

Wayves

Leslie on Layton

by Megan Leslie

There has been an outpouring of emotions since the passing of Jack Layton on August 22. Jack made a deep and lasting impression on Canadians with his passion and principles, and by giving them the optimism that the political world could strive for a more respectful and balanced tone.

Jack was able to accomplish so much during his time in the House of Commons, tackling the issues that most defined him: environmental protection and prevention of climate change, stopping violence against women, rights for members of the rainbow community, and pushing for a national housing and homelessness strategy.



Megan Leslie

He made equity and justice the core of his approach to politics and this served as a rallying cry for many people, including myself, to become a part of the progressive movement, starting when he was a Toronto city councilor and continuing to when he became Leader of the Official Opposition.

A few people have asked me about how the progressive movement will continue without Jack amongst its most respected and visible leaders. How will we finish the work needed to establish social, economic and environmental justice for all Canadians?

The answer can be found in the results of the federal election and the amazing diversity of Canada's new Official Opposition. On May 2nd, Canadians from around the country elected an Official Opposition with more women and persons of colour than ever before in history, and MPs from across all generations.

Having Canada's diversity represented in the House of Commons will help ensure that policies and laws are created that reflect the needs of all Canadians. The voices and experiences of these MPs will resonate in the House of Commons, bringing a first-person voice to debates on legislation, and in the efforts to rally community support around the country on important initiatives.

Intergenerational equity is the new dynamic in Parliament, where, with the insight, experience and support of older MPs, dozens of MPs in their 20s and 30s now have an opportunity to help set policies and make laws that are forward-looking, particularly on issues like the environment and post-secondary education.

It is very exciting that the NDP now has a queer caucus of four out-and-proud NDP MPs and a team of strong allies who are committed to improving the lives and experiences of queer-Canadians across the country, to ensuring that rights are respected, and to combating homophobia and transphobia.

Now more than ever it is time for community to organize and mobilize. We need to tell this government what Canadian norms are,

what is acceptable and unacceptable. We need to make demands, but we can only do this together, as communities organized around geography or values or commonalities.

We need to mobilize across this country and ensure that our voices are heard on issues important to the rainbow community like refugee status for people threatened, because of their gender identity or sexual orientation, with violence and discrimination in their country of origin; foreign affairs policies with other countries that demand respect and dignity for all; and legislation to secure the rights of trans people here in our communities.

Together, we are the progressive movement, and together we will make Canada a better place for all of us now, and for future generations of Canadians.

It's hard to say it any better than Jack did, so I'll end with his words: "My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."



Jack Layton dances on a float in the Toronto Pride Parade 2010.

Stoffer on Layton

by Peter Stoffer, MP, Sackville-Eastern Shore

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the loss of Jack Layton – our friend, our mentor and our leader. When I heard the news of Jack's passing, my thoughts turned to Olivia, his wife and fellow Member of Parliament, and his children. Your words of condolence and support have meant a lot to his family and the New Democratic Party and I want to thank everyone who took the time to write, call, or drop by our community office to offer your sympathies.



Peter Stoffer

In the months to come, there will be those who will try to convince us that the political left in Canada will enter a "dark age" without Jack's leadership. But in the last few days of his life, Jack penned a remarkable letter to Canadians that offered a roadmap for moving forward. The letter was personal and poignant and full of hope.

In his letter Jack said, "There will be those who will try to persuade you to give up our cause. But that cause is much bigger than any one leader. Answer them by recommitting with energy and determination to our work. Remember our proud history of social justice, universal health care, public pensions and making sure no one is left behind. Let's continue to move forward. Let's demonstrate in everything we do in the four years before us that we are ready to serve our beloved Canada as its next government."

So while our party grieves his loss, we must also follow Jack's words, and adapt to a new reality without him. Jack trusted that New Democrats would continue to move forward

and always believed that the party was much more than just him - much like the saying that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

It would be a great disservice to Jack's memory and his lifetime of work if we were to believe that Canada's left is entering a dark period. While we will certainly experience the difficulty associated with sudden change and some troubling times ahead as we select a new leader and consolidate our team, we must continue in our work for social justice, a cleaner environment, better health care, secure pensions, and a better future for our children.

A few years ago, Jack and I had the honour of meeting with the Vice-Admiral of the Maritime Command, now the Royal Canadian Navy, in Halifax. Jack always had a deep appreciation for the men and women who serve in the Canadian Forces and spoke to the Vice-Admiral about the sacrifices that these men and women willingly make for this country. In turn, the Vice-Admiral took a moment to thank Jack and Canada's other political leaders, for their service to Canadians. This meeting cemented what I knew to be true

about Jack – that he had exceptional leadership qualities and an ability to connect with Canadians from all walks of life. While no one can ever replace Jack, New Democrats will push ahead in the spirit of Jack's vision for a better country. Perhaps Jack's greatest gift was leaving Canadians with his message of hope and the idea that a better world is indeed possible. In his final letter he said, "All my life I have worked to make things better. Hope and optimism have defined my political career, and I continue to be hopeful and optimistic about Canada. "He was so proud of his new caucus members, his colleagues, party members, and of the thousands of Canadians he worked with over the course of his career. His now famous words about how "love is better than anger, hope is better than fear, optimism is better than despair," was his way of passing the torch to all of us as we continue in our work for a better world.

He told us that it was his hope and optimism, not fear and despair that helped him get results. Now is the time for us to take up his torch and honour him by working for the more progressive Canada we want.

He left us these words to remember and live by, "So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."

Regular Columns



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Deadline for November issue: Friday, October 7 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca • Online: www.wayves.ca • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine Rocks! ... and on Twitter: @WayvesMagazine

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Also see Matt Alber in concert
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Atlantic News



Menz Now Menz & Mollyz

Menz Bar at 2182 Gottingen Street in Halifax has a new name: Menz and Mollyz.



Menz and Mollyz is a name which better reflects its role in Halifax as an all-inclusive LGBTQI destination. Menz and Mollyz continues to evolve and create an environment which supports all aspects of our community.

Spaces in Menz and Mollyz have been used by community members such as NSRAP, Halifax Pride, Pride Health, DaPoPo Theatre, Pink Velvet Burlesque, Boylesque, Manna for Health, Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Healing Our Nations, ISCANS, Youth Project, ACNS, East Coast Rainbow Softball Association, Loose Ends Curling, Bluenose Bears, Dal Out, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Atlantic Chapter, Mac Leather, Tighrope, Wayves, Gaze, She-Dogs, OWLS, Queer Artists and many other individuals and groups.

Menz and Mollyz will continue to help the community do its work and raise the funds which enhance queer life in Halifax.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Fridays: Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2: that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax): Mondays: Oct 10, Nov 7, Dec 5; help decide what goes in the next issue, 6:30 PM, Blowers St. Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Oct 16, Nov 13, Dec 11: help build the paper—no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours, helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

We're on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month!



Grand Falls Firsts

The 91st Annual Labour Day Parade in Grand Falls-Windsor not only marked the first time a current Premier marched in a Labour Day parade, but it also marked the first time that a GLBTQ group marched as well. On September 5, 2011, nine people marched as members of the GLBTQ Pride and Support Group Central Newfoundland. They have received tremendously positive feedback, not only from the group but other marchers, event organizers and government officials such as the town council, MP, MHA and the community as a whole. Special Thanks to

Kyle Sheppard who organized getting our group into the Parade and for organizing the creation of the banner!

Email us at glbtq.centralnl@live.ca or by searching GLBTQ Pride & Support Central Newfoundland on Facebook.

Sex Now 2011

We've launched! Community Based Research Centre is proud to announce Canada's Unofficial Gay Census: Sex Now Census 2011.

This year's Sex Now Survey is determined to challenge official estimates with our own unofficial census of gay men. We're asking guys across

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HIV/AIDS Labrador

HIV/AIDS Labrador is funded by the Public Health agency of Canada. Its main purpose is to raise awareness in the community about HIV/AIDS, STIs and healthy life choices.

Scosha-Gerri Diamond is the Project Co-ordinator. "Our main target area," says Diamond, "is youth, women, inmates, and two-spirited people of the land. My work mainly consists of presentations on HIV/AIDS and workshops on self-esteem plus life and sexual choices. I work closely with the high schools, col-

leges, youth centres, group homes, correctional centres, women's shelter, and a safe alliance group."

The HIV/AIDS Project can be reached at the Labrador Friendship Center, 49 Grenfell Street, PO Box 767, STN B, Happy Valley Goose Bay, NL, A0P 1E0.

The local number is (709) 896-5144; call for free using 800 806.9980. On the web it's www.lfchvgb.ca and Scosha-Gerri Diamond can be reached by e-mail at sdiamond@lfchvgb.ca.

Anti-Bullying Organization Becomes National Charity

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK — A national anti-bullying organization that was launched on December 17, 2006 has received exciting news. BullyingCanada, co-founded by Rob Frenette, of Fredericton, NB and Katie Neu, of Kitchener, ON recently received word from the Canada Revenue Agency's Charity Directorate informing them of the registration.

"Rob and I have been waiting for this to happen since we launched BullyingCanada. I think I can speak for both of us when I say that words cannot express how happy we are to have finally reached this stage," said Katie Neu, Co-Executive Director of BullyingCanada.

"To everyone who helped BullyingCanada along the way to get to this point, we thank you! You're support has been invaluable. I still can't believe that after so long we are a charity!" added Rob Frenette, the second Co-Executive Director of BullyingCanada.

Along with offering 24/7 toll-free telephone support, live chat and the email services that are already in

operation for those across Canada looking for information on bullying, its causes, and how to overcome it, BullyingCanada will now be able to focus on:

Offering a School Program on the issue of bullying to students from across Canada.

Offering Scholarships to students who become leaders and speak up against the issue of bullying in their schools.

BullyingCanada can now issue tax-deductible receipts for cash or in-kind donations. For more information, visit: www.BullyingCanada.ca or call: 1-877-352-4497.

OUR COVER this month is, as usual, by the lovely and talented Cam MacLeod. Sometimes a dozen words (and a number) are worth more than a picture. And, as all of us here at Wayves can attest, Out is by far the best place to be.

Wayves On Line!

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

Wayves

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

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

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Circulation: use the email address below. Subscriptions, per year, are in Canadian dollars: \$20 + 15% HST = \$23 in Canada, \$30 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Send cheque or money order to the postal address below.

Wayves

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

Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITECH

Hi Tom,

As I may have mentioned, the Anthill and Fisherman's Freud are off on a sabbatical year to Scotland and have invited me to come for a visit, maybe at Christmas time. When I say "invited" I really mean insisted since I get emails that have as their subject line, "Have you got your ticket yet?" However, the Anthill has now resorted to other, less oblique ways to entice me to visit the land north of Hadrian's wall.

Speaking of Hadrian, did you know that the Roman Emperor Hadrian was a bit light in the sandals? It's true, he had a young man of obvious physical charms named Antinous as his lover and when Antinous drowned in the Nile, Hadrian was desolate with grief which he assuaged by arranging to have his dead lover deified. I know there is a tendency for us to idealize our exes but really this seems a bit excessive. Statues and cults in his name sprang up throughout the empire. Talk about a youth cult. Here is Antinous forever seen as young and beautiful while Hadrian, one assumes, got old and arthritic and worried about his prostate.

Where was I? Oh yes, enticements. Well, the Anthills methods are varied, if sometimes lacking in subtlety. First, there was the post card of a Scotsman hiking up his kilt to show off a nationalistic tattoo high on his well-muscled upper thigh. Second, there was the link to a website for gay Edinburgh, showing all the bars and clubs where all the gay men in Scotland gather to make fun of each other's clothes and clan traditions while dancing to American music under a disco ball. Not much different from here, really. Third, there was her vividly detailed description of a rugby match with that sport's full complement of rugged, masculine types dressed in rather skimpy shorts. She said she giggled through most of the match imagining what my commentary would be. I told her this means I don't really have to come visit since a virtual Crawford is already there in her delightfully twisted mind. She remains unconvinced.

Her description became even more vivid when I accidentally – I know, there are no accidents! – came upon a showing of *Invictus* on television recently. There is the South African rugby team battling it out with the New Zealand All Blacks – or as they pronounce it in NZ, the "Awl Blecks." Now I am not one to go looking for signs and portents but..... Oh, who am I kidding? I count the crows on the side of the road on my way to work to see what kind of day lies ahead for me. A few days ago I saw three crows (a letter) followed by five crows (silver) and waiting at the post office at the end of the day was a cheque.

Anyhow, this serendipitous offering of *Invictus*, did seem like a good omen and quite esthetically pleasing to this viewer. I rooted for both teams since, while the South African team were who one was supposed to cheer on, I have a tattoo of a silver fern which I got while in New Zealand and this same symbol rests on the uniform of the New Zealand team. A double nudge from the gods.

I don't mean to make it sound like I am at all averse to going to Scotland or that I would go against my will. I do live in New Scotland after all and my great grandmother was a MacLeod, so I already have a certain amount of haggis-flavoured roots. My spirit is always stirred by the skirl of the pipes, unlike my younger brother who describes the evocative wail of the bagpipes as the sound of a cat being slowly run over in the driveway. There is no accounting for taste, is there, Tom? I have no objection to calling a man's shaggy sack a sporran, but I do find the selection of the thistle as the national flower somewhat puzzling, but perhaps it happened during a committee meeting where there was an over consumption of Scotch.

Some years ago I attended a Burns supper, in honour of the Scottish poet, and I found the evening of dinner and socializing quite delightful. I will admit I was disappointed to discover that Strip the Willow referred to a country dance and not another more pleasant activity, but all in all, it was good fun.

Since October 11 is Coming Out day I tried to think of famous queer Scots. Aside from John Barrowman – he of *Torchwood* fame – I couldn't think of any right away. Then in a Homer Simpson D'oh moment, I remembered James I of England, son of Mary Queen of Scots and the most famous homo in the post Elizabethan world. James, well-known for the King James version of the Bible – replete with sloppy translation, misogynistic and homophobic bias, and yet lovely language – was famous for his "favourites," attractive men resented for their political influence and rumoured to be extremely attentive to the monarch's physical well-being. Rather like the rent boys favoured by Republican candidates in the U.S.

Gotta run, Tom. Love ya!



LGBTQ Refugees: Coming to Canada

Part 3

by Hugo Dann

It is hard not to despair when one considers how very dangerous the world can be for LGBT people. But even small actions can make a difference. "Think globally; act locally," could be the motto of my friend Keith MacMillan. Keith's in Ottawa now, pursuing a law degree, but he'll be well missed by the Halifax Refugee Clinic. As a volunteer there, he taught ESL, did research to support asylum seekers at Refugee Board hearings, and helped with settlement (resumes, housing). He even started a soccer team. People from Africa and the Caribbean can get starved for Vitamin D in our cold clime. Keith got them out of doors, but more than that, he provided a few hours of physical activity, blissful freedom from painful memories and anxieties about the future.

Keith got interested in refugee issues when one of his soccer coaches at Saint Mary's University, a refugee claimant from South America, was deported. He started volunteering with the Halifax Refugee Clinic. He also began to come out as a gay athlete, winning the support of his teammates and coaches in the process.

In 2010, Keith spent 6 months as an exchange student at Martyrs University in Nkozi, Uganda. He knew how homophobic East African society was and that studying there would mean going back into the closet he'd only just bust out of. He made strong friendships and learned to love and respect Ugandan culture. When I asked him if he'd like to go back, he replied, "I'd love to!" He stayed closeted, but tried to deflect some of the homophobic comments he heard from classmates. However, when one of his professors stated in class that homosexuality was introduced into Africa as part of an American conspiracy, Keith spoke up. He cited the facts that homosexuality occurs in many species and in every known human society. Keith respectfully offered an alternative interpretation; that homophobia is the western, colonial imposition on African culture.

While Keith was in Africa, Immigration Minister Jason Kenny was challenging Canada's queer community to "step up to the plate" and do more to help sponsor LGBT asylum seekers. Minister Kenny, not hitherto known as a friend to our community, announced an initiative

to support Group of 5 sponsorships for LGBT refugees. David Pepper made his cross Canada trek (well covered in *Wayves*) in part to raise awareness about Group of 5 sponsorship agreements. This program is run by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. It requires a group of at least five people (it can be larger) to sign an agreement that they will provide around \$12,000 support to an individual refugee for one year. The group also commits to assist in finding housing, employment, and generally helping to settle their sponsoree into Canadian society. Mr. Kenny's initiative would see the government contribute one quarter of the financial sponsorship (about \$350), easing the financial burden on the Group.

On Sunday, October 2, 3:00 p.m., at The Company House on Gottingen Street in Halifax, there will be a community forum on LGBT refugee issues, including Group of 5 sponsorships, and how we as a community can respond. There will be representatives from Immigration Settlement and Integration Services (ISIS), the Halifax Refugee Clinic, along with local people with experience in sponsoring asylum seekers to resettle in Halifax. The meeting will address sponsoring refugees, including Group of 5 agreements, volunteer opportunities.

What does this all have to do with my friend Keith? Even small actions can make a difference. Challenging homophobia in a Ugandan lecture hall takes courage, doing it respectfully takes compassion. Keith's story is inspiring, but courage and compassion are in all of us. They are, I believe, intrinsic to the queer experience. We all have to find the courage to come out, even if it is only to ourselves. If we encounter bigotry and hate, whether in a locker room or a church or a high school, it can give us compassion for others who are oppressed. We all have something to give, be it money or compassion, or a few hours time on a Sunday afternoon to learn more about LGBT refugees. Acting locally and thinking globally, we can become the change we seek. By the way, Keith has stayed in touch with his Ugandan classmates and has begun coming out to some of them.

Hugo Dann has been an activist and generally Gay-About-Town for longer than he cares to admit. Wayves finds his arithmetic somewhat suspect.

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Pictures at an Exhibition

Saint Mary's University Art Gallery in Halifax presents work by Larry Gleason. The Manitoba photo-based artist is known for his contemplative portraits of queer couples and families in their domestic environments. This 30-year retrospective represents Gleason's career through portraits of Doug Melnyk, his lover of 30 years. Curator J.J. Kegan McFadden brings together photographs and video works from some of Gleason's most famous series, including *Family Album* (1983), *The Anonymous Gay & Lesbian Portrait Project* (1992 to 2005) and *Home Bodies* (2002 ongoing), to present a queer revisionist history of



Larry Gleason, *Untitled (Doug on art encyclopaedias)* 1984, chromogenic print 20" x 20", framed.



Larry Gleason, *Untitled (Doug & Larry, McMillan Ave Wallpaper)* [Family Album] 1983, toned silver print 10" x 10", framed collection of Bev Pike, Winnipeg.

Gleason's career thus far. 27 x Doug underscores Gleason's ability to blend the quotidian and the sublime in evocative portraiture. The show runs until November 27.

Events related to the show include a talk by the artist and curator, Friday, October 14, 700 p.m., followed by opening reception; Steven Naylor & Others in Concert, An Open Rehearsal for Nocturne on Saturday, October 15, 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.; and Photopolis Conference Opening Reception on Friday, October 21, 7:00p.m..

I Am What I Amherst

by Gerard Veldhoven

Farewell for Now



As the October issue of Wayves reaches readers, we will be into fall and so the leaves on the trees will adorn our surroundings. The various organizations throughout Atlantic Canada will get into gear to plan the fall, winter and, I dare say, next summer's pride activities. Hopefully, this past summer was a great success for all. Here in Amherst it was a quiet time with only one activity and that was the flag raising ceremony at Amherst Town Hall.

No specific word if a new pride group will be formed in this border town. Rumors seem to persist that something may develop. Our readers will be informed of any news that may occur, so stay tuned to Wayves for updates.

On a personal note, I must inform you that this is my final column for Wayves. I am relocating to the New

Glasgow area as a result of beginning a new chapter in my life. Perhaps I will write an occasional piece that may be of interest to readers. There are numerous stories that need to be written about and explored in the queer world. I will attempt to at least make my views known as I have always done in the past. I must mention that writing a column for Wayves has always been interesting for me personally and hopefully of interest to you.

Word is that Chaz Bono has received much criticism for an appearance on "Dancing with the Stars," again proving the point that much work remains to be done to educate the masses regarding the discrimination against the queer community and on-going battle to curb violence and homophobic attitudes. Seems the US, for all its so-called world leadership, has lagged behind Canada in many ways and the laws are stringent with little room for maneuver, or the willingness for change.

Uganda's anti-homosexuality bill had been shelved for the summer and hopefully forever. However, the regime is corrupt and as we see on many occasions, the eastern nations are bound in a tradition of anti-gay sentiment. The bill could definitely surface again and perhaps pass in the next parliament, or do we dare hope it will die on the table. We'll see!

So I say so long for now and see you in a future issue of Wayves.

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Sex Now 2011

Canada to help us count by doing Sex Now Survey 2011. Just a few minutes of your time will help shape the future of gay men's sexual rights and health in Canada.

Now in its ninth year, Sex Now Survey 2011 will focus on our experience with sexual rights and social justice in Canada—how they've affected our well-being and access to

health care.

Count Yourself Out...

1. Do the survey at <http://www.sexnowsurvey.com>
2. Display our banner ad on your website. Send us an email and we'll send it to you.
3. Share our message online – chat, blog, tweet, and share us on Facebook!

Help us count by counting yourself OUT!

Benjamin Moore

The Colour Experts

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ACADIA & QUIGLEY'S Decorating Centre 6243 Quinpool Road 423-4915	WWW.SUSNISPAINTS.COM Your One Stop Decorating Centres

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WEEKLY LINEUP

MON: Pool Tournament @ 8:30PM*
Moosehead Draught Special (till midnight)!
TUE: So You Think You Got Talent* - 10PM • 2 Drinks for \$9**
WED: KARAOKE* - Win up to \$500 • 32oz Pitcher Specials!
THU: No Cover w DJ Legacy* • 32oz Pitcher Specials!
FRI: Shitz & Gigglez Comedy Show* @ 9PM, \$5 Cover NO COVER Student Night * • 2 Drinks for \$9****
SAT: Happy Hour 3-10PM • HOUSE DJ @ 9:30PM Sing Along Show Tunes with GaRRy in the Music Room*
SUN: Happy Hour 3-9 PM, Drag Show 9 PM* 32oz Long Island Ice Tea \$13

* Check the events calendar on our web site for details. **Dom. Beer, Well Shots or 20oz Draught *** Only after 11pm with valid Student ID, 24 & Under

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Founding members of the East Coast Alliance (front row, right to left) Jennifer McCreath (NL), Josie Harding (NB), Trina Hanson (NS) and Aimee Menard (NS), with some of their friends and their Trans Truck Pride float in Moncton, NB, as part of Moncton Pride, August 21, 2011.

Local Boy Makes Good

by Randall Perry

Way back in May, Nova Scotia queer comic artist Steve MacIsaac swung by Halifax's Venus Envy, after attending the Toronto Comics Arts Festival, where the fourth issue in his SHIRTLIFTER comic book series was launched, to present a reading from his current and previous work. MacIsaac was taking the long way back to his home in Long Beach, California.

A "shirtlifter" is an old British pejorative for a gay man, something akin to "fruit" or "fairy"—MacIsaac indicated he found it immediately attractive as a title for the series.

"If you know what to look for, it tells you exactly what you need to know about the series," says MacIsaac. "And even if you don't, you know from the



obsessed with getting things to look right."

During the reading he revealed he's currently got a long project on the go, a graphic novel, being serialized at moderntales.com. The serialized nature of the story means he must write and draw in order, from start to finish, which does not fit his natural tendency to work—sometimes starting in the middle, other times starting at the end and working backwards. Working from an outline, he knows where the major plot points will fall, but "everything else is flexible."



Steve signs a copy of the newly-launched Shirlifter #4 at Venus Envy.

MacIsaac plans for one more issue in the SHIRTLIFTER series, which will sum up the main "Unpacking" story from the third and fourth issues.

Current and back issues of SHIRTLIFTER are available at Venus Envy. Visit his website at www.stevemacisaac.com.



term that there's something kind of off about it, it communicates some level of difference between the surface and what's underneath."

When MacIsaac works—using Adobe Illustrator for the initial drawings and Creature House Expression for the brush work, then back to Illustrator for colour and clean-up—he tends to rely on reference photos and video he takes of himself. "When I went to see Alison Bechdel ('Dykes to Watch Out For' and 'Fun Home') I was very shocked to see that she does the same thing that I started doing in Japan," he laughs. "When I went to art school, something that was a kind of revelation to me was that you can actually draw from things around you or from photographs, and you don't have to make it all up in your head."

"Body language is important in communicating character and I'm

Candy Anyone?

by Ramona Westgate

The only thing bigger than Candy Palmater's personality are her dreams. *The Candy Show* is about to premiere its second season on APTN, but if Candy has her way, season three will be on Prime Time. "I'm hopeful it will be NBC someday, piping it in right here in Halifax. Opera, thank you very much, is stepping down just in time to make the space I need!" If her background as a lawyer/columnist/comedian/talk show host (and don't forget Aboriginal Lesbian Woman) is any indication, then I'd pre-programme my TVO now!

Candy may have larger-than-life aspirations, but it's not hard to tell that she is very in touch with her roots and her viewers.

"A lot of people told me that if you'd moved to Toronto, you'd have made it long ago. I'm not interested in that. I'm always blown away by how much talent there is here. When I talked to the broadcasters, they actually said to me, do you have enough talent out there for a weekly show? I was like, Lady, I have enough for a daily show. Musicians that are here wouldn't have to leave, they'd have a place and my dream would be before long people would be like, can we

come from out west and be on your show. Ahhh, I don't know yet—there is so much here."

Her dream for the audience at home is "for a half hour every week, you forget about your mortgage payments, forget about the stress of your kids or whatever else is going on and come back in time to your teenage years, meet me in my bedroom and let's just have some fun! Whatever age you are, whatever size you are, whatever economic place you are is exactly where you should be and every bit as beautiful."

And she is every bit as interested in supporting the careers behind the cameras as well.

"If I could get multiple year contracts to run the show, then I could say to First Nations guidance councillors, encourage the kids to go to Community college and take film, 'cause I can apprentice them on my show and offer them employment afterwards."

Referred by a First Nation Elder as a Medicine Woman, Candy uses her life experiences and her wit to tackle major issues.

"I do a lot of serious training in both diversity and sexuality issues, but I think when I do it with comedy, with humour, people's guards are down. I feel I have responsibilities in terms to what my role is here on earth. In that time that we were together [during the taping] I feel very confident that they [the audience] weren't thinking about any of their stress, and afterwards to go out front and see the mountains of food for the food bank. And to think, WOW, for five hours people completely forgot about their troubles and a whole bunch of cupboards are going to get

food. That's a pretty significant thing to do, that's as important as being a lawyer in terms of your contribution to the world."

In August Candy celebrated another more personal milestone. She and her wife Denise celebrated their first anniversary of marriage. They met 10 years ago and Denise is the only woman she has ever seriously dated. When I asked what their secret was for a successful lesbian relationship, Candy said, "We have this great thing that we do called a do-over. Sometimes you're tired and you say something and you didn't really want to say that. It didn't sound right or whatever. Sometimes it's hard to apologize or get out of it—I'll just say can I have a do over—and I just do it over and I get it right the second time."

She also credits a great deal of her success to Denise's support. "My life was just ebbing and flowing and ebbing and flowing and then Denise and I got together and it's just been a constant upward trajectory. She lets me be me, the full me, and that's a lot to deal with on a full time basis. As soon as my eyes open my mouth starts! I always say [to Denise] I know I don't deserve you but I try hard every day to earn you"

Whatever their secret is, they both agree that "we're better together than either one of us ever were alone"

Thanks, Candy, for continuously sharing so much of yourself in everything you do, and, for reminding us that when you follow your dreams and dream big, big things can happen.

Get your dose of Candy at 9:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings on the APTN beginning October 27.

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Two Spirit Gathering

by Denise Cole

I am a proud Two Spirited Inuit-Metis woman originally from the south coast of Labrador (the mainland portion of Newfoundland & Labrador) who currently lives and works in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Until the last week of August of this year, I had no real sense of what Two Spirited meant and how it applied to me. The majority of my adult life I have been an advocate for LGBTQ issues and wore the label of Lesbian. I now know that being Two Spirited is similar to LGBTQ but the concept was here hundreds of years ago in Aboriginal teachings. It's been a journey of discovery, it continues to be one as my spirits wake up more each day.

When I heard about the Mawita'jik Puoinaq, A Gathering of Two Spirited Peoples, I knew I was meant to be there. I have been eagerly seeking spiritual guidance through Aboriginal teachings, this has given me wonderful teachers and lessons to use as tools for my life. The poster for the event that was hosted by the amazing people of the Wabanaki Two Spirited Alliance held the words that lit up my soul and I applied right away! Activities were to include teachings and ceremonies! For me, this meant more than I could ever explain to those around me. Sweat lodges, pipe ceremonies, a mini powwow, sunrise ceremonies, talking circles, traditional songs and dancing, smudging, balancing water and fire ceremonies, and the list went on. It was an experience that would prove to change my life and my very way of thinking. I cannot express thanks in words, thus I have held ceremony every morning since I

left to carry on an energy that began at Liscombe Lodge for me on August 31.

I found myself surrounded by close to fifty other Two Spirited peoples, ranging in ages from 17 to 80, and from all walks of life throughout Atlantic Canada. I have never felt so moved and embraced by a group of strangers who I now proudly call my

"I had many conversations at the Gathering over the five days and the fire that was ignited there was lit in everyone."

"two spirited family." We shared joy, pain, hope, and ourselves around the circle, at the meal table, and throughout the beautiful scene that was set in this Nova Scotia sanctuary. The discussions were powerful and the connections felt deeply by all. My spirits truly awoke and I found myself seeking out wisdom through the elders and the teachers that were there. I was warmly welcomed and spent most of my time learning ceremony and receiving guidance on the path

I know I was chosen for. I received healing tools and medicines while being given the role of both teacher and student. My life focus cleared and I returned to my real world ready for my responsibilities as a Two Spirited Aboriginal. Nothing will be the same for me and I am overjoyed with this enlightenment. My experience was humbling and my ancestors, relations, and Creator have come full circle to keep me on my intended journey.

This was my experience. My awakening of how Two Spirited peoples were traditionally honoured in our tribes and with our Aboriginal peoples, of what colonization did to the sacred teachings around Two Spirited, and how we can reclaim our place as Two Spirited today. I had many conversations at the Gathering over the five days and the fire that was ignited there was lit in everyone. I cannot speak to their personal experience, I can tell you tears were shared, in sorrow and in joy, and that this movement won't stop there. Our focus for the event was around

suicide prevention, intervention, and education. This topic was very emotional for everyone, and anyone who has sat in a sharing circle can understand, there is a power created and a bond of sharing that goes past those in the circle; they truly involve generations of both past and present as spirits are welcomed, healing is encouraged, and energy shared. We held each other, laughed together, shared stories around the fire, and opened ourselves to teachings that will give us strength for this life and beyond.

We left empowered and focused -

our Two Spirited brothers and sisters are dying at their own hands and we must act, we must create the movement, and we must rely on our sacred teachings to reconnect as we step into the future. I am honoured to say I was at the Mawita'jik Puoinaq, I cannot thank those enough who organized and came and shared. I encourage all those who read these words to seek out the Wabanaki Alliance and become a part of the movement and hopefully I will see you around the sacred fire at the next Gathering for Two Spirited Peoples!



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Letters

Family Friendly Pride

Dear Wayves:

I would like to share a couple of perspectives from my family about this year's Pride Parade.

My Own: This year, when I heard there would be some focus on family, I was personally quite excited for Pride. As a married lesbian with two children, I sometimes feel lost in the queer community. I often joke that I have lost my feeling of "gay power." I was disappointed, though, by how the community interpreted "family." I saw quite a few write-ups and heard complaints that the parade was being "cleaned up" or "straightened up" for families. The assumption was that it was for straight families. Where do queer families fit in, if not in our own parade? My kids see the community and parade (here and in other provinces), for what it is—no matter the content. It was just nice to have an area devoted to kids, ensuring they were included, and had as much fun as everyone else.

My Children: In the family spirit, my nine-year-old nephew, his 11-year-old friend and my own children—ages seven and eighteen months—proudly attended the parade and festivities with us. After telling them all about what Pride means, and how the parade came to be, they couldn't wait to come and show their support. Their response to my little history lesson? "People can be so dumb." They all had a blast at both the parade and Garrison Grounds after. This year was my daughter's

first pride experience, and she partied herself into complete exhaustion!

I often think of the above response, when I hear grown-ups concerned about how to explain homosexuality (or any variation from their own home life for that matter) to kids. My advice? Just answer their questions respectfully and honestly, with the same detail in which they asked (usually not near as much as we think). Grown ups can be so dumb...

Sincerely,
Christine Poirier

Wrestling with Homophobia

Dear Wayves:

I am very close to my gay cousin. I've always thought of him as a little brother. When he started battling depression two years ago, he came to me for support. I'm the girl he talks to about his illness, his aspirations, and his sexuality. I'm his primary support, and I embrace that.

My cousin is a huge wrestling fan. He isn't interested in many sports, so I always assumed that his interest stems from the drama of professional wrestling (and maybe the guys in tights—but that's just speculation). He grew up watching WWE's "Monday Night Raw" and "Friday Night Smackdown." Every Sunday afternoon I sit with him and watch a taped episode of "TNA Impact."

When local wrestling promotions sprang up here in Saint John, it was the happiest I've ever seen him. Almost immediately I was dragged

along to community centers, school auditoriums and the Lord Beaverbrook Rink. We went to No Limits Wrestling shows and then Xtreme Wrestling Alliance gigs.

My cousin's excitement was quickly jaded in the worst ways imaginable.

We attended an NLW show at a west side community center. A few XWA hecklers taunted NLW wrestlers with strongly homophobic slurs which are not fit to publish. For a teenaged boy battling depression, words can cut like knives. Please forgive the melodrama, but if you had seen his face when he saw and heard what happened at these shows...

When NLW went under, many staff and wrestlers joined the flourishing XWA. That's when things got worse for my cousin.

There was a gay character, Teddy Too Sweet Champagne, who embodied all of the stereotypes. He came to the ring adorned in feathered boas, Elton John sunglasses and make up. Teddy exuded a personality so flamboyant that even the most talented drag queen would have rolled her eyes. His purpose as a character was to anger the crowd and create a hostile environment. Teddy alienated my cousin.

On the positive side there was an openly gay wrestler working for XWA: 'Big Nasty' Ron DMC. The man behind the character was gay, but his character never made any openly

gay positive statements during his shows. Compounding the situation was that 'Big Nasty' was a jobber—a talent who loses match after match in order to make the opponent seem tougher.

I befriended 'Big Nasty' in an attempt to make a friend for my cousin. I followed him on Facebook and read what he had to say about the shows. He was always driving other wrestlers to practice. He always went early and stayed late for set up and take down. He dedicated himself totally to the promotion of XWA, but he was never given a title or a legitimate title shot.

Adding insult to injury, a new pair of wrestlers was given a title shot and in fact, won the tag team championship within a year of signing on with the company. The tag team of Chip Chambers and Dale Dangles are a picture of heteronormativity with their characters; a couple of straight playboy athletes.

Seeing how gay athletes are treated in wrestling, and seeing how gay characters are portrayed, disturbed my cousin. He became more and more depressed with every show. Finally, I went to his mother and we put our collective foot down, preventing him from going to anymore shows. It was a negative atmosphere which not only created an antigay sentiment but harboured and strengthened it. I don't know how many other gay youth or closeted men attend these shows but I

imagine the numbers drop with every homophobic slur and display of gay men as abnormal.

I am saddened to report that 'Big Nasty' has quit XWA and given up on his lifelong ambition to entertain and wrestle. I can certainly relate to the pain I am sure he suffers, because my cousin's dreams have also been dashed as a result. It's sad that you have to fit within a particular set of parameters to succeed at something. Putting in extra hours, enduring grueling training, helping others through those training sessions, and setting up staging is not enough to get you a foothold.

Jenna Clarke
Saint John, NB



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

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces.

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

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

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: 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@accesswave.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 web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

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

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

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

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

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

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. Needle exchange located in office at 65 Brunswick Street Fred. E3B 1G5. 459-7518 email: jennifer@aidnsb.com web: 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

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

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

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

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

Transgendered Peer Support Group: Open to all M2F, F2M, Andro and trans-supporters from across Atlantic Canada. email: 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 web: 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 web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

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 web: www.mta.ca/clubs/catalyst/ (Catalyst meets approximately every week from Sept-Dec and Jan-April. For meeting info contact the president at catalyst@mta.ca or the Students' Administrative Council at sac@mta.ca.)

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT-T2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location: 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 web: 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 web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: 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 web: www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn, meets 1st Friday (1st Friday of each month September - June from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

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

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

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

Woodstock

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

Frontrunners Newfoundland and Labrador: Running/walking club. 722-5791 or 753-9529 email: tonybrathwaite@bellaliant.net, 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 web: www.acnl.net

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

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

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: lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org web: nlsexualhealthcentre.org

PFLAG Canada - St. John's NL Chapter: Monthly Chapter meetings, support and information for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons and their parents, families and friends. 699-0509 email: stjohnsnl@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca (We will aim to hold Chapter Meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Please check www.pflagcanada.ca for schedule and any changes.) at Community Connections, 9 Cathedral Street, St. John's NL.

St. John's Pride Inc: The officially-registered non-profit Pride company for St.

John's. email: stjohnspride@yahoo.ca web: 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 web: www.HepatitisOutreach.com at Our office is located at 2973 Oxford Street, between Liverpool and Cork streets. Please call to make an appointment or email Program@HepatitisOutreach.com.

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

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

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

Amherst

Sexual Health Centre Cumberland County: Open and inclusive services: information, education, workshops, free condoms. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.cfsh.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive (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 web: cumberlandpride.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: menembracing-men@yahoo.ca web: 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, meets every Monday (3:00-5:00pm) at The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, located in the Kirk Building at 219 Main Street, Suite 204 (above Tim Hortons).

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

Bridgewater

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.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

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 web: www.acns.ns.ca

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

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. 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 Sexauls, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group Online. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ (No Meetings at Present! Please call if you have any questions, 499-0335 sue) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Cancelled at the present time.

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 web: 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 web: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/index.php?club=Halifax, meets every Saturday, and every Tuesday, and every Thursday (Sat: 9:30am, Tue: 6:00 pm, Thu: 6:00pm) at Main gates of the Halifax Public Gardens, corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

Gay Men's Prostate Cancer Support Group: Prostate Cancer Canada Network is launching a support group for gay men and their families. Our meetings are informal and provide a forum for personal discussion with prostate cancer survivors, those newly diagnosed and their caregivers. For more information or to become a member contact Peter Mallette at 902-420-9449 or peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca at Prostate Cancer Canada Atlantic 5121 Sackville Street Suite 101 Halifax B3J 1K1

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

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

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

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

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

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, 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 registered 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 Rose-ria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LG-BTQ 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: pcsexualhealth@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/22418494995

New York

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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: We are a social group for SW Nova Scotia. All GLBT people of any age and in any stage of coming out are invited, we have a monthly gathering at Sobey's community room on Starrs Rd. in Yarmouth at 7:00 PM on the 2nd last Wednesday of each month. We create a monthly calendar of events for such things as pool, potluck parties, day trips or what ever members like to do. So come join us have fun and meet other GLBT people. 645-2914/749-0977 email: jackanddan@eastlink.ca or diannefcc@eastlink.ca web: SWNovaPride.com (Check out our our facebook at South West Nova Pride.)

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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902-429-5500

Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw Lay Chaplains
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NSRAP Report

Takin' It To The Streets

On Saturday, October 22, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project will host its annual Community Hero Awards Gala. For 15 years, NSRAP has been the leading advocate for LGBTQ Nova Scotians. This dinner and silent auction is our most important fundraiser and we are profoundly grateful for the community's continued support.

One of the most important aspects of LGBTQ advocacy is the ability to "walk the talk." We cannot only discuss the issues facing our community, we need to get on the streets and take action to make the world a better place for members of the LGBTQ community.

This year, we are proud to welcome Matt Alber as our keynote speaker. Matt is a gay American singer/songwriter and a staunch supporter and advocate for organizations that provide services to homeless

LGBTQ youth. Prior to launching his solo career, Matt was a member of a Chanticleer, a professional classical men's ensemble, which recorded two Grammy® award-winning albums. We are also excited to welcome back Candy Palmater, creator and star of the APTN network's *The Candy Show*, as our celebrity mistress of ceremonies.

In 2008, NSRAP introduced the Community Hero Award as a means of recognizing those who have made significant contributions to the LGBTQ community in Nova Scotia. It has been renamed the Reverend Darlene Young Community Hero Award in recognition of former NSRAP board member Darlene Young, pastor of the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church.

This year, NSRAP will be presenting the Reverend Darlene Young Community Hero Award to Maggie

Haywood. Many know Maggie best as the operator of Venus Envy in Downtown Halifax. Maggie is an educator and has long been at the vanguard of affirming healthy, joyful, fun queer sex. Venus Envy has been at the forefront of empowering the transgender community in Halifax, hosted readings from Ivan Coyote and performances by Rae Spoon, and is the only bookstore in HRM that stocks the works of Pat Califia.

In addition to her Venus Envy work, Maggie has made invaluable contributions through Halifax Pride, the Hal-Gal Mailing List, Girlish Productions, and her support of the arts community. Knowing Maggie is to know someone whose personality is a mix of charisma, common sense and compassion. Maggie is a fine businessperson, but one can't help but feel that her business sense is closely tied to her community spirit and engagement.

NSRAP will also be presenting Northwood Care Inc. with a Corporate Stewardship Award. Northwood is the largest non-profit long-term care and community outreach facility in Atlantic Canada. With over 1500

staff and three locations in the Halifax Regional Municipality, Northwood is a leader in offering comfort, care and community to over 7,000 Nova Scotians on a daily basis. Presently, Northwood is the only seniors centre publicly committed to embracing the LGBTQ community.

Matt Alber, Maggie Haywood and Northwood Care Inc. have set wonderful examples for our community. Discussing and raising awareness of issues are both important aspects of LGBTQ advocacy, but change only comes through action. We are proud

to recognize those who so clearly embody the theme of this year's gala: takin' it to the streets.

The NSRAP Community Hero Awards Gala will take place on Saturday, October 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. The gala will be held at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel. Tickets for the gala are \$125 per person or \$1,250 for a table for ten. For more information or to book your tickets, please call (902) 444-3206, visit our website at www.nsrp.ca/gala or e-mail us at nsrap@nsrap.ca.

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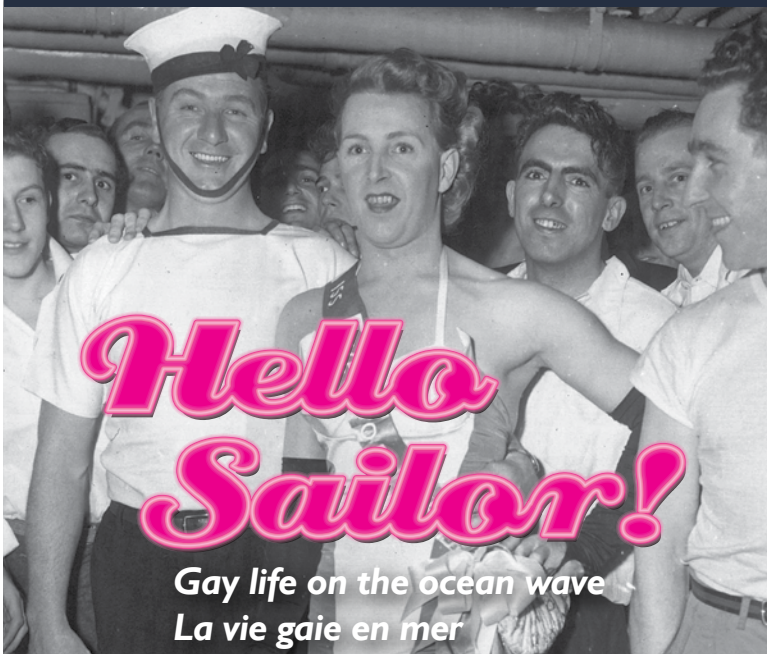


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