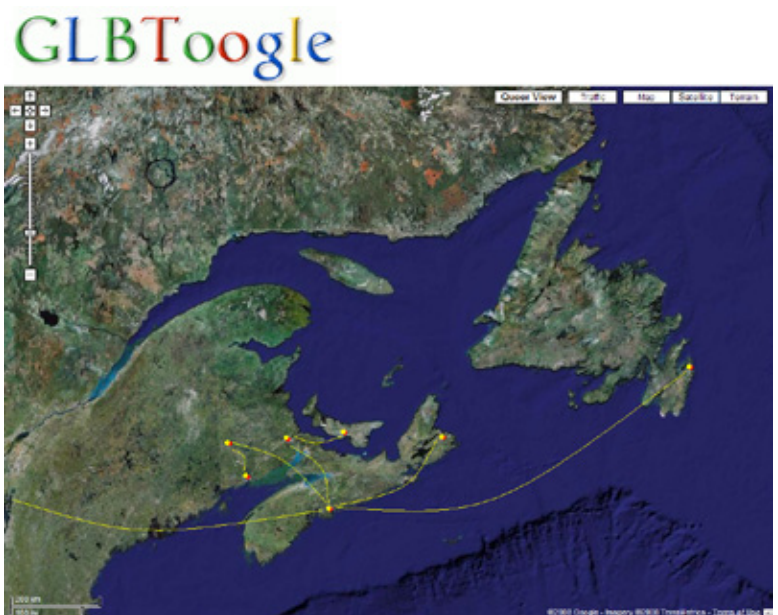
included and Minister Kenny specifically edited it out.

The Conservatives want to present a vision of the Charter that leaves out its protection for equality rights—the fundamental basis of human rights law and one of the key protections in this cherished cornerstone of Canadian law.

I repeat: A complete and utter lack of surprise. We remember that this is the same government who cut the Court Challenges Program that disadvantaged groups used to enforce their rights. This is the same government who also cut funding to the Status of Women Canada organization for being too "political" in the struggle for equality. This is the same government whose first act was to re-open the debate on the already settled issue of same-sex marriage.

When we were advocating for same-sex marriage, there was a clever button on activist's lapels which read, "Stephen Harper is bad for my Constitution." With a vision of Canada that excludes equality rights completely, his government is certainly living up to those expectations.

Kevin Kindred is a Halifax lawyer, activist and spokesperson for the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project.



Map showing Wayves' queer connections in Atlantic Canada. This view will be launched on April 1, 2010.

Regular Columns

Chef's Corner 10 • I Am What I Amherst 7 • Groups & Services 12-13 • Kibitz and Bitch 6 • The Last Word 14 • Ramblings From the Sanctuary Garden 10 • Letters 14 • You Tell Us 14

May Deadline: Friday, April 2 (first Friday of every month!)

Events Around Atlantic Canada

New ACNS Web Site

The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is pleased to announce it has just relaunched its web site. For information on the basics of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment to the range of services offered by ACNS and links to other sexual-health related online resources, the new and improved web site has a wealth of locally relevant information. Please visit www.acns.ns.ca.

ARCPEI

ARCPEI offers an urban night club experience in Charlottetown with fast and friendly hospitality which adds to your night of enjoyment. We play nothing but the hottest dance music combined with the most current dance tracks from across the planet! We encourage requests of your favorite dance music.

Our dance parties offer Prince Edward Islanders the only fully gay-friendly event in a harassment-free environment, where you can party safely with your friends. To ensure this, we have our very own professional security on site for your added protection. We mix professional club lighting with our crisp sound to ensure that your night out dancing will not disappoint. The party will unfold

on Charlottetown's largest dance floor. Come party with us at the Studio located in the Confederation Center of the Arts, Charlottetown.

Our dance party dates are as follows: April 3, April 17, May 1 and May 15. Any updates will be posted at www.arcopei.com. For up to date information, please log on and join our mailing list.

AIDS Saint John

The Annual General Meeting of AIDS Saint John will be held on Wednesday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Centenary-Queen Square United Church, 215 Wentworth Street, Saint John, NB.

AIDS Saint John will host the International Candlelight Memorial on Sunday, May 30, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Vincent's Convent Chapel, Cliff Street, Saint John. The special guest speaker will be the Honourable Graydon Nicholas, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, and Honorary Patron of the New Brunswick Community Based AIDS Organizations.

Halifax - New Theatre Company

After months of planning, chatting, and laughing Plutonium Playhouse would like to announce two things; one, the birth of Plutonium Playhouse and two, its very first season!

Plutonium Playhouse was born to serve as a home for local playwrights with a place to explore and develop a piece until a first (and beautifully rough) unveiling to the public. Our focus is on the script, the characters, and giving playwrights the opportunity to see their work produced from start to finish.

Our 2010 season will consist of three main performances on our very "non main stage": "Cloudburst" by Thom Fitzgerald, "A Rescue Demonstration" by Stewart Legere and Katie Swift, and "Splinters" by Lee-Anne Poole.

Our premiere production, "Cloudburst," follows Dotty and Stella, a 78-year old lesbian couple who have been living together for the past 31 years on the coastline of Maine. When Dotty takes a fall and 911 is called, her granddaughter Molly wonders if her Granny's "friend" Stella can truly care for Dotty anymore and arranges for Dotty to live in a long-term care facility. Unwilling to live without one another, Stella and Dotty hit the road to Nova Scotia where the promise of a legally recognized marriage will bind them safely together. The road is long and rough and Stella begins to wonder if she really can take care of Dotty in her old age. After 31 years, can they keep their family together?

Thom Fitzgerald, who wrote and is directing "Cloudburst," is in



Revellers at the River of Pride – Rivière de fierté inc. Orange Party at Triangles on March 6. Article next page, more photos on page 8 & 9.

rehearsal and getting ready for opening says, "My real goal as a writer and director is to capture something about enduring love that exists outside the institution of marriage. The tenderness and casual brutality that

coexist between this elderly couple defines, to me, the blending of souls. And the addition of a second generation throughout the story raises the possibility that love can endure through being 'passed on' without

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Deep roots are not reached by the frost."

-J.R.R. Tolkien

LGBT & 50+?

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- LGBT history?
- Social events?
- Advocacy for seniors?
- Having fun & making new friends?
- Health Care?
- Housing?

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All proceeds to benefit the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project



Stage from A Rescue Demonstration, created and performed by Stewart Legere and Katie Swift, directed by Ann-Marie Kerr. May 20 to June 5 - 8PM 2PM Saturday and Sunday Matinees, \$20/\$15

procreation.”

“Cloudburst” runs from April 8 to May 8 at 8:00 p.m. nightly with a 2:00 p.m. Sunday matinee. Tickets for Cloudburst are \$20.00. Group rates are available. To book, please contact plutoniumplayhouse@gmail.com or call (902) 449 5317.

What’s next at Plutonium? “A Rescue Demonstration,” created and performed by Stewart Legere and Katie Swift is directed by Ann-Marie Kerr. Edward and Mary, once close friends, haven’t seen each other in almost ten years. She is a nurse who cares for the sick and dying and he works for Search and Rescue. When a violent event on the other side of the globe brings them back together, they begin to sift through their memories in an attempt to make sense of a beautiful, brutal and mysterious world, as well as a shared past they can’t quite seem to remember correctly. “A Rescue Demonstration” runs from May 20 to June 5 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00/\$15.00.

Moncton Yellow Party

River of Pride – Rivière de fierté inc. in collaboration with Triangles, is proud to say that the season is well started. If you weren’t at Triangles on March 6, you missed out on a great time! The Orange Party was a big success. Consider this your invitation

Our Cover:

Feb 20: Diamond Divas’ MC Steve Lavolette, was recognized as CARA’s volunteer of the Year - for ten years of outstanding dedication and service. Photo by Randall Perry. Cover Design: Cam MacLeod. More on Page 8

to the “official launch” of the Pride season with the next colour party which happens to be YELLOW on April 3. The Yellow Party will be used to unveil this year’s theme. It is also a long weekend so if you are not from the Moncton region, why not make it a nice weekend getaway and treat yourself to some fun.

We also want to take this opportunity to announce that the 2010 Pride Parade will be held on Sunday, August 22, so mark your calendars folks, it will be a blast. We have many activities planned for the week prior to the parade and we are committed to keeping you posted. Please keep on visiting our website, which will be updated regularly, www.fiertemonctonpride.ca.

We are also looking for volunteers to join the Parade Standing Committee. For more information, please communicate with us via www.fiertemonctonpride.ca or riverofpride@hotmail.com.

Remember that our colour parties are the first Saturdays of the month at Triangles. As many of you know, these parties are one of our most important fundraisers for Pride week in the Moncton region. We encourage all of you to attend. Let the fun of the colour parties continue!

Sex Now Survey

The Community Based Research Centre is conducting Sex Now, a health survey on the sexuality and mental health of gay men all across

Canada. Sex Now has been studying gay men’s sexuality, health and culture in BC since 2002. This year, we’ve extended the survey throughout Canada, and we’ve already received support from tons of gay men from every province and territory.

Access the survey at www.sexnowsurvey.com.

For more info about us and the Sex Now survey, please visit our website at www.cbrc.net.

Girl Power

The Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland County is planning an exciting fundraiser to benefit our Go Girl Self Esteem Workouts program for 9 – 13 year old girls. The program is held each summer. Author Sheree Fitch will volunteer her time to come to Amherst on April 28 at Burgess Hall, Trinity United Church at 7:00 p.m. to read from several of her books and to be interviewed by Vanessa Blanch of CBC Moncton. Two girls who attended Girl Power will sing. There will also be dessert!

Sheree is very supportive of our work. She was pregnant at 17 and had to drop out of nursing. Now she’s a famous author—a real Girl Power story. Her latest book is a senior teen novel about teen pregnancy from a male teen perspective.

We are hoping to see you there tickets are available at our centre at

11 Elmwood Dr. in Amherst. Call (902) 667-7500. Tickets are also available from Gordon’s Ladies Wear in Amherst Centre Mall and at Pugsley’s in downtown Amherst. Tickets are \$15.00 each or \$25.00 for one adult and one teen.

Rainbow Proud

TRURO — Rainbow Proud Nova Scotia upcoming events (www.rainbowproudnovascotia.ca)

Have pot luck with us! Bring a hot or cold dish, as we have the perfect kitchen to use. Open mike, dinner, dancing, cash bar. If you play, bring instruments. Sing, play a tune, tell a story, be a comedian, do karaoke, whatever your talent may (or may not) be. Wear a costume if you like. Come share with us. This event will

be held on April 17 from 6:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. at the Truro Fire Hall, 165 Victoria Street.

Truro Pride Dance to be held on June 19 at the Truro Lion’s Club.

Join us in walking the Canada Day Parade in Bible Hill. Wear anything and everything with rainbows and bring your flags. Let’s have fun!

Rainbow Proud Members will proudly host a picnic afterwards for all those who walk with us. Feel free to bring something but we plan to have it covered. Picnic is right after the parade at MacElmons Pond Provincial Park in Debert. The park is south of highway 104 at exit 13. Bring games, a Frisbee, bocce, anything you wish.

Mark the date: Thursday, July 1, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Bible Hill, NS.

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 Eleven issues per year

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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Circulation: use the email address below. Subscriptions, per year, are in Canadian dollars: \$20 13% HST = \$22.60 in Canada, \$30 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Send cheque or money order to the postal address below.

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Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: Apr 2; May 7, Jun 4, Jul 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 any time!

Production Meetings

(Halifax): **Mondays:** Apr 6, May 10, Jun 7, Jul 5: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Apr 11, May 16, Jun 13, Jul 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.

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 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!

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

Healing Our Nations: The Atlantic First Nations AIDS Network

By Gabe Saulnier, Community Health Educator

Greetings! Healing Our Nations (HON) is a not for profit Aboriginal HIV/AIDS which serves the Atlantic region, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. HON was also known as "The Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force" and changed to the current HON several years ago. We are located at Suite 3, 15 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 2N2.

Step by Step - a community response to HIV/AIDS • Cross Cultural Training, this is a full day arts based workshop

Hep C 101: HIV/AIDS and Aboriginal women • Caring for Aboriginal Person's Having AIDS • Empowering Aboriginal Women—Moving Forward • Gender and Sexuality • Diverse Sexuality

All these workshops are delivered to your group, community or organization in a manner respectful of traditional ways.

Fundraising

Another project that HON has on the go is "Pennies for Lyfe." It is the hope that we can raise 500,000 pennies for Aboriginal Persons Living with HIV/AIDS. For some time, HON has had an Aboriginal Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (APHA) Fund, a fund which helps members of Healing Our Nations with buying food supplements, vitamins, and medications. If you are an Aboriginal person living with HIV and have a valid status card, you can get a monthly cheque to help you. Unfortunately, the bank balance is extremely low. HON and the APHA's rely on fundraising to maintain a balance in this account. As a fund raiser, we are asking you to save your pennies and donate them to the APHA Fund. We are counting on you to help our APHAs! If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Gabe Saulnier at 1 (800) 565-4255.

Refresh your HIV/AIDS knowledge:

HIV stands for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and AIDS stands for Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome. You have to have HIV before you get AIDS. AIDS is a collection of illnesses that you get because you have HIV. There is no cure for HIV/AIDS. Anyone can get HIV/AIDS. It is not a gay man's disease and not only found in big cities.

Every day, more and more of Aboriginal people become infected with HIV. Right now, it is estimated

that in Canada over 500 Aboriginal people a year get infected with HIV. Many people do not even know they are infected with the virus and unknowingly pass it on by having unsafe sex or sharing needles. The infection rate among Aboriginal people is estimated to be seven times higher than in the mainstream population.

You can get HIV from having unprotected anal, vaginal or oral sex, sharing drug needles, or coming in direct contact with infected blood. If you are pregnant, you can pass it on to your unborn child.

You cannot HIV from hugging, dry kissing, holding hands, using the toilet, using dishes, from water fountains or swimming in a pool. You cannot tell by looking at someone if they have HIV or AIDS, the only way you can find out is by having an HIV test. This test can be done at your local hospital or if you are near a city, there may be anonymous testing offered there.

Healing Our Nations staff

Healing Our Nations staff currently includes Monique Fong, Executive Director; Gabe Saulnier, Community Health Educator for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; Julie "Julez" Thomas, Community Health Educator for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; and Pete Adema, accounting and IT person.

If you have any questions about HIV or AIDS, do not hesitate to call the Healing Our Na-

tions office. It does not cost anything and if you get the answering machine leave us a message and we will get back to you. Or drop on by our office and have a tour. We would love to show you our office!



We are open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and our toll-free number is 1 (800)565.4255. We do not have caller ID and your calls are confidential and no one needs to know you called us. Our e-mail address is director@accesswave.ca. Our website is www.hon93.ca. Feel free to join our Facebook group (nbche@accesswave.ca).

As part of our services, we offer free workshops to your First Nation/Aboriginal community or organization, we also offer cross cultural training for mainstream organizations. All you need to do is call us and book a time for your workshop. We offer workshops ranging from a couple of hours to a full week.

Workshops

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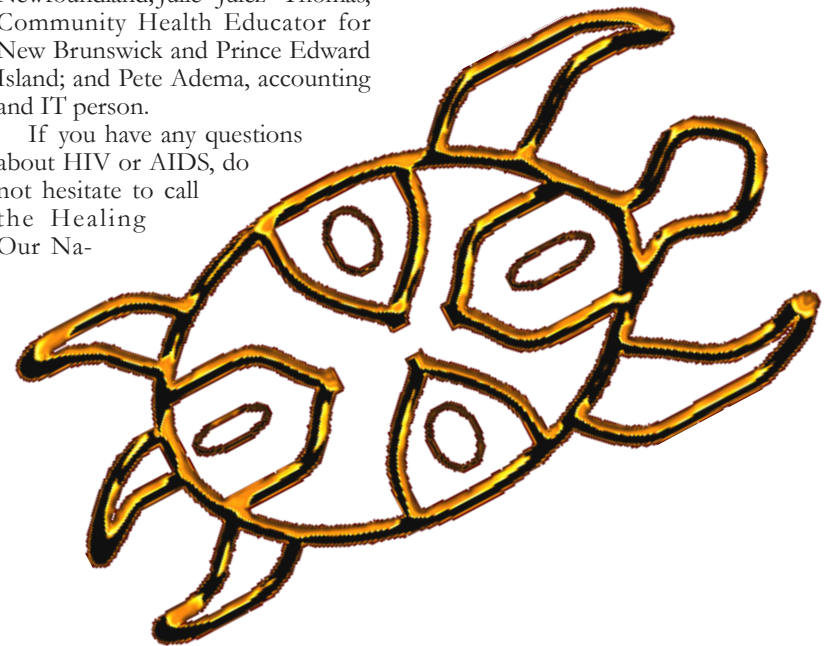
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Mount Allison Art Show

by Roger LeBlanc and J. Hammock
I would like to alert you to an exciting queer art exhibition happening at the Owens Art Gallery on Mount Allison University campus, Sackville, NB. Sara Williamson (whom many of you will recognize) is the curator. This exhibition "Told Untold" arose directly out of Sara's observation that queer art exhibitions and performance pieces are almost non-existent in the Maritimes, while quite common elsewhere in Canada.

Sara says "'Told Untold' is, at its heart, an art exhibition about stories. I am thrilled to present the work of five Canadian artists all working with either storytelling or the sharing of personal experience in such a way as

to shed light on often untold issues of queer identity. This exhibition is my first foray into the world of curating and is a major component of the internship program that I am currently completing at the Owens Art Gallery. Queer art shows in the Maritimes are very few and far between, and I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to make this happen."

The Owens Art Gallery is pleased to present "Told Untold," an exhibition that is, at its heart, about stories. Through photography, painting, and film, the five artists that it brings to-

'Told Untold' is, at its heart, an art exhibition about stories.

gether all make use of storytelling or the sharing of personal experience on often unconsidered and unexamined issues of identity and difference that relate to their lives as queer Canadians. Their focuses are diverse; the work in the show spans from Thirza Cuthand's musings on the complexities of her Aboriginal identity, to Travis McEwen's voicing of the experience of awkwardness and isolation among adolescents who are "a little different." It reaches to Shawna Dempsey's and Lorri Millan's examination of the role of the "other" in popular

North American history by looking at the story of Calamity Jane, and to Larry Glawson's subversion of his own artistic authorship by giving his photographic subjects control of their own representation.

"Told Untold" will be exhibited at the Owens Art Gallery from March 5 – April 18, admission is free and open to the public. To obtain more information and directions, please go to www.mta.ca/owens/visit/index.php or contact Sara Williamson at (506) 364-2224, or sewilliamson@mta.ca. You can drop in to the Owens Art Gallery as many times as you want before April 18 to enjoy the exhibition at your convenience.



Larry Glawson, *Lesbian Portrait #38*, 1994

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom!

Happy Spring and all that! Finally things are starting to green up, birds are singing, sap is rising, sun is warmer. Is it a sign of old age that every winter seems to be longer and colder and harder to bear? Speaking of sap rising, I had a sort of weird encounter a while back with a guy in my area. Why is it that people think they can fib on their profiles and get away with it? I mean we all know that "average build" means "somewhat fat" if you are over the age of 25, "no strings attached" generally means "I'm married," "straight acting" translates to "I'm a big nelly queen and a pink purse will drop out of my mouth the moment I open it," and "versatile" converts to "my heels will be against my ears before you've got your coat off." My favourite is the guy who is over 60 but looking for good-looking, fit, young guys between 18 and 25 but who also states that he is not looking to be a sugar daddy. Right! Hello waiter? Can you bring my reality check please? Like young jocks who answer your ad are not going to be interested in the size of your... uh, wallet. Just like you are really looking for a relationship that has a deeply spiritual element! Argh! It makes me tired!

Anyway, where was I? Oh right, the weird encounter. So I meet this guy online and we chat and exchange pictures etc. and we agree to meet... for coffee, wink, wink. But, when he shows up it is clear that the picture he sent me—"from a couple of years ago" is clearly from a decade past or from an alternate universe. His "salt and pepper" hair disappeared around the same time as disco and his "slightly hairy body" decodes as "you could wax my back and use it for a shag carpet." What do these guys think? That they will just show up and I'll be so horny and ready by that time that I won't care as long as they have a pulse and a dick bigger than a gerbil's? Okay, maybe that's true but I will still resent the dishonesty and complain about it once they've left. Which is kind of what I'm doing with you.

Under the category of Lack of Truth in Advertising is a site I discovered called One Million Moms. It is a project of the American Family Association—funny how the word "family" has now taken on such Nazi-like overtones. One Million Moms calls on its members (one suspects that the membership is less than one million!) to send letters of protest to advertisers of television shows that give evidence of any wit, humour, satire or intelligence. These traits are listed by the organization as trashy, indecent, anti-family and vulgar. Sigh. You have to give them credit though for coming up with a sexy name. I can't but wonder what other names were rejected before they settled on this one. A Dozen Disgruntled Baptists? Forty-Seven Women who Stay at Home but Resent their Restricted Place in Society but Decided to Channel their Rage against the

Larger Male-Dominated Market Place in an Acceptable Religious Way? Mothers Against the Modern Era? (Rejected because the initials spelled MAME and she was waaay too frivolous and modern in her outlook. Besides the "gays" love her.) I keep remembering Kids in the Hall and a segment they had called, I believe, Thirteen Helens. It was a wonderful parody of all those ads that reported things like four out of five dentists agree... or ninety percent of nutritionists surveyed preferred....

One Million Moms is a throwback to the Moral Majority, who figured—like my tale-telling trick—that if you state something firmly enough people will believe it, even when the truth is patently otherwise. The Moral Majority was not a majority just as this organization is not made up of one million mothers. The fact that they feel required to oversell their idea underscores how ineffectual they really feel. I think we should go to the website, find out which sponsors they are targeting and make a point of writing letters supporting their endorsement of television shows. I don't even like Howard Stern, but I would support him as a judge on American Idol—which I never watch—just to piss these mothers off.

And I especially resent how groups like this have co-opted the word "family." Whose family? Not mine. Johnny Weir, the flamboyant figure skater has not been invited to join Stars on Ice because, he claims, he is not "family friendly" enough in their eyes. He certainly seems like "family" to me! Plus, who on this planet would be shocked to go to a figure skating spectacle and find gay men performing? What's next? Gay interior designers?

Then, there is the crazy story of the lesbian student in Mississippi who asked to take her girlfriend to the prom and the school cancelled the prom to prevent that happening. Good old Mississippi, always in the forefront for human rights!

Gotta run, Tom. There's a gin and tonic singing my name and I must answer its siren call.

Love ya!

Crawford

Human Rights Record Should be Celebrated

By Megan Leslie,
MLA Halifax, Nova Scotia
Recent news that Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, actively banned mention of equality rights for the LGBT community from the immigration study guide is frightening. It is shameful that this conservative government continues to manipulate the public discourse, and now pretends that eliminating mention of LGBT history and rights in Canada was necessary for space reasons.

Let's be clear, Canada is a better country as a result of the achievements of its LGBT citizens. The future of any society depends how people treat each other and equality rights are very much a part of that, whether it be respecting sexual minorities, women, persons of colour or persons with mental and physical disabilities. Equality rights are core Canadian values and any text that purports to inform the reader about Canada should make mention of it, because it differentiates Canada from other countries.

This point is important because the guide does not only reflect Canada to people from other nations, but to us as Canadians too. This action sees us going backwards, after achieving so much. However, in contrast to Mr. Kenney's actions, there are stand-out examples of progressive thought and practice in Canada. New Democrats recognize the importance of prioritizing and advocating for respect for minorities in this country and the celebration of the full-inclusion of LGBT folks in the Canadian social fabric.

To that end, our Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity critic (we have a SOGI critic!) Bill Siksay (MP, Burnaby-Douglas) has introduced in the House of Commons Bill C-389, an enactment which amends the Canadian Human Rights Act to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination. This bill, that I

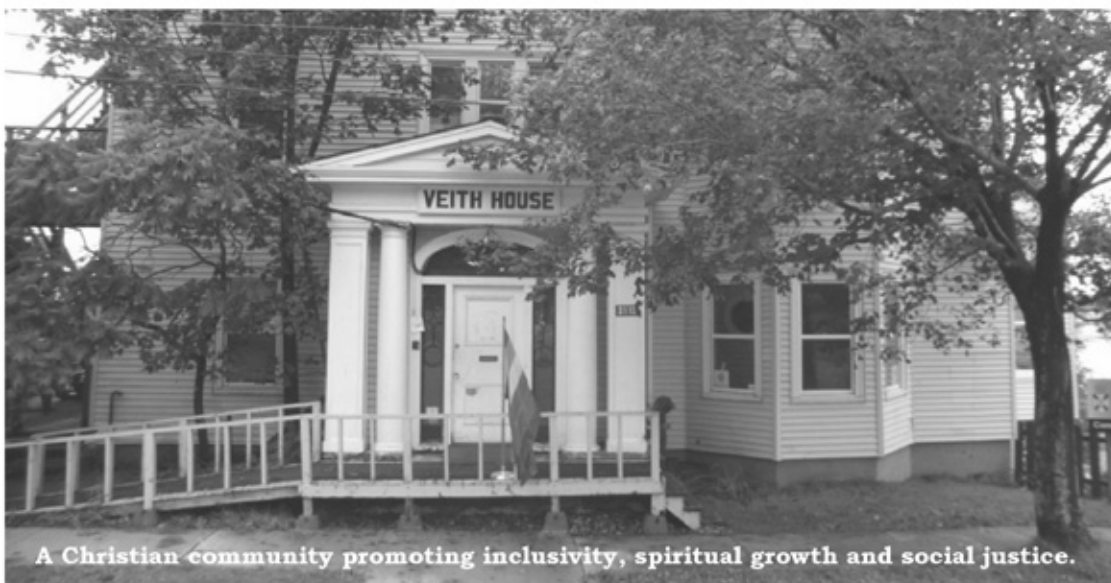
was proud to second, would also add gender identity and gender expression as distinguishing characteristics protected under hate crimes provisions in the Criminal Code.

We find another inspiring example in the Quebec government's delivery in December 2009 of a Canadian "legislative first," the Quebec Policy against Homophobia. This policy, to be enforced in Quebec by the provincial Minister of Justice, was introduced in recognition that homophobia prevents the substantive, every-day equality for the LGBT community that extends beyond legal rights on paper. Homophobia impacts on the daily health and safety of LGBT adults, teens and families, as well as for anyone in Canadian communities who are perceived as transcending traditional, and frankly antiquated and limiting, gender roles.

Working to fight against homophobia does not impact negatively on those who are not members of the LGBT community or their allies. It creates a more tolerant, caring society, which has a positive impact for all. We continually see anti-equality arguments based on an "Us vs. Them" opposition. The reality is that we are all "them" as we are each different and unique in a variety of ways, not just with respect to sexual orientation. That is one of the most important modern ideas we have come to realize and something that Mr. Kenney is resistant to promoting as a cabinet minister.

Please join me in telling the government and Mr. Kenney's office that Canada's rights record should be celebrated and that the exclusion of the LGBT community from the immigration guide is shameful, counterproductive and frankly, anti-Canadian. You can write Minister Kenney, postage free, at: House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6, or e-mail minister@cic.gc.ca. If you write to the Minister, please cc Megan at leslie.m@parl.gc.ca.

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I Am What I Amherst

By Gerard Veldhoven

Firstly, please allow me to express my gratitude to those of you who gave me great support after the passing of my spouse Norman Carter. Your cards, donations and presence at the memorial service I will always cherish.

On Saturday, February 13, Amherst's Cumberland Pride Society hosted an English High Tea as well as a Valentine Dance in the evening. Regardless of the fact these events were not well attended, the society felt it was a success. Plans are for similar events in the near future. Stay tuned for more information.

The Cumberland Pride Family/Community Bowling Night will take place on the first Friday of each

month at the King Pin Bowling on Gerrard Ave in Amherst.

Cumberland Pride Society has set the date for this summer's Pride Week. Festivities will commence on July 11 and the final activity will take place on July 17. Indications thus far promise for an unforgettable celebration. This will be the society's third Pride celebration in the Town of Amherst. Pride Committee members held their first planning session on February 24 and meetings will be held every week until activities are completely organized. So everyone, mark your calendars for the week of July 11 – 17.

The Cumberland Pride Society's AGM will be held on April 19 and

includes the election of a new executive. Nominations have been called for and members of the society will have their say at the AGM to be held at Hertz Hall in Amherst.

Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church in Amherst may vote on same-sex marriage once again. Last year I contacted the church to inquire if they would consider a second vote regarding this issue. A committee was formed following receipt of my letter and after a lengthy conference within that committee plus presenting certain ideas to the congregation, a vote may be forthcoming. The committee will give me a reply as a decision is made whether a vote will indeed be held. That reply will not be in my

hands until June at the earliest.

The federal Conservatives are at it again. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney eliminated any reference to Canada's equal rights for the gay and lesbian community. It will be a topic of discussion at Cumberland Pride and no doubt will instill anger at the minister. The guide for newcomers to this country is now void of any reference whatsoever that Canada has laws in place for our community. Any immigrants who are queer have no idea if this country will protect them, or if the situation here is similar to home. Especially those that come from nations such as Uganda where the situation is desperate and deadly for the queer population, raising



reasons to be concerned. Here we have another blow from the Harper government... slashing funds for Pride festivities and now this issue. The queer community in Canada has much to be concerned about. What's next? Stay tuned to Wayves as members of Cumberland Pride will make their voices heard.

Congrats Coho

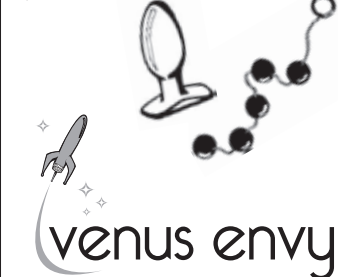


Congratulations to The CoHo! The Company House, Halifax's fabulous new, queer-friendly bar/performance space, received the Casino Nova Scotia Best Venue of the Year Award at the East Coast Music Awards on March 7 in Sydney! The CoHo, as it's been affectionately dubbed by fans, has barely been open a year, but it already seems like an integral part of Halifax's thriving arts community. Congratulations to Mary Ann Daye and Heather Gibson and big thanks for all their hard work.

Heather also won the ECMA's Best Manager of the Year for her work with Jenn Grant, Rose Cousins and Amelia Curran. Mary Ann and Heather are great community supporters. Mary Ann has been a key player in the growth of LGBT

softball in Halifax and Heather is one of the driving forces behind the In The Dead of Winter Music Festival. It's a great treat for International Women's Day to be able to celebrate these two women and all they've brought to the arts scene in Nova Scotia.

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Not So Serious Side of Sex

Halifax — On March 5, The Not So Serious Side Of Sex show at Bubbles Mansion entertained a roomful of people while raising money for the Halifax Sexual Health Centre.

Cory Bowles, from Trailer Park Boys was as saucy on stage as he is

cute, and the panel of "Sexperts" got points for both honest and absurd answers to questions about sex and life. There was an odd interlude with giant penises and vaginas on stage. More familiar was a high-energy burlesque dance by the mysteriously

named Miss C.

In between the stage acts, people bid on the silent auction items, re-connected with friends, and bought drinks from the hunky hunky bartender.

The Boys In The Band At Roberts Street

Halifax — Every Sunday evening, a small group of young (and some not so young) self-identified queers, gather for a meal and a movie together at the Roberts Street Social Centre. The event's called, unsurprisingly, Dinner And A Movie. There's room at the table and in the theatre — the same room — for twelve; one or two people "present" the movie and cook and serve the meal for the rest.

On March 7, Daniel MacKay and Gabe Saulnier presented the 1970 film, Boys In The Band, and served the food and drink portrayed in the film: lasagne, salad, cake, and the blender drink, a Blue Whale.

"This movie was important to me when I was a teenager," says Saulnier, "it was the first time I had seen gay men interacting socially on the screen — and not committing suicide before

the end of the film."

The film has just been released on DVD and is available at Video Difference.

To get onto the mailing list of Dinner And A Movie announcements, write to semaphorecinema@gmail.com. The Roberts Street Social Centre's website is robertssteeet.org.

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CARA & Diamond Divas: A Ten Year Friendship



Deva Station opened the show performing "a two-fer: Marilyn Monroe and with the switch of a wig Carol Channing., Ms. Stewart's Caper humour almost steals the show (r)



Julia Jeffries as Liza Minelli (l) and Linda Kelly as George Michael. (r)



Kara Mylk as Jennifer Hudson performing Am I Telling You (above), Gilbert & Co as Right Said Fred doing I'm Too Sexy (l)



More about CARA and Diamond Divas

Story by Raymond Taavel. Photos: Randall Per... Diamond Divas and Friends fundraiser held t... year anniversary show in support of Ligne téléph... CARA (Crisis and Referral Agency) Helpline 1...

This year over 600 people attended Moncto... toric Capitol Theatre. \$8000 was raised between... sales and silent auction.

Over 15 performers were on hand comin... Halifax, Antigonish, Fredericton and Moncto...

Amongst a few of the awards CARA gave o... individuals for longstanding contributions was... volunteer service to CARA through the devel... Wayne Richard.

Steve says of his involvement "...if by prod... can and does save just one life, then I know a... put in over the years has paid off."

Of Wayne, the volunteers behind the scen... could never and would not have been able to c... ergy and enthusiasm of each and every volunte... Diamond Divas happen. Without them, I am... by waiting for something to happen."

CARA became active around November 19... munity for a confidential help line to deal with...

If you may be interested in volunteering wi... ecutive Director at (506) 857-9782 or e-mail... is www.carahelpline.ca.



Above photo: Deva Station performs Disney Fantasmic.



Ursula (Rouge Fatale) and Dyna Mite as the Little Mermaid



Ralph's Kib



On Friday February 26 Wayves hosted a meet-and... Higgins) 100th publication of Kibbitz & Bitch in... Pictured left to right, Angus Campbell (half of bin... MacMillan, Hugo Dann, Ralph Higgins, Keelin Jav... Photo credit: Gabe Saulnier.

Michel's Diamond Divas Picks

International pageant and talent Judge Michel C. Belliveau has been a regular attendee over the last several years and offered his best of the evening performance picks:

1. Judy Garland (Julia Jeffries)
 2. Anne Murray (Mz. Vicki DeKnight)
 3. Jennifer Hudson (Kara Mylk)
 4. Little Mermaid (DynaMite and Rouge Fatale)
 5. Gilbert & Company
- Honourable mention to Rejean Leclerc.*



Julia Jeffries performs as Lady Gaga, (l), Special tribute was paid to members of ISCANS (Halifax) who have performed every year in the show over the last ten years. Pictured (l-r) HMISM's Empress X C. Leah Cruise, Empress II Mz Vicki, Empress V Deva Station, ISCANS founder & Empress VI Nina Diamonds, Empress VII Natassha N!, Empress IV, VIII, IX BoomBoom Lubalicious and Emperor X Nate N! Bent.

River of Pride Rivière de Fierté Orange Party



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ut in recognition of community groups and
s to MC Steve Laviolette for his ten years of
opment of this yearly show with co-creator

lucing and emceeing this benefit fundraiser
nd feel that all the time and effort that I've

es and the performers Steve continues, "...I
do what I have done without the talent, en-
er that has stepped up each year to make the
just another person that would be standing

986 after a need was identified in the com-
n people in crisis.

th CARA please contact Karen Eustace, Ex-
carahelp@nb.aibn.com. CARA's website



Orange Pride party revellers.
March 6 at Triangles, Moncton, Photo
credits: Nathan Adams

April 3 - Yellow Party, Triangles. This
year's theme will be unveiled.

River of Pride Rivière de Fierté Inc
Pride Parade will be held on Sunday,
August 22.

To mark Diamond Divas tenth anniversary a special pre-show reception was hosted by La Teraç. Proprietors Mario and Jacques Bourgeois Leduc laid out a delicious spread of appetizers that included Toscanos Turkey, Lime & Chipotles Chicken and Thai Pork Ribeye with a full bar and wine selection. La Teraç which has been operating for two years now, also includes an art gallery. For more information contact create@lateraz.com or go to www.alateraz.com.

bitz & Fête



-greet celebration of Crawford Hastie's (aka Ralph
the pages of Wayves at Menz Bar's Library Room.
n anyways, apologies to Angus), Randall Perry, Jim
k, Daniel MacKay, Raymond Taavel, Gary Brooks.

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Chef's Corner



Before we get too far into spring and the desire to offer you lighter fare, I want to give you one more stick-to-your-ribs hearty dish. This meal may still come in handy depending on the accuracy of that big-toothed rodent's (do you hear me, Shubenacadie Sam?) prediction for the end of winter. This recipe has three easy steps and tastes great served with mashed turnips and carrots and a side of buttered Brussels sprouts. Enjoy!

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.

Beefy Burger Bundles

Ingredients

Meat: mix together
1 lb lean ground chuck
1/2 cup evaporated milk
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp cracked black pepper

Stuffing:
2 medium-size russet potatoes (washed, peeled, cooked and fork mashed)
2 slices day-old white bread (small dices)
1 small onion (minced)
1 rib celery (minced)
1 clove garlic (minced)
1 tsp dry summer savory
1 tsp butter
1 egg yolk
salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter in skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, celery and garlic. Cook until softened and translucent. Mix all ingredients together and season.

Sauce:

1 (10 fl oz) can cream of mushroom soup
1/4 cup beef broth
2 cloves garlic (minced)
1/2 lb sliced crimini or button mushrooms
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp Ketchup
2 tsp well-rinsed canned green peppercorns (optional)

Method

Sauté the mushroom in a bit of oil on high heat. Deglaze with broth, add the remaining ingredients, mix well.
1. Combine the meat mixture ingredients until homogenous. Divide the mixture into 10-12 equal size balls. Flatten the balls into 1/4 inch patties.
2. Divide the stuffing equally on each of the patties, then roll them into bundles making sure to bring up the edges and seal very well (think... making a pita wrap).
3. Place the burger bundles one inch apart in a non-stick baking dish. Pour the sauce over the bundles and bake covered in a pre-heated 350°F oven for 45 minutes. Remove the cover, baste and let go another 15 minutes and serve.

Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden

By Bethana Sullivan

It has been an eventful winter! Death struck my family, the first in a long time, disrupting the routine unfolding of the days. It was my eldest brother, who once many years ago yelled an angry message on my answering machine to the effect that I was one of those "disgusting lesbians." I was going to say, where he got those words or sentiments I don't know but of course I do. He got them from implied, spoken or written, words: in books, magazines, movies, plays. From jokes, fights, sniggers; in lockers rooms, family rooms, bathrooms, bedrooms. At the theatre, on the playing fields, in the killing fields.

I was one of those "disgusting lesbians." He got that from implied, spoken or written, words: in books, magazines, movies, plays. From jokes, fights, sniggers; in lockers rooms, family rooms, bathrooms, bedrooms.

Today, even with all we fought for and earned, a cross is burned on our neighbour's lawn, a man is assaulted outside a gay bar, and the government refuses to change the words of our anthem to be more inclusive.

The shock of my brother's death does not compare with the shock of these other events. I am appalled, angry, sad and scared too, in a way. It is as if there is a bubble around me protecting me from the everyday possibilities of something rude, crude and mean happening. And yet as I stand back from these words I am aware that I am not blind, nor am I dumb, not even deaf—in my day-to-day life I address jokes that shame or put down others, announce with pride who I am, celebrate who others are. I keep my eyes open. There are other things I don't do as well, like remembering birthdays or calling someone to say hello or being impatient with long winded people in groups, but attending to exclusion or shaming or belittling is something I do well.

The bubble is more to keep me from erupting too angrily at the plethora of unconscious and/or plain ignorance of what it means to act like a compassionate, never mind loving, human being one to another. What keeps someone in ignorance and I can hear the groans already. Oppression in all its forms, abuse in all its forms, poverty in all its forms! And this too is valid. But it doesn't excuse behaviour that harms.

Is it fear of scarcity—that if everyone is let in to the family of what is "normal," somehow something is lost or there isn't enough of something to go around. I have been listening to an Irish author, Nuala O'Faolain,

talking about what Ireland was like even up to the end of the 20th century. The norm was to act as if nothing bad, or shameful, or hurtful, or oppressive

was happening. In that way everyday people could partake of the community life; the hellos and goodbyes and selective storytelling of bits in between. It was as if the community couldn't bear to hear the awful stuff going on because it feared it would destroy. But shutting out the different, the painful, and the difficult limits precious beings and experiences.

Today it is as if those who discriminate, those who harm and they are not just the cross-burner or the fighter, they are everyday people who fear that what they have valued is not what is. To let go of a long held belief that has guided your way is to feel as if you are being cast out; there is betrayal, anger and uncertainty. Jealously even, as they see others having a good time in this fluid and negotiable world. And that is a dangerous mixture. So to protect themselves from this awareness they live in their own bubbles which I fear are somewhat opaque.

What might help us in times of



crisis like this is to ask, "What are the ideas we need to have around to be picked up in these times of crisis and uncertainty? What are the ideas that can help us make the transition to a society based on ecological balance and social justice?" I started thinking about the ideals and principles that guide my life towards this vision. Here is what I have come up with.

Understanding the world, us and them, as interconnected and interdependent—what happens there is significant here. The spirituality of immanence, earth-based and inclusive, names as sacred all that is. We carry within us the freedom and responsibility of acting in right relationship.

Starhawk, a feminist witch, psychotherapist and peace activist, speaks of "permaculture as the practical application of the understanding that the earth is alive and that nature is sacred." The principles of permaculture are useful in areas that go far beyond the garden or the forest—in group process, in organizing and activism, and in our own life designs. Permaculture is an extension of the spirituality of immanence, and though I don't know all its principles I am engaged in learning about them.

These are the first sources of principles that have informed my shift from fear in time of scarcity to "abundance springs from relationship" (Starhawk, personal writings). I will continue this work in my next column.

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NS Government Gives \$10K to NSRAP's LGBT Seniors Project

March was a bad news/good news month for Nova Scotia's queer community. The bad news was, of course, the bashing incident in Cape Breton and the revelations out of Ottawa that LGBT rights had been deliberately removed from Canada's citizenship guide for new Canadians, likely by Immigration Minister Jason Kenney himself. We'll get to these homophobic attacks, but since we so rarely get to discuss positive outcomes for our community, let's start (and hopefully close) with the good news.

Ironically, in the same week the bashing story broke in Cape Breton, NSRAP learned that our application to Nova Scotia's Department of Seniors had been approved. The province has allocated \$10,000 to assist NSRAP with plans to ensure that long-term care facilities are safe and welcoming to LGBT seniors. Starting this fall we will be working with Northwood in Halifax to ensure that their staff are ready and able to deal with residents of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Work of this kind has already been undertaken in a few Canadian jurisdictions, notably Québec and Toronto, but Nova Scotia is showing genuine foresight in supporting this project. Dalhousie University's Prof. Brenda Richards has contributed to research on local LGBT seniors, and there are other precedents that NSRAP can build upon (including our own work in the Halifax Rainbow Health Project). Early in 2011 we plan to extend the program to include a residential care facility in a rural community. Our aim is to develop a template that, with some tweaking for local needs, can be applied to other care facilities across

the province. We are thankful that the Nova Scotia government recognizes the importance of this work and that they share our enthusiasm for this project.

A Gathering of LGBT Elders

We know that older LGBT people have concerns that aren't being properly addressed. Whether it's advocating for affordable housing or a need for more social outlets, NSRAP is ready to work with LGBT Elders to be part of the solution. On Sunday, April 18 at 2:00 p.m., as part of our partnership with the Department of Seniors, NSRAP will host "A Gathering of LGBT Elders" at The Company House, 2202 Gottingen Street in Halifax. We hope to hear from those who are over 50 (and those who just feel they are!) about what issues matter most to them. We very much hope that this will be the beginning of regular such gatherings, and NSRAP is ready to help make that happen.

Our Community Responds to Homophobia

Hopefully by the time you read this, police will have apprehended those responsible for the verbal and physical assaults at an LGBT dance in Sydney, Cape Breton. NSRAP extends its support to the community there, and particularly to those directly impacted by this violent, hateful crime. We commend the work being done by community leaders, including Pride Cape Breton's Peter Steele, and the police who are rightly investigating

this as a possible hate crime.

We also learned of the deliberate deletion of LGBT rights from "Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship." NSRAP responded quickly with an editorial from Kevin Kindred in the Chronicle Herald and a letter to the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. Our letter states, "The Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects all Canadians from discrimination, including people of colour and people of faith. We urge you immediately to commit the Government of Canada to reinstating all references to the decriminalization of homosexuality, the passage of the Civil Marriage Act, and the equality guarantees enshrined in the Charter. Finally, if you cannot be the Minister of Citizenship for all Canadians, regardless of their race, creed, sexual orientation or gender identity, we urge you to consider resigning your office to one who can." This letter was sent to all Nova Scotia MPs, as well as to the Prime Minister, and any MPs with a connection to the issue. While we have heard from several opposition members, we have yet to hear from anyone in Minister Kenney's office.

International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia

NSRAP is currently planning its May 17 event for Halifax, and we know that Pride Cape Breton is moving forward with plans for a Sydney event. We hope that, wherever you

may find yourself that day, you take a moment to reflect on those members of the LGBT community who are still facing discrimination. Whether homophobia and transphobia manifest at a local dance in your home town, in the Parliament of Uganda or the Parliament of Canada, it affects us all. If you want to be a part of NSRAP's plans for May 17, please contact us at the numbers listed below.

By the time you read this article, NSRAP will have released its community centre report entitled "Towards a Home for the LGBT Community in Nova Scotia." It will have been delivered to all LGBT community groups and organizations, and to all levels of government. It will also be posted on our website for anyone in the community to read at their leisure.

We hope this will be the beginning of a real community dialogue and engagement in making this dream a reality.

With these and other ongoing projects, we are looking for dedicated individuals to serve on various committees. If you are at all interested in developing the rich potential of Nova Scotia's LGBT Community, please give us a call, or drop by our office (generously donated by Doug Melanson and David Landry) at Menz Bar, 2182 Gottingen Street, Halifax. Our new Executive Director, Hugo Dann, is there Mondays through Thursdays, from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. You can also call us at (902) 444-3206 and our email address is nsrap@nsrap.ca. We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you as we move towards "Equality for All!"

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NSRAP Fundraiser Wine Roulette!

Please join us on April 30 at The Company House for an evening with Premiere Wines and Spirit's Sommelier, Drew Curlett. Wine Roulette is an interactive wine tasting which is fun, casual and informative. The evening begins with Drew leading the group through a wine tasting, profiling five different types of grapes. He discusses each wine, where it comes from, typical flavours and scents and food pairings, as well as tips on tasting and evaluating wines.

Part Two of Wine Roulette starts with splitting into teams and trying the wines again, this time in a blind test. Working as a team each group analyzes each wine. The team that gets the most correct guesses wins and becomes the reigning Wine Roulette Champion. It is a great way to learn wine tasting methods, applying what you learn immediately, while having a whole lot of fun. There will also be a silent auction, featuring some local getaways and a deluxe trip for two to Montreal, courtesy of VIA

Rail. Tickets are only \$35 per person; limited! For reservations call (902) \$300 for a party of 10. Capacity is 444-3206.

prideHealth and a safe door to primary health

Anita Keeping is a clinical nurse specialist, a caring and compassionate health care provider – and most importantly a safe point of care for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities.

Anita can provide assessment, treatment and referrals to GLBTI-friendly health professionals. And she'll meet with you at a safe community location.

To learn more, or to set up an appointment with Anita, please call 220.0643 or e-mail: anita.keeping@cdha.nshealth.ca



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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

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transexuals. 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 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 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.

OUT Bowling: info coming next issue!

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

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.)

River of Pride-riviere de fierte INC. of Greater Moncton: The organization meets regularly, to discuss upcoming events and activities, everyone is welcome to attend. check out time / location posted on the website. Media and general inquiries, including registration of volunteers and parade participation, can be made from the website or by email. email: riverofpride@hotmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

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 GLBT-T2IQQ 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

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.)

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.aidsaintjohn.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.

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.

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

Rainbow Warriors: Rainbow Warriors is a youth-run support group for LGBTQ youth and allies in Antigonish. We hold social events such as picnics and game nights, have educational discussions around topics such as stereotypes/assumptions and transsexuality, and raise awareness in the surrounding community by participating in functions such as the Highland Games Parade and the Farmers' Market. While our group is youth-focused everyone is regardless of age, and gender identity or sexual orientation! Find our group on Facebook "Rainbow Warriors - AHAH!". email: antigonishrainbowwarriors@gmail.com, meets every Monday (3:00-5:00pm) at The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, located in the Kirk Building at 219 Main Street, Suite 204 (above Tim Hortons).

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

Bridgewater

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

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-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.

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

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

Girl-ish Productions: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. 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: hal-gal@yahooogroups.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@yahooogroups.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 GBLT 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)

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: 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: 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@pflag-canada.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 GBLT 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 GLBT-T2IQQ 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@accb.ns.ca, christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

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 (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive

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

Street, Truro, N.S.

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

Rainbow Proud: Rainbow Proud supports the LGBT** community of Truro and surrounding areas. Our small group of volunteers work hard to put events together for everyone's enjoyment. Any feedback will be considered and can be sent to our email address. We hope you continue to come celebrate our community together. email: rainbowproud@hotmail.com web: rainbowproudnovascotia.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

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

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

Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGB-T2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadia@pride@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-groups.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.arcpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)


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


SEA DOG'S
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Mon - Thu: 4pm - Midnight
Fri: 4pm - Sun: Midnight (24 hour weekend)
2199 Gottingen St., Halifax / www.SeaDogs.ca
1-888-837-1388 / 902-444-DOGS

prideHealth wants to hear from you!

We are hosting a conversation about prideHealth services in the community



prideHealth is an initiative of Capital Health - Primary Health Care, along with the IWK, to create safe access to health care for members of the GLBTI communities.

Share your thoughts with us

We are looking for your input on . . .

- How we are doing with prideHealth services
- How we can better promote our services
- How we can support health care in our communities

April 8, 2010 ~ 7 - 10pm

Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick Street

For more information, call Jeanne Rokosh, prideHealth Coordinator, at 902-454-6953, or email jeanne.rokosh@cdha.nshealth.ca.

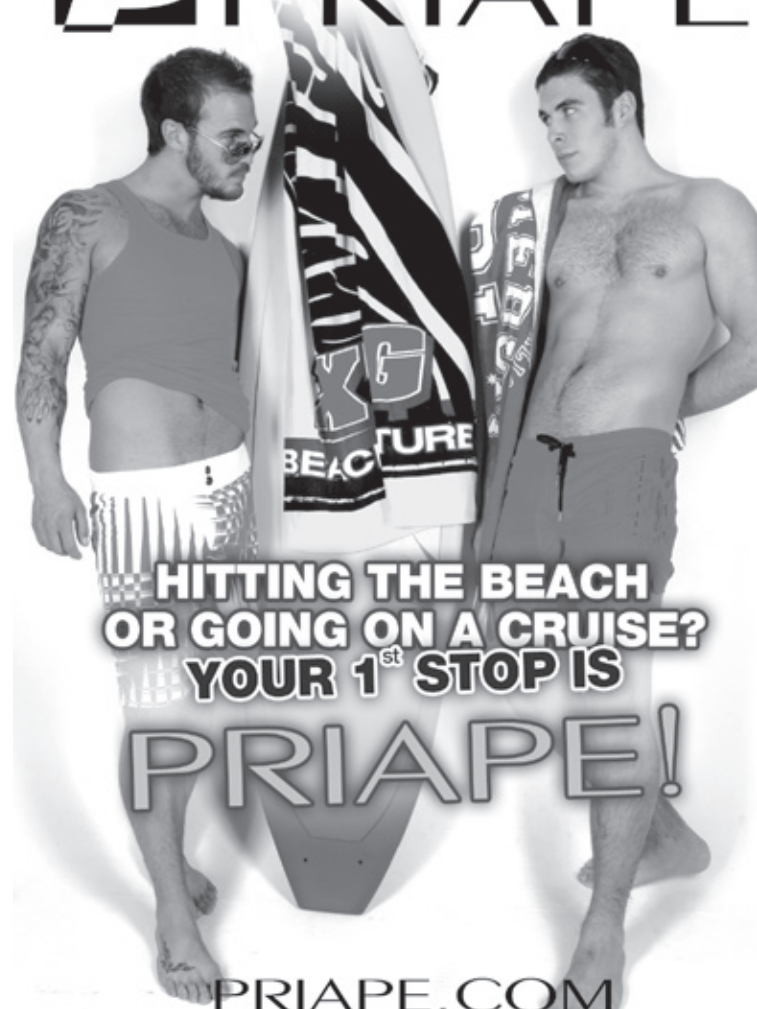


Capital Health

www.pride-health.com



IWK Health Centre

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The Last Word

by Randall Perry

Spring is here, and high school seniors everywhere are sleeping soundly, visions of prom dresses and tuxes, corsages and boutonnieres, rented limos and partying far into the night dancing in their heads.

Prom night has become such an industry that it now holds court with wedding shows. But for all its manufactured hype, I think prom is important for high schoolers. It's a time-honoured rite of passage, along with graduation, that marks the accomplishment of and transition from twelve years of grade school. And it's one more chance to play at being grown-up—or at least the illusion of it—before real life sets in. And these days as kids adopt adult-sized responsibilities and problems earlier than ever, the more time they have to play (and they desperately need it) the better.

For many students, however, real life has already set in, especially those students who are queer. Even today, with increased awareness and many legal equalities now realized, young gays and lesbians still face all kinds of uphill battles.

When I read recently about the Itawamba County, Mississippi school whose board chose to cancel the senior prom rather than allow a lesbian student to bring her girlfriend I saw yet another example of social equality lagging far behind legal equality. Instead of taking the cancellation as a “well, that's life” slap in the face, the student in question, Constance McMillen, has taken the issue to the media, both traditional and social,

attracting the attention of the likes of talk-show hosts Wanda Sykes and Ellen Degeneres, and the American Civil Liberties Union, which is suing to have the prom re-instated.

Now there's a push-back if I ever saw one. (I wonder if she was a Stonewall drag queen in a past life, throwing rocks and bottles at the raiding police.)

It was on the night of my senior prom that I began my coming-out

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process. I took a girl—I didn't have a choice. It was 1985 and I was far, FAR in the closet, way in the back with the mothballs and Liberace. In the late fall, I asked a friend from the drama club to be my date. At the time she didn't have a boyfriend, although I left the option open for her to go with someone else, or change her mind about going with me. Looking back, the bulk of the drama club was my “gang.” Most of us didn't run with any particular crowd and we certainly weren't the most popular kids when it came to sports and other school-measured social strata. We were a small core group of kids who didn't fit in, one way or the other.

The main prom event was a dance preceded by something called “walking up.” Each couple would descend

the main staircase, decorated with flowers and crêpe paper streamers, to music and camera flashes. I watched as the boys I had crushed on and longed for took their turns descending the staircase with their dates. My date and I took our turn and suddenly it was over, all the months of preparation, obsessing over details and being asked, “Who're you walking up at the prom?” culminating in a two minute walk down a set of concrete stairs.

We didn't stay for the dance, opting instead to head to a bar in Summerside, about an hour's drive away. Halfway there I turned to my date and after a number of false starts I said, “You know, I'm gay.” She looked at me, smiled and said, “I know.” With those two reassuring words, from that moment, I knew that I had taken the first step, and even though the path was going to be long, I was going to be okay.

Twenty-five years on and I'm in awe of the courage of young people, their willingness to stand up and be counted. I must admit I'm a little envious of that courage, simply for the years I wasted growing up frightened and alone, but it was a different time and today I'm glad I've been able to play some small role to help bring about a measure of change.

The case of the cancelled senior prom is an indication of push-back from small minds who know their kind of thinking is out-dated and soon to be relegated to the past as a relic of fear and misunderstanding. Despite the setbacks, we're going in the right direction.



Last Month

The question: If an openly LGBT politician was the leader of a major party, and ran on a platform that was against your political views (possible examples: reducing immigration to zero, or reducing military funding to zero), would they possibly still get your vote? How would you decide?

We received nine comments, the predominant theme (with a couple of exceptions) being political values trump the orientation of the politician. Here's what you said:

“No, different political views would be the only reason not to vote for someone regardless of them being a member of the LGBT community.”

“No. I vote for who I find to represent my views the most.”

“Of course not! I don't vote for a leader based on their sexual orientation... although my political values are of the sort that seek to eradicate oppression and injustice towards all minority groups. I would think that having a GLBT politician would be aware of these societal injustices and would stand in the gap for minorities.”

“I would love to vote for an openly LGBT politician but I would not vote for him/her if their political views were drastically going to affect peoples' lives in a negative way.”

“No. Just because a politician was LGBT, it wouldn't guarantee them my vote. If a hetero politician was LGBT friendly and fought for policies that I agreed with, then they would get my vote.”

“I didn't vote for Elsie Wayne when she was running for MP in my riding just because she's a woman. I wouldn't vote for a queer candidate just because they were queer. I vote for people whom I trust to make decisions by the same principles I would use myself.”

“Honestly? I would have to applaud their courage for being out and in the political game, but would vote against them.”

“Yes, they'd still be better than the other choices.”

“Really? Try this... remove LGBT and insert (pick one) Black, Muslim, Communist, Feminist, Asian, vegan, etc. etc.... Through this exercise, I hope you realize how ridiculous your question is. Sexual orientation, colour of one's skin, religion, etc. does NOT matter... it is the ideology of the person. Wow.”

This month's question:

What do you plan to do to mark International Day Against Homophobia (May 17)?

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September 3-5, 2010

www.looseends.ca/bluenosebonspiel

Lay Chaplaincy Services

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

Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw Lay Chaplains
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