

# Wayves

## The P-Word

by Brendan Dunbar

A narrow interpretation of a certain word, combined with a misunderstanding and outright bad reporting, has led to the recent flap surrounding the Halifax Pride festival's media launch.

On June 2 Pride's co-chair Ed Savage was quoted in Metro news as saying, "That's what we strive for, to make it less promiscuous than other Prides across the country.... Our way of life in the Maritimes is different. And we also feel that our allies and our family aspect of Pride is just as important."

Savage made the comment — clarifying the organizing committee's earlier reference about its dedication to "a new professionalism" — to media and sponsors at the official festival launch on June 1. *Xtra*, Canada's largest GLBTQ publication, picked up the *Metro* article

and had its own piece posted online within 12 hours of the event.

In an exclusive interview with Wayves Savage said the *Metro* reporter misunderstood him. "I'm sure he took what I said a little bit wrong... What was said basically is that our festival is known for being less promiscuous" than the Toronto and Montreal Prides.

*Xtra* ran with the story — without contacting members of the Halifax Pride committee for additional comments — electing to focus on the word 'promiscuous' and "make something of it," Savage said.

The Halifax GLBTQ community sometimes feels promiscuity is an issue, he added. Some people believe that Pride excludes some groups as a result.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," he said. The committee wants an all-inclusive

festival. "We welcome everyone. We always have... We've never kyboshed a float. We've never told anybody they couldn't do something in particular."

The media ruckus has raised a pertinent question: What does the GLBTQ community define as promiscuous?

"This whole battle has come down to one word: Promiscuous," Savage said. "Promiscuous' means a lot of different things to a lot of different people."

To those people who were active in the early fights for equal rights, the word pertained to sex and continues to relate to sexual activity. For others, the definition broadens to include nudity or erotic dancing.

Times have changed, and Pride fes-

*Cont'd on p. 3*



Ed Savage at a press conference. Photo by Anita Martinez

## Halifax Dyke & Trans March

By Rebecca Rose

On the Friday of Halifax Pride 2010 nearly 100 people marched through the city behind a brightly painted and glittering banner that read, "This is a March, Not a Parade." This year, Halifax Dyke & Trans March organizers are well into planning another non-corporate, political march for the Friday before the Pride Parade.

The Dyke & Trans March will be held on Friday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. and is open to allies of all identities and orientations. It is being organized by and for queer women and trans people, and seeks to not only celebrate these identities, but to challenge continued oppressions, particularly gendered oppression.

"The way our genders are perceived and the way that people and institutions interact with us based on them create very real challenges, especially for queer women and trans\* people," says Rory Begin, a former coordinator for X Pride, who will be attending the march. "To me, this march is a space for those of us who are privileged, as well as those of us who are oppressed by gender inequities to acknowledge and challenge the status quo."

Recently, the march became even more pertinent given the controversial comments

by Halifax Pride Co-Chair Ed Savage in the June 2 issue of the *Metro*. In an article that celebrated Halifax Pride's professionalism and close relationships with business, Savage was quoted as saying, "That's what we strive for, to make it less promiscuous than other prides across the country."

"It's dangerous and irresponsible to promote the idea that sexual expression should be muted to cater to the palate of a larger community, one that Pride Halifax isn't even supposed to represent," says Jessica Carlie, one of the march's organizers. "This direction seems to be in response to corporate sponsorship. It makes me feel like Halifax Pride is aligning themselves with people who once tried to fit me into a square. Now they want to fit me into a triangle."

Come out on Friday, July 22 with your friends and family, dressed however you like, to catch speakers and performers, and join the march with your own signs or alongside more glittering, painted banners.

Watch the Facebook group "Halifax's first Dyke & Trans March!" and posters around the city for the location and route. For more information on the march or to get involved e-mail [halifaxdykeandtransmarch@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxdykeandtransmarch@gmail.com).

## Rebellious Queers Plan Anti-Corporate Pride Week

By Kaley Kennedy

*This article uses the singular, gender-neutral pronoun "they" and refers to cisgender people, meaning those people whose sex and gender are mostly aligned.*

Following in the steps of other cities, Halifax will have an alternative, anti-corporate queer pride week, dubbed Queer and Rebel Days, this summer from July 1 to 10, the week before Halifax Pride.

"Queer and Rebel Days is a grassroots, DIY, anti-corporate alternative to Pride that provides anti-oppressive and safe spaces to people of all ages, gender, and sexualities. It is a drug- and alcohol-free week of events that focuses on education, skill sharing, and community building," reads the Queer and Rebel Days mission statement.

The decision to organize the week came out of discussions around organizing Halifax's first Dyke and Trans March and an interest to create other alternatives to Pride, says Shay Enxuga, one of the organizers of Queer and Rebel Days. The first Queer and Rebel Days was held in 2009. Many of the organizers this time around attended events for the 2009 week and were interested in holding similar events this year. Several other cities, including Toronto and Montreal hold similar alternative Pride events just before or just after mainstream Pride weeks.

"Queer and Rebel Days is a response to Halifax Pride recognizing that the events of Halifax Pride have a specific focus that privileges certain members of the queer community, being white, cis\* men," Enxuga adds. "[We're]

trying to create a space for other people, for people of colour, for trans people, for people with disabilities, for cis women and queer women, for people who might not feel comfortable or represented in a lot of the events happening at Pride."

Enxuga adds that the intention is for Queer and Rebel days to go along with Pride. The events are scheduled before Pride to ensure that people who are interested can attend both sets of events. The schedule for the week includes everything from political discussions on labels in the queer community to a queer bike repair workshop and ride, and a letter writing event. All events are free, and are open to people of all ages.

"I think the aim of Queer and Rebel Days is to create a space that is safe, but also educational and political. I hope people will come because they want to learn and connect with other people. I want it to be fun, but I also really want it also to build a strong sense of queer community in Halifax."

Enxuga explains that personally, they see the need for a queer community that questions how we understand ourselves in terms of gender and sexuality and is really supportive of queer people of colour, queer people living in poverty trans people, women, and queer people in prison.

So far, response to the week has been positive, but Enxuga encourages people to come out to events and get involved with organising,

*Cont'd on p. 3*

### Pride Schedules

**Fredericton:** August 7-14  
[www.frederictonpride.org](http://www.frederictonpride.org)

**Moncton:** Aug 17-21.  
Parade Day Aug 21  
[www.fiertemonctonpride.ca](http://www.fiertemonctonpride.ca)

**Saint John:** Aug 7-14.  
[www.portcityrainbowpride.com](http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com)

**PEI Pride:** July 2-9  
Parade: July 9 1-2pm  
[www.arcofpei.com](http://www.arcofpei.com)

**Corner Brook:** July 15-17.  
July 16: Pride Flag Raising,  
Pride Park Festival and  
Pride Masquerade Party!!  
[www.cornerbrookpride.com](http://www.cornerbrookpride.com)

**St. John's:** July 18-24.  
Flag raising July 18;  
Parade: July 24.

**Antigonish:** July 10/11/16 (so far!). [rainbow-rising2011@hotmail.com](mailto:rainbow-rising2011@hotmail.com)

**Halifax:** July 17-24, Parade Day July 23, [halifaxpride.com/](http://halifaxpride.com/)

**Sydney:** Aug 5-14. Pride Parade Aug 6, [pridecapebreton.com](http://pridecapebreton.com)

A map of the Maritimes region (New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia) with a large rainbow ribbon draped across it. The ribbon is multi-colored with red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

### Regular Columns

**f** Chef's Corner 16 • Groups & Services 12 • I Am What I Am-herst 7 • Kibitz and Bitch 6 • Last Word 22 • Letters From Cambodia 9 • Looking Both Ways 15 • NSRAP Report 10

**t** Deadline for August issue: Friday, July 1 (first Friday of every month!) [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) • Online: [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca) • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine Rocks! ... and on Twitter: @WayvesMagazine

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# Atlantic Canada News

## Pride Art Show

Swoon Art Gallery in Hammonds Plains, near Halifax, is presenting two shows for Pride: "Happy Hour," by Brandt Eisner and "Recent Work,"

by Michael Stowe. Come join Brandt for a meet and greet reception on Tuesday, July 19, from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m., or view the work anytime during Pride Week. The shows run until Sunday, July 31.

Swoon is located at 1410 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, NS. Call (902) 444-8279 or visit our website at [www.swoonfineart.com](http://www.swoonfineart.com). Hours are Monday to Friday from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m.

## South Shore Pride Dances

The organizers of the South Shore Pride dances in Wileville write: "Please be ad-

vised the South Shore Pride dances have ended. Because of financial troubles and lack of attendance we decided that it was the time to bring them to an end."

## N.S. Gay Straight Alliance Network

The Youth Project has launched its GSA Network, a way for Gay/Straight Alliances across the province



to connect with each other. During the Making Noise! GSA Conference in 2010, students and staff advisors identified wanting a way to share ideas and resources, keep in touch and stay connected. The YP is now offering an online option for these school groups to find each other. The network features a searchable map of Nova Scotia, a profile for each GSA,

a section for events and news (and eventually resources), and an easy online registration.

If you haven't already done so, sign up your Gay/Straight Alliance (and get a free GSA Pride flag!). Watch for information in the fall about the next GSA Conference, to take place this coming November. Check out the GSA Network at [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca).

## Pride Worship Service

It appears that the Halifax Pride Multi-Faith Worship Service will not be held before the Pride Parade this year. In the past Safe Harbour MCC organized the event, something for which we have been extremely grateful. Since the church is not operating at present, nobody has stepped forward to make alternative arrangements.

If you wish a spiritual dimension to your celebration of Pride Week, you are invited to the Integrity Eucharist to be held at the start of Pride Week, July 17, at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Martello

St., Halifax. Integrity is an Anglican GLBTQ and friends group who meet at the Cathedral on the third Sunday of each month. Rev. Dianna Brett-Frye presides and Rev. Alan Frye delivers the homily. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome. Refreshments and conversation follows each gathering.

## Lesbian Mountie Mystery Novel

The Slayer, the first novel in a thriller series by Halifax-based author Nadine LaPierre, will be released in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia on July 16. This highly-anticipated novel has garnered rave advanced reviews and interest from across North America and Europe.

The series is set in Halifax and features Constable Danielle Renaud, a lesbian RCMP officer. Described by some as a psychological thriller, and by others as a "drama shrouded in suspense," The Slayer is a mystery-

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## The "P" Word

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tivals have to change with them. Society's growing acceptance of the GLBTQ population means the need for "in-your-face" tactics is not as pressing. That more lesbian and gay families are attending Pride is another consideration.

"It's about [having] a family-friendly event. People think that's a right-wing statement," Savage said. "That's a fact."

The introduction of Kids Can Enjoy Pride Too — or Kids Can, for short — a play area for children attending the festival, has been universally praised. That the Xtra article would equate 'family-friendly' concessions like Kids Can with 'right-wing' is, in Savage's opinion, "ludicrous."

"Is our liberation all about sex, and do we make it all about sex? We're humans other than our sexual activity," he said. "But it's what we're oppressed about."

Dancing naked at Pride marches has been one way of bringing attention to this societal oppression. "That's what we've had to do in order to be who we want to be... That's not who everybody is in our community."

Part of the organizing committee's role is to strike a happy medium for everyone. In that respect Pride has evolved beyond a political march with chanting. The GLBTQ community has more fights in a broader arena, Savage said. For that reason "I don't think 'promiscuous' should be a charged word."

The festival will continue to embrace everyone, including allies. By excluding them, the GLBTQ community would be doing what the straight community has done to them, in Savage's opinion.

"Speaking for myself, I'm saying that's not okay."

As for the media rumpus, Savage said the Metro reporter's misapprehension is understandable, while Xtra's decision to write an article based on another news agency's reporting is not.

"People took what someone else said as gospel, and I think that's wrong."

## Our Cover

Megan Leslie celebrates Pride 2010 on wheels with her "MP Hammers."  
Photo by Randall Perry, cover design, as always by Cam MacLeod.

## Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca), and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have lots of back issues on line too. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca)!

## Rebellious Queers

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even if they are critical of the week.

"[We should be] really focussing on the most marginalized members of our communities and supporting them, and I don't think there is a lot of representation of those people within the Halifax gay scene and Halifax Pride," says Enxuga.

Anyone interested in being involved with Queer and Rebel Days is

encouraged to check out the Queer and Rebel Days 2011 Facebook page,

or e-mail Shay Enxuga at [gypsy.davy@hotmail.com](mailto:gypsy.davy@hotmail.com).

## Important WAYVES Dates!

**Issue Content Deadlines:** Fridays: Jul 1, Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 7: that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) any time!

**Production Meetings (Halifax):** Mondays: Jul 4, Aug 8, Sep 5, Oct 10: help decide what goes in the next issue, 6:00 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

**Magazine Layout (Halifax):** Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 16: 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're on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month!

## Wayves

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

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

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### Wayves

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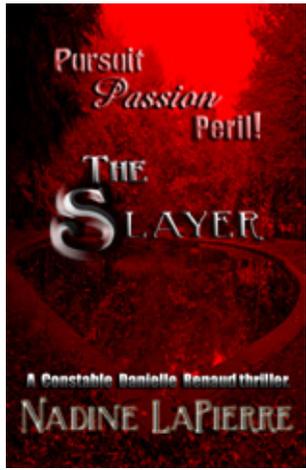
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Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) and tell us where we should be!

# Atlantic News

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romance (we hear there are some pretty hot lesbian sex scenes), or as author Nadine LaPierre describes it on her website, "...a thriller-romance where pursuit, passion, and peril, may not even be about the case!"

Learn more at [www.nadinelapierre.com/books.htm](http://www.nadinelapierre.com/books.htm)

## AA / AI-Anon Weekend

The 23rd Annual Courage Round Up, "Avoiding the Shoals" will be held in Halifax, August 5, 6, 7.

Open to all alcoholics and those



affected by the alcoholism of others, the weekend includes fellowship; speaker meetings and workshop discussions of recovery topics in a relaxed and peaceful setting at the

Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax.

Courage is a small intimate Roundup and always has been. It is the only gay and lesbian AA Round Up in Atlantic Canada and the only one of its kind east of Montreal.

## Pictou Centre for Sexual Health

The Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health, established as Planned Parenthood Pictou County in 1979, has a mission to provide comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in a safe, confidential and non-judgemental manner for men and women of all ages. The Centre for Sexual Health is a pro-choice, GLBTQI friendly organization that serves the towns of New Glasgow, Trenton, Westville, Stellarton and Pictou along with the outlying rural areas.

Executive Director Rayann Toner shared that the Centre for Sexual Health is looking to hear from the GLBTQI community. "We hope to form a working group of volunteers that will identify gaps in services, supports and the overall needs of the GLBTQI community in this region. PCCSH would like to develop programming and resources specific to this community and any feedback and involvement would be greatly appreciated. It is important that the programs created by our organization are in response to what this community has identified as being a need. The Centre for Sexual Health works with men and women of all ages, so both youth, adults and seniors are encouraged to become involved. Anyone who is interested in collaborating and connecting with the Pictou County Centre for Sexual

Health are encouraged to contact us through email, phone, Facebook or Twitter."

The centre's phone number is (902) 695-3366 and its e-mail address is [pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com](mailto:pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com). The working group will start in September, 2011.

## Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Bike Rally

Healing Our Nations fights against the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the Aboriginal Atlantic communities. Our staff has devoted their lives to working to better educate and assist people living with and who are affected by HIV/AIDS. The Public Health Agency of Canada has stated that "The Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada identifies Aboriginal people as one of eight key populations at risk of, or disproportionately affected by, HIV/AIDS."

Healing Our Nations special events coordinator Brittney Francis wants to spread the word and lend support to those people. Join us at noon on July 30 at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth for a bike rally! We will take the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail from there to the Woodside Ferry Terminal and back to create awareness for the public. Together we can make a difference.

## Riding with Pride

By Adam Sterling  
Now that the rain is finally clearing up, it seems safe to say that summer is here. There's no better way to celebrate the warm weather than getting outside and being active. But we all know this can be difficult, especially if you're doing it alone.

Thankfully, if you live in Halifax and own a mountain bike, you have an option that will help you meet great people and keep you healthy and fit.



The Rainbow Halifax Off-Road Mountain Bike Users Society (RHOMBUS) launched this past April as a social riding group for people of all ages and experience levels.

"I hadn't been on a bicycle in a long time and I really wanted to get back into it. But I think the social aspect of RHOMBUS is what really got my attention," says member Wanda. "Getting my blood pumping from the exercise and having chats with great people afterwards is just fantastic. I love this group."

RHOMBUS members ride together twice a week, in both Halifax and Dartmouth. The Halifax ride typically takes place on a weekday evening at Point Pleasant Park, while the Dartmouth ride is on Saturday mornings. The group focuses on trail riding and avoids bicycling in the street when possible.

"I love the social aspect that follows the ride. It is a great way to experience places that I haven't been to before," says Andrea, one of the group's organizers. "The group of people that attend aren't judgemental; if you need to go slow, go slow, if you want to go fast, go fast. It is just a great chance to hang out with some great people while getting exercise."

Founding member Kirk Furlotte helped create RHOMBUS due to

his renewed love of cycling and desire for non-competitive group exercise for Halifax's LGBTQ community.

"I wanted to stay active and I wanted to do it while making friends in the community," says Kirk. "This group really reflects the LGBTQ community's open-

ness. It doesn't matter if you've been biking for years or if you're new to it entirely. Biking is a low-impact activity, so it's great for people of all ages. We just want to have fun while doing something good for our health."

For more information on RHOMBUS, please visit the group's website at [rhombus2011.wordpress.com](http://rhombus2011.wordpress.com).

## Cirque Is Coming To Halifax

Cirque de Soleil is bringing their latest travelling, show, QUIDAM, to Halifax on July 20 - 24. The international cast features 52 world-class acrobats, musicians, singers and characters.

Like all Cirque shows, this one has a tenuous thread of a story: young Zoé is bored; her parents, distant and apathetic, ignore her. Her life has lost all meaning. Seeking to fill the void of her existence, she slides into an imaginary world—the world of Quidam—where she meets characters who encourage her to free her soul.

Also like all Cirque shows, this one has the most physically beautiful people on the planet — from an eerily slender woman who can bend over backwards to form an

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**Come out to the first**

**Friday July 22nd 6:00 pm**

**Location and route TBA!**

**Find us on Facebook: Halifax's first Dyke & Trans March**

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## Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hi Tom,

Okay, so that time of year that I dread is now upon me: strawberry season. I know that you—along with most of my acquaintances—find it odd that I don't like the ripe, red berries, but there it is. The distinctive flavour and smell, that so many find mouth-watering and appealing, leave me cold, and slightly nauseated. Yet, at this time of year, I can't tell you how many times I have heard my host or hostess announce that for dessert we have a really special treat: strawberry shortcake or strawberry rhubarb pie or strawberry cake or strawberry swirl and on and on. I don't really mind not liking strawberries but I do tend to resent the tone of incredulity that enters people's voices upon discovering my shameful secret.

"Really?"

"I've never met anybody who doesn't like strawberries!"

"That's weird."

My favourite is when the voice lowers to a tone of pity: "Are you allergic?"

Sometimes I've actually lied and said I was allergic because somehow this seems to come under the heading of a disability and then people don't try to entice me to try just one, or attempt to dissect exactly what it is that I don't like—flavour, texture etc. It's a bit like the questions about homosexuality: Are you sure? Maybe you just haven't come across strawberries prepared the right way. When was the last time you tried a strawberry? Perhaps it's just a phase. Maybe you'll grow out of it. Did you ever have strawberries forced upon you?

Anyway, let's leave the topic of the disgusting, squishy, red blobs. Another oversweet, over-publicized commodity is these precocious children on TV talent shows. Now, I don't dislike children, in fact I enjoy the company of children a lot when they are natural and unspoiled and fun. I love their freely-expressed creativity, their logic and their ability to give themselves over to laughter from head to toe when something hits their funny bone. What I can't stand are the ones who have become affected and stilted and convinced of their own extraordinary talent and superiority over others.

Case in point was a young girl of eleven that I saw on television today. She has a lovely voice but she emoted so much during her song—clutching her heart, closing her eyes with overwhelming feeling, gesturing so broadly that the back rows of Radio City Music Hall could have seen it—that I felt a wave of revulsion. Does she have talent? Yes. Is she a brilliant new star the likes of which we have not seen for many years (the words of the interviewer)? No. She has the makings of being a very good, maybe even a great singer with training and practice and guidance but she isn't there

yet. She sat there simpering and smirking and lapping up the over-the-top praise after her singing presentation was done. I can't really blame her for believing what she is told. I do blame the judges and parents and ignorant interviewers who are so anxious to create a sensation—and lucrative career for the child and themselves—that they allow impatience to have a louder voice than truth. This eleven-year-old was presented as an opera singer! She sang Andrew Lloyd Webber for gawd's sake, not an aria from Tosca. Has talent become so thin on the ground these days that mediocrity is praised as excellence? The judges on these so-called talent shows are, for the most part, second-rate window dressing to hide the fact that the point of the show is to make oodles of money and to allow the viewing audience, which is in major part pre-pubescent girls and their mothers, the deciding vote in choosing a winner.

I understand the appeal of a firm young—mostly male—auditioner who smiles coquettishly into the camera. My hormones shift into overdrive too on occasion, but I don't confuse sex appeal with musical talent. The internet and reality television have created a crop of commonplace entities who are treated as celebrities and brilliant talents without being given the chance or the experience to develop their abilities.

The other day I hit the mute button during a commercial break and went into the kitchen. When I came back into the room, I saw a picture of an extremely handsome man who oozed sexiness and charm. I nearly fell over the ottoman trying to get to the remote to turn the sound on and discover who this attractive paragon could be. Imagine my dismay when the newscaster revealed that the man I had been drooling over was in fact a serial rapist. It kind of made my attraction to him disconcerting and creepy. I knew I had a certain penchant for the bad boy type but this was too much even for me as I realized that I would have voted for him on Canadian Idol.

Now that I've gotten my ranting out of my system I'm ready for a relaxing evening with GC. He declares that he finds me intelligent and fun and, unlike my attitude towards TV talent shows, I have not the least interest in examining the basis of his judgement.

Love ya!

*Crawford*

## Atlantic News

Cont'd from page 4



arch while another balances on her stomach, to massive men with slabs of muscle for pecs and sixpacks that you could break kitchen chairs on. And yet half of the time, half of the performers are dressed in grotesque or androgynous costumes. Half the time the performers are telling some kind of story; half the time they're obviously not; the other half of the time it seems like you could figure out what the story is, if you were just a little smarter or paying attention a little more.

### Anglicans Approve Marriage

By Barend Kamperman

Anglican parishes in NS and PEI can now choose to bless same-sex unions of couples who have been civilly married. The recent 143rd Synod of the Anglican Diocese of NS and PEI held in Halifax passed that breakthrough decision.

The Anglican Church of Canada is made up of dioceses, each governed by a bishop. Every two years a diocese has a meeting called a Synod, to discuss and vote on important matters. This time many aspects of social justice were in the forefront including human sexuality.

Of particular interest was a motion that Synod requested the Bishop or bishops to issue a guideline defining the process for a parish to discern its position on the blessing of civilly-married same-sex couples. Some parishes, such as St. Thomas, have already passed a motion of support for their rector in responding to the pastoral needs of same-sex couples, including the blessing of their civil unions.

After some heated debate the vote went overwhelmingly in favour of the motion, with strong support from youth delegates. Following that result a solemn silence hung over the room. It was a profound moment for those on both sides of the debate, but for different reasons.

Other motions proposing a roster of parishes and clergy amenable to provide a blessing of same-sex couples and to allow the blessing of committed couples in a monogamous relationship were defeated. Another motion proposing that clergy cease

acting as agents of the civil government in performing marriages was also rejected.

The approval of the blessing of civilly-married same-sex couples is a great advance for GLBTQ Anglicans. Now it is up to the individual parishes to decide if, when and how this new inclusivity will take place.

### Moncton Circuit Party

Modern Vision events recently held a press conference to announce more entertainment and events for the upcoming City Pride Celebration this August 17 - 21. Fourteen DJs will perform throughout the celebration at various venues including Casino NB, Oxygen Complex, I-Rock, Triangles and many more.

Modern Visions is excited to announce that three more celebrity DJs have been signed on to the festival: DJ Pierre Fitch, from Montreal; DJ Billy Lace, from New York City; DJ Tizi, also from Montreal.

Leading up to the festival, Modern Visions will also host a fashion show and after-party on Thursday, July 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oxygen Nightclub. Tickets are \$10 in advance on their website, and \$12 at the door. Fashions will be provided by the legendary John Walke, designer of Superstein, which has been featured in Vogue, Flare, MTV, Globe and Mail and many more media outlets. Following the fashion show a special guest DJ will provide entertainment for the after-party.

A new event has been added to the August celebration: a drag show to be held on August 20 at the Oxygen Night Club. Locals and celebrities will perform in front of a panel of judges and the winner will be crowned the Queen of the City Pride celebration, and will be in the Pride parade the next day. Tickets are now available for \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door.

Alex Roberts, president of Modern Vision Events, is pleased to announce that OUT tv is now a major sponsor and will join the City Pride celebration festival with booths, TV hosts, as well as bringing in celebrities and drag queens.

Early-bird ticket prices have been extended until July 31st for Gold tickets only. There is only a limited number of passes left so get yours before they're sold out. Tickets are on sale in advance only to help prevent with traffic flow at the door of venues.

For more information visit [www.citypridecelebration.com](http://www.citypridecelebration.com) or stop by the office at 376 St. George Street in Moncton.

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## I Am What I Amherst

# Cumberland Pride: Phoenix Rises, Gets Shot

By Gerard Veldhoven

Seems the Amherst area is not quite yet able to organize a new queer group after the collapse of the Cumberland Pride Society. Some of its former members made an attempt to set up Rainbow Rising, a new organization. This attempt failed, though, due to lack of interest and a continued breakdown in communication between former members.

Rainbow Rising did not materialize as a result of a continuing bad rapport between former members of Cumberland Pride. Meanwhile, the funds from the former society have been donated to the Sackville/Amherst chapter of PFLAG Canada. This decision was made after careful consideration. The fact the Sackville/Amherst chapter is a local volunteer organization was of major concern and so the monies will be of benefit to members of the LGBTQ community, their family and friends in this area.

Consequent to this development Pride Week was cancelled. However, a flag-raising at Amherst Town Hall on July 11 at 12 noon will take place. On several occasions it has been pointed out that the Holiday Gay-la at Christmas was such a success and barely four months later a complete failure. Personally, I feel saddened by this failure and I cannot fathom that the group I founded came to such an abrupt end. But on a positive note I

will continue to give support to my fellow queers and who knows what the future holds. Perhaps at one point in time another group will spring out of this failure to coexist and regain the respect needed to operate an organization.

Perhaps by fall may we see a new beginning and be able to resurrect Rainbow Rising. Rather sad to think we make a real attempt to communicate by raising awareness in our community at large, but fail in an effort

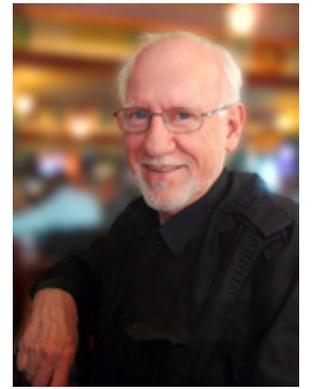
to unite ourselves. This adequately indicates how a few people are able to destroy instead of build.

In another development, news out of Uganda indicates a relief, for now, regarding the Anti-Homosexuality Bill. The Speaker of Parliament ruled the matter would not be heard during the present session. Let us remember that the Ugandan Parliament will resume later this year and the bill could again be brought forward. It has been put on the back burner

for now. We have learned from past actions that many nations in Africa, among others, cannot be trusted and so our queer brothers and sisters remain anxious and duly worried about their future. The time to celebrate is not imminent. In the scheme of things the problems in Amherst seem miniscule in comparison. At least in Canada the queer community has what many nations do not and that is equal rights under the law.

Queer US actor and playwright

Harvey Fierstein said, "Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself."



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## Leander Mendoza In Concert

Menz Bar presents "Leander Mendoza in Concert," a show tunes revue in celebration of Halifax Pride 2011.

Join us at Menz Bar, 2182 Göttingen St., Halifax, on Monday, July 18 from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. Tickets are



\$15.00 at the door, and a portion of each ticket sale will be donated in support of Halifax Pride 2011. For more information call (902) 446-6969 or visit [www.menzbar.ca](http://www.menzbar.ca).

Leander's CD, "In The Moment—The Broadway Album," will be available for sale at the end of the show for \$15.00. Check out his website at [www.leandermendoza.com](http://www.leandermendoza.com).

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## Letters From Cambodia

# Exploring The Kingdom

By Kenny Ingram

Amid the barrage of motor traffic within Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, people who fill these streets have countless stories waiting to be revealed—and this one—takes a closer look at Pride.

I arrived here from Halifax only two short months ago as part of a journalism internship made possible through the University of King's College. As a reporter for the national desk of The Phnom Penh Post, the largest English newspaper in the country, each day is a new adventure as I explore a Kingdom where about 15 million people reside on a land mass roughly 3.5 times the size of Nova Scotia.

As my first submission for Wayves, this piece focuses on the friendship I've formed with a local named Pov and the May Pride Festival.

I met Pov, 24, one hot afternoon when he called out from the shade, asking if I needed a lift. This is common practice in Phnom Penh as people earn cash by working as a roaming taxi, offering up the back (or middle) of their motorcycle seat (I've seen as many as six passengers on one bike).

Pov calls his vehicle a "moto," although it's not actually a motorcycle and this is no motorcycle diary. I rely on him to get around the city every day while seated on the back of his 1986 Honda Super Cub, an aging scooter that sports a speedometer unable to surpass zero and a busted license plate that looks more like an abandoned jigsaw puzzle.

We found ourselves inside a few cafes in May as I interviewed different members of the 2011 Cambodian

Pride Committee for the newspaper.

Pride was an eight-day event, largely funded by the British Embassy in addition to private donations from local and international sponsors, included morning aerobics classes; a LGBT film festival; art shows and a Family & Friends Day retreat to a nearby resort, beginning with a traditional blessing ceremony by Buddhist monks.

While this list of the events is not entirely inclusive, people who are familiar with Pride celebrations elsewhere may have noticed something big was missing: there was no parade.

Srorn Srun, 30, a Pride 2011 committee member and local activist, explained that Pride officially began in Cambodia three years ago, although unofficial one-night parties have been taking place each year since 2004. He said a general consensus remains among planners that Cambodia isn't ready for a public parade, noting that most of the events this year were held in private establishments.

"The rainbow flag and colours were unknown in Cambodia before 2009," he said, directing my attention to a flag draped behind him with Khmer letters written on it with a black permanent marker.

"We wrote a description on the flag so that people will know what it means," he added.

When I asked him if there was any trouble at Pride this year, he cited \$150 USD the committee had to pay local police in order to keep the peace (a detail he asked me to withhold from our local newspaper for fear of reprimand but gave permission to mention herein), in addition to one

fight at a LGBT-friendly bar that was allegedly incited by hate.

Pride 2011 in Cambodia was progressive in other ways; as a large portion of the \$10,000 USD funding was devoted to bringing about 60 LGBT individuals from the outer rural provinces to join festivities held in Phnom Penh, including the cost of transportation, housing and food. Funds also went to translating a variety of documentaries into Khmer, the official language, and hosting workshops in three other cities around the region for the first time.

Aerobics were also a new addition this year as an attempt to extend the reach of Pride, to include people who may not identify with rainbow flags, art, film or bars.

"An important question for Pride planners is how to balance stereotypes," explained Collette O'Regan, also a committee member. "For example, there can be a lot of emphasis on drag queens and to be honest a lot of people go for it. It can be problematic, because we end up capitalizing on some stereotypes when we should be challenging others."

After the stories went to print, Pov opened up the paper to read my work and asked me what "Pride" means. His command of the English language is growing quickly, yet this was a tricky word to define for him under the circumstances.

Confidence and self-esteem were the first two words to slip from my mouth, but Pov still looked confused as I tried to simplify a concept that seems to evade precise definition. I had asked the same question to Srun and O'Regan, recalling they too had very different answers.

Srun, the activist, spoke of fostering stronger alliances throughout



I met Pov, 24, one hot afternoon when he called out from the shade, asking if I needed a lift. This is common practice in Phnom Penh as people earn cash by working as a roaming taxi, offering up the back (or middle) of their motorcycle seat.

LGBT in Asia, pushing for the rights of equality, fair treatment and dignity, celebrating diversity and educating others.

O'Regan said there are many ways to define Pride but for her: "Pride is [about] creating a safe place for LGBT, [including their family and friends] to come together and celebrate in an open way, not in a silent way."

Both organizers said Pride 2011

was "most successful" to date due to unprecedented outreach, improved support from local and international sponsors, along with a record participation level of about 1,300 people.

Acknowledging that the pride parade remains an unrealized "dream" for Cambodia, this ambitious community may have yet to be found openly marching in the streets but they definitely have a story worth sharing.

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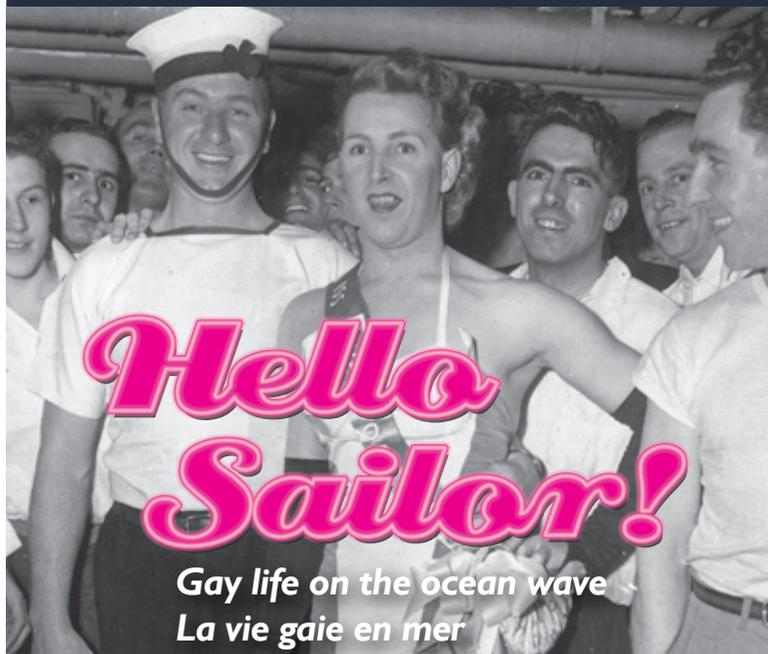
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**Sun Aug 21st - The Parade!!**  
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# NSRAP Educates and Advocates

Advocacy and education are two aspects of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project's (NSRAP) mandate that often intertwine, because one of the most important tools in effective advocacy work is education. This includes educating our own community,

Canadian Forces (CF) members of 14 Wing at CFB Greenwood. NSRAP Chair, Matthew Numer and Executive Director, Lisa Buchanan, were greeted by a large audience of CF members, as well as some civilian staff. The audience was receptive and

brought to the forefront on May 17, the International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia. At this year's annual rally in Halifax, participants spoke about supporting LGBTQ refugees, combating bullying in schools, ending the Canadian Blood Services ban on donations from men who have sex with men, and explicitly protecting transgender rights in federal and provincial human rights legislation.

In speaking at the rally, Halifax Member of Parliament Megan Leslie said, "In the wake of the recent election, I understand the fears of the LGBTQ community, but I am confident that opposition MPs supported by the community will send a clear message to the Government in Ottawa that Canadians will not tolerate intolerance. And the work of great organizations like NSRAP provides further hope for our community."

In June, NSRAP met with Nova Scotia's Minister of Justice, Ross Landry, to discuss amending the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act to include "gender identity" and "gender expression" as prohibited grounds of discrimination. The Minister committed to having the Department of Justice conduct an examination of the proposed amendment, and NSRAP

will continue to work on this issue.

Looking forward, NSRAP is once again sponsoring the TimeOUT Lecture Series held at noon-hour at the Spring Garden Memorial Library during Halifax Pride. This year's lecture series includes "Sex and the

Good Book: What Does the Bible Really Say?" by Rev. Linda Yates, and "Am I Human, Too? Gender Identity and the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act," presented by series host, Kevin Kindred.

NSRAP wishes everyone across the region a very happy Pride season!



L-R: Lori Gordon, 14 Wing Employment Equity Officer; Matthew Numer; Lisa Buchanan; Colonel Seymour; and Lieutenant-Colonel Smith McBride, 14 Wing Administration Officer

various service providers, politicians, and the general public. NSRAP's volunteers serve as both advocates and educators as they work in the community and raise awareness about the many issues facing the LGBTQ community in Nova Scotia and beyond.

Recently, NSRAP was invited by Wing Commander Colonel Bill Seymour to give a presentation to

many had questions following the presentation.

When asked when a situation warrants intervention, Numer appealed to the role of CF members as leaders and their sense of duty in protecting society's most vulnerable.

"That's why we wear the uniform," one member said.

The need for advocacy was

## Theatre For Queer Youth

By Richie Wilcox

This summer DaPoPo theatre presents Acting Out, a theatre workshop for queer youth to be led by three local experienced professionals in the arts and arts education: Garry Williams, Richie Wilcox and Kym Butler. The workshop will concentrate on physical theatre, movement, improvisation, acting, voice, political theatre and professional theatre artists and/or activists local community. Garry and Richie recently got together to chat about the project and talk about the reasons why they started it in the first place.

Garry: What do you think Acting Out will achieve for Halifax?

Richie: One of the main reasons I was excited to do this project is because I truly feel queer youth need safer spaces and environments. Why were you so open in taking this idea and running with it for DaPoPo?

Garry: DaPoPo has conducted two Youth Theatre workshops, which were both fun and very well received. For me, being an artist and being different defined my teenage years, but it had little or nothing to do with perceiving myself as queer. Bringing my love of theatre and art together with my own mature queer identity also seems somehow inevitable.

Richie: I absolutely agree. I should say that my reasoning for doing this project was highly influenced by Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and their youth group in Toronto.

Garry: It's interesting you mention Toronto. What's become very clear to me in the past few years is how there is a queer community that is international. I feel connected to queer artists, and people, everywhere. It's as if we share a very unique experience, whether we live in Halifax, Toronto or Berlin.

Richie: I love that you say "connected." I think Acting Out will help make that connection stronger for the

queer community and, for some, be the first connection and way into the community. I think that's really important. I would have jumped at the chance to be involved in something like this when I was a youth. I think it shows the progress we're making when the Nova Scotia government helps fund a program like this. Just

the fact that people are out in high school is a big deal for me. I didn't feel comfortable enough to do that in my community back then.

DaPoPo Theatre presents Acting Out this July 1-3 and 8-10. The application due date is June 20. For more details, including information on how to apply and tuition rates, please contact [garry@dapopo.org](mailto:garry@dapopo.org).

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JULY 17 - 24

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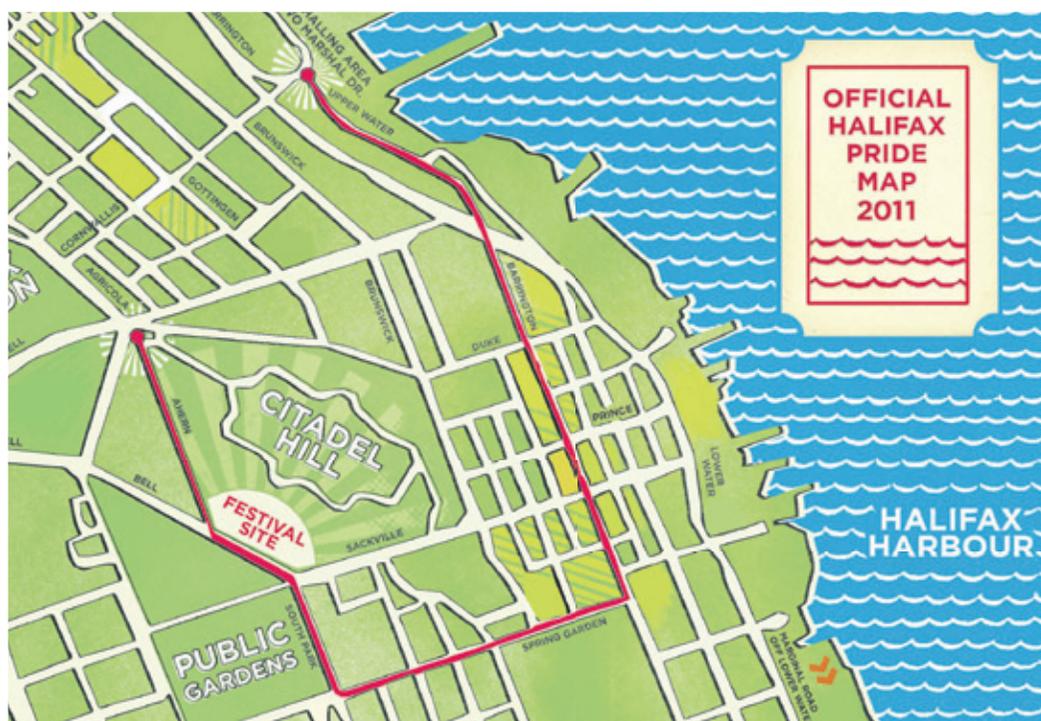
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HALIFAX PRIDE

JULY 17-24

halifaxpride.com

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
July 17, 2011 2PM	Dykes VS Divas Softball Game	Canada Games Diamond at the Halifax Commons	Drag Queens VS the Dykes. <b>FREE EVENT</b>
July 18, 2011 5PM	Flag Raising/Proclamation	Parade Square Halifax	Mayor Proclamation/Reception. All invited to attend. <b>FREE EVENT</b>
July 21, 2011	Pre-Cruise Reception	Casino Nova Scotia	Food, music & fun. <b>FREE EVENT</b>
July 21, 2011 10PM	Boat Cruise	Tall Ship Silva	DJ from Z103 on the Silva, Pride night Cruise. \$20 Tickets available through the Silva.
July 22, 2011 8PM	Friday Night Dance Party	Garrison Grounds Halifax Commons	\$5 dance under the stars with Z103 providing the jams.
July 23, 2011 1PM	Pride Parade	See map.	Family friendly event where all are invited to celebrate their diversity. <b>FREE EVENT</b>
July 23, 2011 3PM	Community Fair, Concert on the Grounds and Kids Can Do Pride Too area	Garrison Grounds at the Halifax Commons	Kids area, bouncy castles, live entertainment and beer tent. <b>FREE EVENT</b>
July 23, 2011 3PM	Pride Concert	Garrison Grounds at the Halifax Commons	4 continuous hours of live entertainment. <b>FREE EVENT</b>
July 24, 2011	Family Picnic	Check halifaxpride.com for details.	BBQ and family friendly events. <b>FREE EVENT</b>



**PRIDE PARADE**

July 23, 2011 at 1PM

Join Halifax Pride 2011 as we take the Pride Parade through the heart of the city. Come celebrate Canada's 4th Largest Pride Parade with over 50,000 of your closest friends. Come be yourself or bring your friends because we are all Better Together!





## HALIFAX PRIDE PRESENTS: SONGWRITERS CIRCLE

July 20, 2011 at 8:00 PM  
Casino Nova Scotia

Brenley MacEachern and Lisa MacIsaac of "Madison Violet" along with Nolan Natasha and Heather Green are gathering to share songs, stories and music in an intimate round setting.

Tickets are \$15 and available through Ticket Atlantic Box Office, online at [ticketatlantic.com](http://ticketatlantic.com) or call 451-1221.



### MADISON VIOLET

Both hailing from Scottish small towns in Canada, Brenley MacEachern and Lisa MacIsaac have chosen another musical path; one that channels their parent's vintage record collection that comprised of the likes of Neil Young and Dolly Parton. Madison Violet came to be nearly 10 years ago after a chance meeting at restaurant in Toronto. Since that fateful meeting, the pair have come into a sound of their own, which has been described as both city-folk and Americana.

Madison Violet are relentless with touring and performing for audiences all over the world. They are popular as show headliners and have also supported acts such as Ron Sexsmith, Chantal Kreviazuk, Indigo Girls, Lisa's brother Ashley and The Temptations and Runrig. From the Montreux Jazz Festival to Massey Hall, audiences have been swooning over Madison Violet's storytelling and songs.

### HEATHER GREEN

Heather Green has been performing in and around the Maritimes since arriving in Nova Scotia. She has shared the stage with such notable artists as: Rose Cousins, Erin Costello, Ryan MacGrath, Ria Mae and more. "Green's music elicited sighs of relieve from the audience after a long day."

### NOLAN NATASHA

Transgender rapper Nolan Natasha captivates his audiences with his meticulously honed knack for lyricism and the ability to take on the most serious topics with cutting humour and clever insight. Nolan has shared the stage with the likes of the Clicks, Rae Spoon, and JD Samson.

## PRIDE CONCERT

July 23, 2011 at 3PM

Halifax Pride presents Jeffery Straker with Kid Akimbo, She King & Halifax's own Perpetual Detour.

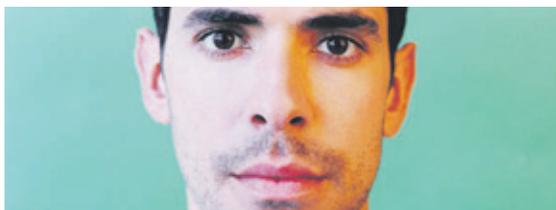
A highly energetic musical stage awaits everyone, four continuous hours of entertainment will include local, national and international musicians. In addition to live musical performances, Halifax's Queens take to the stage in true Boylesque form while Cirque Papillion will provide intermezzo performances.



### JEFFERY STRAKER

Jeffery has just released a new album (June 2011) 'under the soles of my shoes' and has seen songs added at radio in Canada, and is touring the nation in support of the launch. The Chicago Free Press said: "Rufus Wainwright, as well as K.D. Lang are among the Canadians making essential and beautiful music. Add the name Jeffery Straker to that list". Earlier this year, he debuted at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, performed an opening set for R&B diva Jilly Black in Toronto, and recorded a new album on Glenn Gould's piano for release later this year. He has showcased at Canadian Music Week, the Western Canadian Music Awards, and JunoFest and has shared stages with a diverse range of artists including Buffy Sainte Marie, Deborah Cox, Mel C & even...The Village People.

[jeffstraker.com](http://jeffstraker.com)



### KID AKIMBO

The Fun Boyz music video had its broadcast debut on LOGO Television and has since been featured on MTV and VH1.com and various blogs. Valentine's Day marked the release party for the ultra-sexy piece, with KID AKIMBO sharing the stage with acclaimed icon, Amanda Lepore, and New York rap sensation, Cazwell. Recently relocated to New York City, KID AKIMBO was awarded Best International Artist at the OUTMusic Awards in May 2011.

[kidakimbo.com](http://kidakimbo.com)



### SHE KING

King - a male sovereign or monarch; a man who holds by life tenure, and usually by hereditary right, the chief authority over a country and people. She King is officially rebelling. Shawnee's informal blunt and outspoken lyrics of inspiration working with both Michael and Shawnee's catchy dynamic music undoubtedly forms a unique edge, sound and vibe.

[myspace.com/shekingband](http://myspace.com/shekingband)



### PERPETUAL DETOUR

This alternative rock foursome was formed in 2008 and is based in Halifax, NS. They have been compared to the likes of Sarah McLachlan and Jann Arden. Perpetual Detour's songs have been described as thoughtful and engaging. Or, to quote a new fan "the music and lyrics bring out the best in each other". If you have been lucky enough to catch a live performance in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or PEI you know how fun these gals are live! All play multiple instruments and there are sweet 3 part harmonies.

[perpetualdetour.com](http://perpetualdetour.com)

## COMMUNITY FAIR

July 23, 2011 at 3PM

This year's Community Fair is going to be bigger than ever with the addition of our Kids Can Do Pride Too area. We return with bouncy castles for young and old, information booths and great food. Pride Health in partnership with Capital Health and IWK will be fitting children for car seats and sizing helmets in our Kids Can Do Pride Too area. Pride has also secured the children's performance team Razzmatazz. There is truly something for everyone.



HALIFAX PRIDE  
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# QUEER ACTS

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JULY 18-22, 2011

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6:30pm July 18-20  
9:30pm July 21-22

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The Bus Stop Theatre  
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8:00pm July 19-21

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## halifax pride

ATLANTIC CANADA'S LARGEST LGBTQ CULTURAL FESTIVAL

## Looking Both Ways

# Bisexuals Are All Over the Map

By Sara Montgomery

When you are not quite straight but don't feel completely gay, you may have wondered if you are some other orientation.

That said, you could be in a happy and loving heterosexual marriage with a family, in a situation where no one besides yourself has doubted your sexuality. Maybe you have noticed that you have had hot feelings for a same-sex chum. Perhaps you have even fantasized about being alone in the sauna with this friend, and a romantic scene, in your mind, would unfold.

But of course you are not bi. It was just a fantasy and you would never act upon it.

Flash back to 1950 and you are interviewed by Alfred Kinsey, one

of the most famous human sexuality researchers to date; and probably the earliest. Say you were honest to him about your feelings.

I don't think he'd rate you as a "0" which denotes absolute heterosexuality. He also might not rate you as a "3" which Kinsey describes as straight down the middle—gay/straight.

There's a chance you could be rated as a "1." Come to think of it, just think of all the "1"s out there who are so not "out."

This bi columnist has pondered these ratings for herself. I am sure I'm neither "0" nor "6." I'm sexual so I'm not an "X." Well, I'd tell Kinsey I may be floating between "1" and "5" but

if I really had to come up with one number I would say 2.8. Or in other periods of my life could it be more

*Flash back to 1950 and you are interviewed by Alfred Kinsey, one of the most famous human sexuality researchers to date.*

like a 3.4?

You see, out there "on the street," I tend to look at men. Women don't really interest me—when they are strangers. I've loved and lost many boyfriends, probably hundreds.

But, that said.

I have fallen deeply in love with more than a handful of women in

my life, all who started out as friends. The relationships always developed into intoxicating loves.

To complicate it even more, I've had feelings for more than one person at a time. This doesn't mean I'm promiscuous (as bisexuals can be) but I just have had an unusual history in terms of people of the heart.

Alfred Kinsey died 55 years ago in 1956. Have the times changed so much that we find it difficult to give bisexuals a rating? Or maybe it is that some people can describe themselves with a number and some cannot? I do kind of wonder what he'd tell me about my sexuality if he were here today....

### Kinsey Scale

- 0: Exclusively heterosexual
- 1: Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual
- 2: Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual
- 3: Equally heterosexual and homosexual
- 4: Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual
- 5: Predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual
- 6: Exclusively homosexual
- X: Asexual, Non-Sexual

# What Can We Do To Help Refugees?

By Nathan Adams

Many of us have faced challenges for the right to be treated equally, to marry and to live at peace in Canada. Canadians now have most of the same legal rights as all other citizens, and are extended more legal rights than many other nations where homosexuality is legal. But what about the rest of the world? Homosexuality is illegal in 77 countries, and carries the death penalty in five.

David Pepper has spent over 25 years fighting for gay rights in Canada and now has launched the North Star Triangle Project to encourage groups of five to sponsor refugees who had to flee their country because of their homosexuality. David has taken a year off from his position with the Ottawa police to get the word out about the many gays and lesbians who don't have a safe country to call home.

In an interview with the Winnipeg Press, Pepper stated, "I don't want to raise money, I want to raise awareness." Pepper's group of five is sponsoring a gay woman from Colombia, and he's trying to get more groups across Canada reaching out. "I believe that there are gays and lesbians in every town in this country who want to do something for gay refugees in the rest of the world," says Pepper, 48. "If I can help link them up with resources locally, provincially or nationally in a way that helps them contribute with their own aspirations, [then] that in itself will be a goal met."

David Pepper held a seminar at the Crown Plaza in Moncton on June 14. A group of 11 was present including

River of Pride's Paul Leblanc and Greg Leblanc as well as well-known activist, Eldon Hay, and past president of Un sur Dix, Chantal Tanh Laplante.

"My biggest accomplishment in Moncton will be to meet with interested people on the issue of GLBT refugees," says David Pepper. "I have had meetings of all sizes and they are all productive and inspiring. Inspiring

because when we discuss the issue in the community, there is a clear appetite to do more internationally. We have accomplished so much in Canada as GLBT activists (with some work to do of course), but we really have changed our Canadian world. Now it is time for us to change the rest of the world!"

*... when we discuss the issue in the community, there is a clear appetite to do more internationally.*



David Pepper and River of Pride members Paul Leblanc and Greg Leblanc.



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## Chef's Corner



Local strawberries will soon be in abundance and no matter how you prepare them they are by far the best available. This recipe is my twist on the old berries and cream that my nanny Lewis used to serve me as a child Sunday dinners in berry season. Traditionally the berries would be hulled and quartered and sprinkled with a bit of sugar then left to macerate at room temperature for an hour or so, then served up in a bowl topped with sweetened whipped cream. This same recipe can be used very nicely in making Maritime strawberry shortcakes. Just add fresh baked tea biscuits.

### Cabernet Glazed Strawberries & Orange Whipped Cream

Ingredients (serves 4)

1 quart fresh local strawberries (washed, hulled and quartered)	wine you have around the house)	1 Tbsp Cointreau
3/4 cup white sugar + 1/4 water	1 pod star anise (optional)	zest of 1/2 orange
1/4 cup cabernet wine (or any red	1 cup whipping cream	mint pluches for garnish
	2 Tbsp liquid honey	

1. In a heavy 2 qt saucepan, caramelize the sugar on high heat (the water is to moisten the sugar to prevent scorching)
2. When the sugar is browned, add the wine—this will steam up quite a bit so don't lean over the pot. At this point add in the star anise and 1/2 cup of the berries and cook until the berries are soft.
3. Place the strawberry syrup in a blender or food processor and blend. Pass the mixture through a fine sieve to eliminate the little seeds from your sauce. Return to a saucepan over medium-low heat until the sauce darkens to a deep ruby red and clings to the back of a spoon.
4. Cool to room temperature then mix in the remaining berries and set aside while you whip the cream.
5. In a stand mixer, or with hand-held blender, whip the cream, Cointreau, and honey until soft peaks form.

I like to serve this delicious summer dessert in sugar rimmed martini glasses for that extra special presentation. Divide the sauced berry mixture into 4 servings, top with a couple of spoons full of the whipped cream. Then shave orange zest over the top and garnish with the fresh mint.

Chef Darren is Chef de Cuisine and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, Halifax, N.S. Top 100 restaurants – “Where to Eat in Canada” Best Fine Dining – “The Coast” Member of “La Chaine des Rotisseurs” world gastronomical society. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, or online at [www.chives.ca](http://www.chives.ca).

## Queer Artist Appointed as Poet Laureate



them...I'll probably do the first event in the fall.”

Although she is “humbled” and “inspired” to follow Shuantay Grant, she plans on taking a different approach. She plans on using a performance-based “old-time Crier approach” to promote both literacy and the arts. Her goal

is to utilize this platform to work toward bridging gaps in Halifax. “The arts [are] a really powerful tool for social change. It's a position of privilege that I have to do this... and to try and use it wisely, use it compassionately. I want to direct that responsibility somewhere I believe in... and confront some social issues and talk about them within our city.

“Queer issues, queer arts, youth, queer youth, homophobia... advocate for the arts in general in Halifax. There is a lot of segregation between communities here that I would like to talk about. There is a big history with some of that segregation, racially and also culturally. There is some collaboration and bridging that is definitely happening with arts, with cultures. I

just want to continue that.” This ambitious artist manages her own bookings and has several projects/events in addition to her new role as Laureate. She admits that she will have to “work hard to keep things balanced” and that she will have to “say no sometimes” but she also feels confident that she “can

*Cont'd next page*

By Ramona Westgate

It was only in 2000 that Tanya Davis began writing poetry and teaching herself to play the guitar. In a little over a decade, she has released three CDs, a poetry book and has been recognized for her talent in ways that some artists do not achieve in a life time. Her short video poem, “How to be alone,” has over 1.8 million views on YouTube.

In January Tanya had the distinct honour of performing a poem she had written at the opening ceremony of the Canada Games. In the poem, titled “Your heart beats hard the whole time,” Tanya appeared to capture all the possible emotions of the athletes present. She drew inspiration for the poem from her personal experiences as an amateur athlete and shared with me that “...there is also a lot of parallels between the act of performing, whether it's going on stage to give a performance versus standing at the starting line waiting to perform. The anxiety, and the rush, and the pressure.”

When asked where she draws inspiration for her poems and music, Tanya shared, “from everyday life, the people around me, the suffering in the world, the joys, current events, relationships, not just love relationships, the relationships between people, dynamics between people.”

Ironically she describes herself as solitary person or a “lone wolf,” although she seems to have a more honest and pure understanding of individuals, relationships and raw human emotions than most. She describes herself as a creative person with a passion for language, comfortable enough with herself to spend time alone to “carve out time to create things.”

Tanya was recently named as Halifax's Poet Laureate. Her primary responsibilities will be to promote literature and the arts and to create a legacy project. No small undertaking for a short 18 month term. Tanya admits that although she has put a considerable amount of time and effort into her plan of action for her new role, “they are not developed enough yet that I can fully share



# Shelburne Bookshop Gets New Proprietors

by Robin Anderson-Forbes

This is the story of how a small town book store in Nova Scotia didn't close its doors.

For over a year people in the Shelburne county area have been anxiously wondering about the fate of The Whirligig Book Shop. Founded fifteen years ago by Bill and Betty Camp on the edge of the historic district of Shelburne, at 135 Water Street, the Whirligig Book Shop has become a beloved fixture to both permanent and summer residents as it serves as not only a shop of wonderful books both new and old but it also serves as the Osprey Arts Centre's ticket agent. The closest bookstores in the region are in Bridgewater and Yarmouth.

The uncertainty was two-fold: Bill and Betty had put up the bookstore for sale and Bill had been suffering from ill health. After a long and valiant struggle, Bill passed away last year leaving Betty to mind the shop. Many people from around the area wondered whether or not the Whirligig's fate would be like so many other small bookstores across the country. Would there be anyone interested enough to get into the book business in a small town these days? Fortunately there was.

A married couple from Toronto had recently retired to Shelburne, or so they thought. Bernie Brown and David Hill had planned to move from Toronto to a nice quiet retirement in a sleepy little town in Nova Scotia. Bernie was retiring from teaching and David was retiring from being a principal. Also, Bernie was born and raised in Windsor, Nova Scotia and thought it might be nice to come back home. His spouse, David, who was raised in Ontario's Kitchener-Waterloo area, was agreeable to the idea of moving somewhere around the south shore. In the end, like many people from away, "Shelburne picked us," David noted recently.

When the bookstore originally went up for sale, the two had talked about buying it however it wasn't until later when Betty was considering just closing the store that Bernie and David got more serious about the idea. "No one was stepping up to the bat," David observed. "We couldn't stand the idea of it closing."

And so, the two easily likable gay men who can't imagine living anywhere else bought the landmark bookstore in Shelburne. The change-over seems to have gone smoothly. The store was closed for a few weeks but is now back up and running. The layout may have changed slightly but there are still lots of great books, and

if they don't have what you're looking for, they're more than willing to try and get it in. A gentleman buying tickets for Madama Butterfly remarks to Bernie that he's glad the Whirligig is still open and selling tickets for the

Osprey. A couple out walking their dogs stop in to express their delight that the shop won't be closing down. The community sighs in collective relief—life and business continues for a small town Nova Scotian book shop.



The Whirligig's new owners.

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Poet Laureate from prev. page

run them together, meld those (roles) a little bit."

This kind of success does come with some cost. The highly anticipated debut of her feature-length live performance in music and poetry may have to be pushed back to 2012. "I have written the first draft, but it's the first time I have written a one person show... it's a huge learning curve and it needs some more work before I actually take it to the stage." The yet-untitled show was funded by The Canada Council for the Arts, and will undoubtedly be well received.

For more information about Tanya, you can visit her website at [www.tanyadavis.ca](http://www.tanyadavis.ca). In her own words, she accepts commissions on "like the best homework project she ever had" basis. You can purchase copies of her music through [sandbarmusic.com](http://sandbarmusic.com) and her book, "At First, Lonely," is forthcoming from Acorn Press.

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halifax pride  
ATLANTIC CANADA'S LARGEST LGBTQ CULTURAL FESTIVAL



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# How To Take Your Straight Friends To Pride

*Two of the United States' leading advocates for LGBT families and their parents and friends are urging members of their community to invite their straight friends and allies to accompany them to Pride celebrations.*

The Family Equality Council and PFLAG National (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) said Pride presents a unique opportunity to share a positive celebration of the LGBT community and to initiate conversations with straight friends and allies about important issues including marriage equality and family recognition.

"Think of the many straight friends, neighbours, members of our church and co-workers who are part of our lives, who we share a carpool with, or who we stand with on the sidelines of our kids' soccer games," said Family Equality Council Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler. "Although these folks are close to us, recognize our relationships or support our families, we often don't share the other parts of our lives with them. Pride celebrations are the

perfect opportunity to show them why we take pride in the diverse fabric of our community. It's also a chance for us to begin the conversations with them about why we need their active and continued support on our issues—marriage, humane adoption and foster care laws and anti-bullying policies in our schools."

PFLAG National Executive Director Jody Huckaby added, "Through our Straight for Equality work, we see first-hand—in business settings, healthcare facilities, faith communities and more—how the voice of a straight friend or ally can directly impact the life of an LGBT person. In order to help straight friends become strong allies, we need to share not only the realities of day-to-day discrimination and how it can affect LGBT people and their loved ones, but also take public pride in our lives, our experiences, and our families."

Huckaby and Chrisler offered some tips for extending the invitation to straight friends and allies:

## Keep it Casual

Extend the invitation as you would an invite to your home. You wouldn't pressure a friend to say yes, so keep the conversation casual and the invitation friendly.

## Plan the Fun

Your friends may love your company, but they might feel anxious about being a part of a large LGBT gathering. Choose the aspects of a Pride celebration that will be most appealing to them. Whether it's a parade, a booth, or a family picnic, every Pride offers a wealth of events that cater to the kind of experience you would like to have with your friends.

## Set Expectations

Pride celebrations are generally family-oriented these days. A few parades still include folks wearing adult-themed costumes, so talk ahead of time about what they can expect to see and do during your local celebration.

## Go with a Group

Anything is generally more fun when you go with folks you enjoy and feel comfortable around. So invite a few straight friends, two neighbours or a group of co-workers to make the experience more enjoyable.

## Make it a Day

Combine Pride with a backyard barbecue or just stop by the event on the way to another activity. Keep the emphasis on fun.

## Open a Dialogue

Offer to answer their questions about what Pride is, why it's celebrated and how it started as a fight for equality. Use the opportunity to talk about our community's ongoing efforts to secure protections for our loved ones and why we need the support of our straight friends and allies.

## Take No for an Answer

Avoid judging your friends if they decline the invitation. You might feel uncomfortable attending their church service if you're of a different religion, but you would still respect their faith. Sometimes it's the thought that counts.

# Artist Gilbert Bernier

Interview by Nathan Adams

I was born in Toronto, on December 6, 1964. My father worked in construction which got us to move in various places in Ontario. Immediately after finishing Grade 12 in Stoney Creek, Ontario, we moved to my parents' hometown of Grand Falls, NB. The following year I went to Bathurst CCNB to take a course in hairdressing. Twenty-six years later it's still my career. I've been living and working in Moncton since October,

2009.

As a youngster my inspiration for art came from my father, Gil. He would do various sketches that I found fun and intriguing. He passed away in 2001, and I sign my canvases "Gil" in honour of his memory.

I started painting with oil in 2000 with the artist Vicky Lentz, whom I admired for a few years. I then continued with Clarence Bourgoïn for several years, and he's inspired my work with his keen eye. Like most artists I started by copying other artists, but Clarence always encouraged his students to do original work.

I've always been fascinated with human form and as a kid I did many sketch portraits of friends and family. So I attempted to paint nudes. This was and still is a challenge every time. I have no formal art education and I am developing my own distinct style, which is always evolving

from one piece to the next.

I love the beauty in the male physique, as you will see when you look at my artwork. I am a gay man that does mostly paintings of men. If that labels me to be a gay artist doing gay art, then so be it. I love when my work shows sensuality even if it's a piece that may be more sexual. Whether the piece pleases the eye or disturbs it, to me art speaks and brings out emotion no matter if you are admiring it or criticizing it.

Right now, my art is a hobby. If eventually it becomes a career, either part-time or full-time, the world is full of inspiration.



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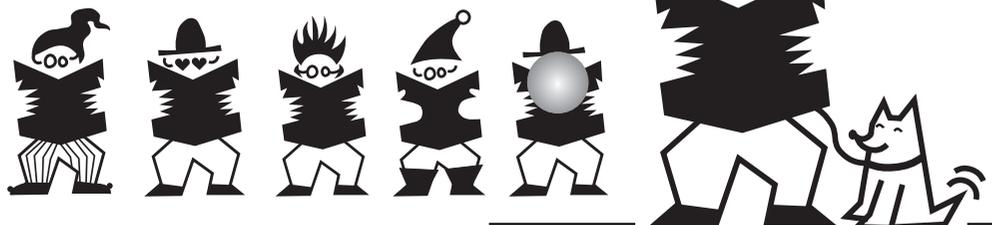
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**ATLANTIC NEWS**

# Coming Out In The 'Chi Part III: Coming Out

By Nathan Adams

*In May, Nathan told us about discovering himself. In June issue he told us about coming out. Then he met Darcy...*

I met Darcy through a mutual friend and we fell for each other. He was the first guy that I met who was very open with his sexuality, the first guy who introduced me to his family as his boyfriend, and the first guy I was comfortable enough with to introduce to my friends.

We fell in love and what we had was so amazing. We soon realized that we wanted to move to the next step, by living together. I got in my car, drove to my parents place, told them that I needed to talk, that I was moving. I remember my mother asking me why and where I was moving to, and I uttered the most difficult thing in my life I ever had to say: "I'm moving in with my boyfriend."

It took a lot of adjusting and even though I am no longer with Darcy (however we are still very close friends) my parents have come a long way. I have their love and respect and I am even comfortable enough

to bring a guy that I'm dating or a boyfriend home with me when I go for visits. I've been living in Moncton since 2005, but it's so great knowing that I have the love and the respect from my family and friends back home and I make it a point to visit every chance I get.

Things have definitely come a long way. I marched in my first Pride parade in 2009 and later became Vice-Chair for Moncton's River of Pride Inc. These days I'm Moncton's Bureau Chief for Wayves magazine.

My only regret is that I wasn't

honest with my friends and family sooner. It was difficult to come out but in the long run it was well worth it. Today I am completely at peace with myself and very proud to be a member of the LGBT community. I found the courage to be me and that is the best feeling in the world.



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Atlantic Canadian Lesbians: 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/](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/)

Egale Canada - Atlantic: (888) 204-7777 email: [egale.canada@egale.ca](mailto:egale.canada@egale.ca) web: [www.egale.ca](http://www.egale.ca)

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transexuals. email: [gender\\_expressions@hotmail.com](mailto:gender_expressions@hotmail.com) (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. 1.800.565.4255 email: [ea@access-wave.ca](mailto:ea@access-wave.ca) (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. email: [denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca) web: [www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews](http://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](mailto:waydo7@hotmail.com)

Names Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt): panels - helping create, and lending. 902-454-5158 email: [larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca) web: [www.quilt.ca](http://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](http://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/xproject/](http://www.freewebs.com/xproject/) at available via web page

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) web: [wayves.ca](http://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. Needle exchange located in office at 65 Brunswick Street Fred. E3B 1G5. 459-7518 email: [jennifer@aidnsb.com](mailto:jennifer@aidnsb.com) web: [www.aidnsb.com](http://www.aidnsb.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](mailto:jamesw@stu.ca)

Integrity: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: [integrityfredericton@live.ca](mailto:integrityfredericton@live.ca) web: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46207976587](http://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](mailto:pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca) web: [www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/](http://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: Spectrum is a social/support group celebrating the diversity of the

GLBTQ community and gay-friendly peoples at UNB and STU. Weekly meetings are open for both students and non-students to attend, and may feature various 'theme' nights from fun and games to more serious current event discussions impacting the GLTBQ community. email: [spectrum@unb.ca](mailto:spectrum@unb.ca) web: <http://www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum/> (Group Meets Fridays at 5:30 pm (subject to change, see webpage for updates)) at University of New Brunswick - Fredericton Campus, Marshall D'Avry Hall, Room 235

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. 506-859-9616 email: [sidaidsm@sidaidsmoncton.com](mailto:sidaidsm@sidaidsmoncton.com) web: [www.sidaidsmoncton.com](http://www.sidaidsmoncton.com) at (506-859-4726 fax) 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

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

River of Pride-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](mailto:riverofpride@hotmail.com) web: [www.fiertemonctonpride.ca](http://www.fiertemonctonpride.ca) (See webpage for schedule.)

Transgendered Peer Support Group : Open to all M2F, F2M, Andro and trans-supporters from across Atlantic Canada. email: [be\\_tgmoncton@live.com](mailto:be_tgmoncton@live.com)

Un sur Dix - University of Moncton Association for the LGBT community and their allies (not only for students): The mission is to ensure the well-being of the community and to end homophobia (mainly a french association, but also organizes some bilingual activities). For more information, please visit the website. email: [unsurdix@umoncton.ca](mailto:unsurdix@umoncton.ca) web: [etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix](http://etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix)

### 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](mailto:info@gngnb.ca) web: [www.gngnb.ca](http://www.gngnb.ca) (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See [www.gngnb.ca](http://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

Catalyst: Catalyst, Mount Allison'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](mailto:catalyst@mta.ca) web: [www.mta.ca/clubs/catalyst/](http://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](mailto:catalyst@mta.ca) or the Students' Administrative Council at [sac@mta.ca](mailto:sac@mta.ca).)

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: [jhammock@mta.ca](mailto:jhammock@mta.ca), meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street in Sackville, NB

### Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: invites you to worship!. 506-634-8288 email: [cqsunited@nb.aibn.com](mailto:cqsunited@nb.aibn.com) web: [www.cqsunited.ca](http://www.cqsunited.ca), meets every Sunday

(10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS Saint John: To improve the quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the spread of HIV through education and a needle exchange program. Call the office for details. 652-2437 email: [aidssj@nb.aibn.com](mailto:aidssj@nb.aibn.com) web: [www.aidsaintjohn.com](http://www.aidsaintjohn.com)

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: [www.portcityrainbowpride.com](http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com), meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St. Saint John New Brunswick

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](mailto:saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn](http://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](mailto:events@portcityrainbowpride.com) web: [www.portcityrainbowpride.com](http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com)

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: [cqsunited@nb.aibn.com](mailto: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 web: [www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective](http://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](mailto:richardb@nbnet.nb.ca)

## Newfoundland & Lab (709)

Frontrunners Newfoundland and Labrador: Running/walking club. 722-5791 or 753-9529 email: [tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net](mailto:tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net), [jennifer.mccreath@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifer.mccreath@yahoo.com) (meeting times can be flexible to accommodate new runners.)

### 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](mailto:info@acnl.net) web: [www.acnl.net](http://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](http://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: [lbgat@munsa.ca](mailto:lbgat@munsa.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!

LBGTQ Youth Group: A monthly gathering for queer, allied, questioning, and any interested youth. We offer social events such as bowling, movie nights, and coffee houses. Contact group coordinator Rob Sinnott at the number listed, email, or visit the web page for more info. 699-0509 email: [lbgatq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org](mailto:lbgatq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org) web: [nlsexualhealthcentre.org](http://nlsexualhealthcentre.org)

PFLAG Canada: Monthly Chapter

meetings, support and information. 699-0509 email: [stjohnsni@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:stjohnsni@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://www.pflagcanada.ca)

St. John's Pride Inc: The officially-registered non-profit Pride company for St. John's. email: [stjohnspride@yahoo.ca](mailto:stjohnspride@yahoo.ca) web: [www.stjohnspride.org](http://www.stjohnspride.org)

## Nova Scotia (902)

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](mailto:info@HepatitisOutreach.com) web: [www.HepatitisOutreach.com](http://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](mailto:Program@HepatitisOutreach.com).

SUNS GLB Constituency Committee: 494-6654 at c/o the Students' Union of NS

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society: email: [tpineo@hotmail.com](mailto:tpineo@hotmail.com)

Venus Envy Bursary Society: An annual award open to all women studying in NS. web: [www.venusenvy.ca/halifax](http://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](mailto:shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca) web: [cumberland-county.cfh.info](http://cumberland-county.cfh.info) (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive (Side entrance). Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms.

The Cumberland Pride Society: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5143 email: [cumberlandpride@hotmail.com](mailto:cumberlandpride@hotmail.com) web: [cumberland-pride.sytes.net](http://cumberland-pride.sytes.net), meets 3rd Monday (7-9 PM)

## Annapolis Valley

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: meets on a regular basis for coffee and talk, hosts a monthly dance when attendance permits. 825-3197,363-2055 email: [menembracingmen@yahoo.ca](mailto:menembracingmen@yahoo.ca) web: [faceitwithpride.tripod.com](http://faceitwithpride.tripod.com) (email or call for locations or special events or themes)

## 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 - AAHA!". email: [antigonishrainbowwarriors@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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@NS-SexualHealth.ca](mailto:LunCo@NS-SexualHealth.ca) web: [www.theSHaC.org](http://www.theSHaC.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.

## Halifax

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

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. Provides direct service and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and also offers various prevention programs across

NS. You can reach us locally to HRM at 425-4882 or across the province at 1-800-566-2437. (902)425-4882 email: [acns@acns.ns.ca](mailto:acns@acns.ns.ca) web: [www.acns.ns.ca](http://www.acns.ns.ca)

Alcoholics Anonymous: Live & Let Live AA Group for LGBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: [courage449@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:bedfordunited@eastlink.ca) web: [www.bedfordunited.com](http://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. June 13 to around September 12 we have one 10 am service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

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

DalOUT: DalOUT is the award-winning LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University. We pride ourselves on hosting fun, engaging and educational events for the entire Halifax community. email: [dalout@dal.ca](mailto:dalout@dal.ca) web: [www.dalout.ca](http://www.dalout.ca), meets 2nd Thursday, and 4th Thursday (from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.) at the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave., Room 321)

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

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

Get Out, Halifax!: Recreation activities (team activities, cycling, running, rowing - you name it) for metro & beyond!. web: [www.getouthalifax.ca](http://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. web: [www.girlish.ca](http://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@yahoo.com](mailto:hal-gal@yahoo.com) web: [groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal/](http://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. Everyone welcome. Confidential and non-judgmental. 455-9656 web: [www.HSHC.ca](http://www.HSHC.ca)

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

Integrity: Integrity is an organization of GLBT Anglicans and their friends, to encourage Christian gay men and lesbians in their spiritual life; to support the Church in its commitment to seek and serve Christ in all people; and to reach out to the GLBT community in Christian love and service. (902) 425-8383 web: [www.integritycanada.org](http://www.integritycanada.org), meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at All Saints Cathedral Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Koinonia is an ecumenical faith community offering open membership, equal marriage, practicing bible, church, religious and soul freedom, as well as open table communion. Koinonia offers Spiritual Care, Crisis support visitation and counselling for an honorarium. ALL are Welcome who celebrate God's Covenant to Love All of God's Creation. We are a regis-

tered charitable organization accepting donations from all who believe in the promotion of our all-inclusive community of faith. Contact Rev. Elaine @ 902-876-8771 for more information, or mail your contribution to 2410 St. Margaret's Bay Road Halifax N.S. B3T 1H1 with your name and address so we can issue your tax receipt. 876-8771 email: koinonia@eastlink.ca (we gather bi-weekly at 12:30pm - 1:30 followed by a time of fellowship) at Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre, Maritime Centre - entrance on the corner of Barrington & Salter Streets

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

MomSquared: CALLING ALL LESBIAN MOMS. I know you're out there! A group for lesbian moms to connect and provide support and friendship to each other as well as friendship and interaction for our children. email: ilovemy2moms@gmail.com web: momsquared.weebly.com

Mount Pride: LGBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@mountstudents.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 245) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Roseria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LGBTQ community events to be involved with and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: NSRAP, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: for 15 years the leading advocate for Nova Scotia's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community. Fostering change in our communities through education, outreach, and political action. 444.3206 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrp.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. These meetings are open to all. For more information please feel free to contact Michelle Malette by phone or email. Hope you'll join us! 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month from 6:30 -8:30 pm 902-431-8500) at Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St, Halifax

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

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

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 Masculine Spectrum: is a new support group for all transgender, transsexual, & trans men, FtMs, female assigned at birth genderqueers, two-spirited, intersexed, & questioning people 18 years of age or older, of all sexual orientations. No significant others, friends, family, or allies please. web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/genderspectrum/, meets 2nd Sunday at Just Us Cafe, 5896 Spring Garden Road

The Youth Project: Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and Health nurse on site. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (Please see our website for an up-to-date calendar of events.)

Trans Family Nova Scotia: Trans Family is an open & supportive space welcoming families, friends and allies as well as trans and genderqueer folk themselves. If you are unable to join us at a meeting for any reason, we can you help source resources and refer you to other appropriate organizations to help meet your needs. For more information, please feel free to call or email Michelle. 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: Youth Health & Support Centre. Information and services for sexual health. Ages 13 - 30. 679-1411 web: thereddoor.ca (Monday to Friday 2pm to 6pm) at 150 Park Street

## Lunenburg

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

## Middleton

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

## New Glasgow

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: Providing comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in a safe, confidential and non-judgemental manner for women and men of all ages. PCCSH is affiliated with the Nova Scotia Association of Sexual Health and the Canadian Federation of Sexual Health. They are a pro-choice and GLBTQQI friendly organization. 695-3366 email: psexualhealth@hotmail.com web: www.pictoucountysexualhealth.com

Pictou County Women's Centre: Offering Individual Support Counselling and Crisis Intervention, Information and Referral, Advocacy and Accompaniment, Programs and Community Education. 755-4647 email: pcwc@womenscentre.ca

## 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/2241849495

## Sydney

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms! Queer Advocacy and Education, Needle Distribution, Food Bank, Coffee, Safe Space for those infected or affected. (902) 567-1766 Toll Free 1-877-597-9255 email: christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Monday and Tuesday each week from 8:30 to 4:30 and Thursdays from 8:30 to Noon. Check our Website for events and updates. ) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 1G6

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbusu.com (Monday to Thursday 8:30-5 or by appointment) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

PFLAG: Peer support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. No meetings for June, July or 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

Central Nova Women's Resource Centre: Resources, programs and services available for all women identified women. Advocacy and support - with outreach to rural areas. Also, see our Facebook group. Central Nova Women's Resource Centre http://cnwrc.weebly.com, cnwrc@eastlink.ca 535 Prince Street, Truro, NS B2N 1E8 (902) 895-4295. web: cnwrc.weebly.com

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 (Centre Hours Mon-Thurs 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive, Truro Nova Scotia

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

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: lyoung@nsac.ns.ca (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

## Wolfville

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

## Yarmouth

South West Nova Pride: GLBT of any

age are invited, we meet as a social gathering and peer support group on the 2nd last Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Beacon United Church parlour 25 Beacon St. Yarmouth. We are not church affiliated. 645-2914 email: jackanddan@eastlink.ca web: SWNovaPride.com

## Prince Edward Island (902)

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

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

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pei@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca (Meetings take place on an as needs basis.) at Check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.

## Charlottetown

AIDS PEI: AIDS PEI offers HIV prevention and support services to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 375 University Ave, Unit 2, Charlottetown PE, C1A 4N4

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

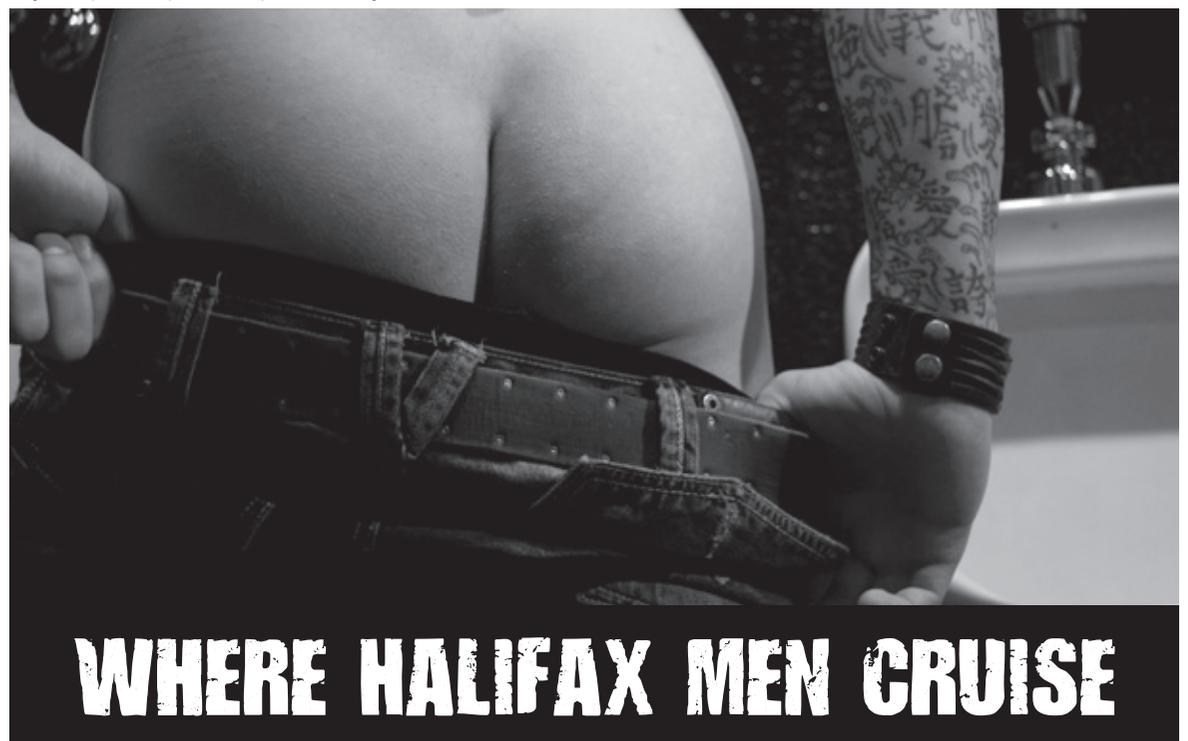
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## The Last Word

# Let Us Now Praise Men in Uniform!

By Randall Perry

A while back I read an article that asked, “Who was your first gay crush?” Thinking back a long way I can’t recall one single crush that I would consider my definite first. My childhood was one steeped in imagination largely informed by books and the two channels—CBC and ATV—which we received off the antenna on the roof of the mobile home my family lived in after a move back to the Maritimes from Toronto.

I devoured Hardy Boy books by the dozen and flip-flopped my taste for blonds and brunets when my affections swung from Joe to Frank and back to Joe. I also watched as much television as I could. I had a thing for Alan Carter of “Space: 1999”—it was Nick Tate’s Aussie accent and the chest hair that curled seductively out the collar of his shirt (thank you, Rudi Gernreich!). I occasionally rescued Captain Kirk from his working-over by warping gangs of green space sluts

and we hung out.

One thread that seems to bind then and now is my love of a good man in uniform. And 1970s television had plenty of them.

It all began with “CHiPs,” “Emergency!” and “Hawaii Five-O.” As a boy I spent my Friday nights in front of the television watching hunky actors play equally hunky paramedics, firefighters and cops. By the time I reached grade six I had had cyclical crushes on all the major stars of the uniformed dramas of the 70s. I daydreamed of roaring down the sun-baked California highways with Erik Estrada and Larry Wilcox. I rode shotgun in Squad 51 with Randolph Mantooth and Kevin Tighe, ready to fight fires and save lives. I outwitted international crime bosses and spies alongside Jack Lord. My boyhood role-models were these men in uniform. I decided that when I grew up I wanted to wear a uniform as well so I could hang out with at the fire station

and the police precinct. It was all as innocent as can be. Hero worship, pure and simple.

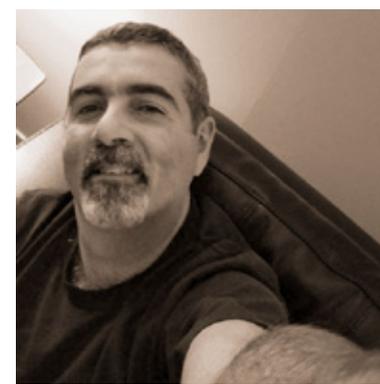
With the passage of time I realized the uniforms were mere costumes, the people merely characters on television played by actors with other lives and concerns. I grew up and put aside childhood ambitions, yet my fondness for the man in uniform and his image persisted.

Being surrounded by men in uniform is easily done in Halifax. I do it almost without thinking. Every year at Pride I take hundreds of digital photos—when I get home and go through them I realize a good number of them are of members of the Halifax Regional Police along the parade route. I bought a Halifax Firefighters calendar for 2011 and I think I’m going to end up staying on the month of April all year. When I broke my ankle several summers ago the paramedic who wrapped my plaster cast was such a gorgeous thing

I considered breaking my other ankle just so he could take further care of me. I have a thing for several hot Metro Transit bus drivers, looking irresistible in their trim blue and grey duds—now that it’s shorts season I’m more inclined to sit up front and look. Admiringly.

And, of course, Halifax is a port city and it’s always full of servicemen.

There’s a basic, archetypal masculinity that comes with the image of the man in uniform. Strong, fearless, manly. It’s the stuff of many a porn cliché, rarely captured with any degree of realism on the video screen. Here, too, it’s about costumes and characters, albeit delivered in a format that would never be suitable for network television on a Friday night. What I find ironic is that many of the services that give us such uniformed men can also be fraught with homophobia. So many gay men idolize—even worship—the very hyper-masculinity that is sometimes fearful of such



admiration.

I say to all men in uniform: don’t fight it. Embrace the sexy. We all know you have a job to do and you do it well. Don’t mind me and my ilk when we smile at you, chat you up and hope maybe for something more. Remember your own childhood and recall the feeling when you might have worshipped the same kinds of heroes, the ones created by a television writer. The heroes that you yourselves have become.

You know me... I’m always up for a little rescuing.

randall@wayves.ca

## Did The Halifax Pride Co-chair Goof?

By Jane Kansas

Recent remarks by Ed Savage leave me pissed and sad. Savage is the co-chair of the Halifax Pride Committee; at the launch for this year’s festival he said, “That’s what we strive for: to be less promiscuous than other Prides across the country.” He said some other surprising stuff, but that there is what has shocked the holiest hell out of me.

We strive to be less promiscuous?

Who is the \*\*we\*\*? Is it members of the Halifax Pride Committee? Local LGBT people? All the solid pirate people of the Maritimes?

It feels like Ed Savage wants us all to be tame and tolerable, white bread laced with vanilla: harmless, sexless, good gay neighbour characters like Jim and Jim in *American Beauty*. It feels like Savage thinks we are all rogue elephant sex addicts, liable to

go off at any time. As if we should all keep our dicks in our pants and our tits in our shirts.

The history of repressing queer sexuality is long and terrible. At one end of that continuum, there is the horrific ways queers have died because others don’t want us to live and love and make love. There are the names we know: Brandon Teena, the transsexual who was raped and murdered; Rebecca Wright, murdered on the Appalachian Trail; Matthew Shepard, tortured, tied to a fence, abandoned. Then there are the names we don’t know.

Further along the continuum are those of us who because of intimidation or fear or inculcation, never, ever, not for a single moment, get to touch a single square inch of the flesh we desperately want to touch. It is ineffably sad to think about the

untold, unsung lives of millions of men and women who never had or will never have the chance to act on their attractions, to fuck passionately who they wish to, to float in the grace and warmth of love and body. How many people have ended up living their lives as straight or as celibate, after being prodded towards being less promiscuous?

And finally, those of us, lucky enough to be living gay, maybe with partners, maybe alone, and not able to ask for what we want sexually because

we got the message that what we want to do isn’t nice, or worse than not nice: not to be tolerated.

It’s a very, very, very ugly continuum. At one end there’s torture. Death. At the other there’s sly soft suggestion: Be less promiscuous. Be a good gay. Don’t fuck so much.

You have the right to fuck. The rest of nature fucks and sweats and oozes all the time. Look at dogs humping. Think of dragonflies locked in flight above a cool lake. Even the tulip and iris open and

open, spread themselves, wait for the fuck. Look at the fingers of a high hard rocky coast, fucking the froth of the sea. Look how the sea pounds herself into the rock. Or how warm soft swelling salt water laps at the beach, and the sea and the beach rock with each other in the slowest longest gentlest fuck. You too were made to spill and ooze and fuck, to cry and whimper and laugh right out loud, as loud as any rutting animal, as softly as the cunt of a tulip.

Don’t let anyone tell you different.

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Wishing Everyone A Very Happy

# PRIDE WEEK

**FRI. JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> - CANADA DAY PARTY**

Dancing w DJ Nick Nonsense.

**THU. JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> - DAVID & DARRYLL'S B-DAY BASH**

Free Pizza, Cake, Door Prizes & DJ Legacy!

~ **Happy Hour Prices On All Moosehead Beer - July 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>** ~

**FRI. JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

- Pre-Pride **RAINBOW PARTY**

Door proceeds in support of Halifax Pride.

**SUN. JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> TO SUN. JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

- **QUEER ARTIST EXPO**

Featuring work of local GLBTI artists.

**SUN. JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

- **PARTY & FREE BBQ, 5-8 PM**  
Dykes vs. Divas' Post Ball Game

- **VELVET ROPE BOYLESQUE SHOW, 9-11 PM**  
w Rouge Fatale. \$15 Cover.

**MON. JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> 8-10 PM**

- **LEANDER MENDOZA IN CONCERT**  
- A Show Tunes Retrospective  
[www.LeanderMendoza.com](http://www.LeanderMendoza.com)

**TUE. JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> 10 PM - MIDNIGHT**

- The Pride Playoffs:

**SO YOU THINK YOU GOT TALENT**

All weekly winners compete for \$300 prize.

**WED. JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 9:30-1:30 PM**

- **PRIDE KARAOKE w DJ Bear**  
Extra Prizes & Extra Songs!

**THU. JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 7:30 PM**

- **DAPRIDE CAFÉ - Queerer Than You Think!**  
'Theatrical Treats Tailored to Taste.' \$5 Cover.
- **NO COVER DANCE PARTY, 11 PM - CLOSE**  
w DJ Legacy & Miss Elle Noir.

**FRI. JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

- **OUT OF TOWNER PARTY w DJ Bear**  
Best Ass Contest @ Midnight w Miss Elle Noir.  
\$100 Prize.

**SAT. JULY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

- **PRIDE WHITE PARTY w Sonny D**  
White dress code encouraged.

**SUN. JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> Noon - 3 PM**

- **Manna for Health SURVIVOR BRUNCH!**  
Suggested Donation \$10 (a worthy cause!).

\* Check the Menz Bar web site for details.

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## Halifax Pride 2011

Plus more inside:

Queer & Rebel Days + Dyke & Trans March!