

WAVES

September 2007

INSIDE: HALIFAX
PRIDE WRAPUP



**Pride Over Truro:
Colchester County steps up**

Wayves

for atlantic canadians

Truro Mayor: Passing the Flag to the County



Charles Thompson and Mayor Mike Smith in front of the Municipality of the County of Colchester building in Truro getting ready to raise the pride flag.

By Charles Thompson

A simple request to the town of Truro to fly the Pride flag during Pride of Pictou County turned into national news this past week. I met with Mayor Bill Mills and heard about his being sworn in on the Bible and how as a Christian man he did not feel it was something he should support. He said Council voted 6-1 against having the flag put up; the lone vote of support came from Diane Bennett-Cook, Councillor for Ward 1 in Truro.

I challenged Mayor Mills' belief that the Bible is very clear about homosexuality. He was firm in his conviction; at one point he even asked me if I had accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. In the end he was not willing to reconsider,

although he encouraged me to ask again next year and said that if we got our application in earlier we could have a public discussion on the topic at a Council meeting.

I then met with a reporter from the Truro Daily News, and later it occurred to me that many of us involved in Truro Pride actually live in Colchester County, not Truro itself, so I contacted Mike Smith, the mayor whose offices are just down the road from the Town of Truro offices. Mayor Smith was very supportive and did not hesitate to agree to fly the Pride Flag.

On Friday, August 3, the front page of the Truro Daily News had a picture of me and the Pride Flag along with the story of my

meeting with the Mayor. Sharon Farrell, a Truro resident, felt so much outrage about the issue that she formed a Facebook page to vent her frustration. The Facebook page quickly took off and, at the time I am writing this, has over 2100 members.

In one quote to the media, Mayor Bill Mills said that if we allowed a gay flag, what if someone asked to raise a flag in support of pedophiles, which added fuel to the fire and made it clear that Mayor Mills has no respect for the GLBT community. On Monday Truro held what was, to my knowledge, the first ever Pride Event in town, a rally in Victoria Park with more than 100 people. Speakers included myself, Sharon Farrell, Diane Ben-

Cont'd to Truro p. 3

Annapolis Valley Health & Youth

This fall, Public Health Services, through the Annapolis Valley Health Authority and in partnership with Addiction & Mental Health Services and the Annapolis School Board, is launching the Youth Health Center Project. The two goals for this year-long project are:

1) The development of a multi-year implementation plan for the creation of new youth health centers located in various school and community settings through out the district and,

2) To help the existing youth health centers build on what is working well, create a plan to fill any identified gaps and help them comply with the NS Standards for Youth Health Centres (for more information on the standards visit www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/).

Research demonstrates that improved access to health care is linked to a reduction in risky behaviors, improved health status, and is an indicator of equity.

Youth who have access to youth-specific services are more likely to use primary care services. Youth living in poverty, females, LGBT-

with input from youth that reflect the following components: Clinical Services; Health Counseling and Support; Referrals to other services;

Youth from various ethnic, cultural groups, the disabled, all sexual orientations, gender identities and various other diverse groups will have a voice and their specific needs will be incorporated into the model ultimately giving them a place of belonging.

TIQ and at-risk youth benefit particularly from youth-targeted services.

The model for youth health centers in Annapolis Valley will include a comprehensive range of supports and services based on the NS Standards for Youth Health Centres document. There will be a core group of services included

Health Education; Health Promotion, and Community Capacity Building

Youth will be key participants and actively engaged in all aspects of this process, including the incorporation of fun recreational activities into the youth center model.

Accessibility will be a key principle considered when developing

the model. Ways of providing transportation for youth if the center is not located in a school is something that will be examined. If the youth health center is in a school, access for youth that are homeless, out-of-school youth, and permission for students to visit the center during the day are all issues that will be taken into account.

According to Carol MacKinnon, the Director of Public Health for the Annapolis Valley, "All aspects of diversity will be considered and incorporated into the model. Youth from various ethnic and cultural groups, the disabled, all sexual orientations, gender identities and various other diverse groups will have a voice, and their specific needs will be incorporated into the model ultimately giving them a place of belonging. Youth health centers in the valley will be open, confidential and safe environments for all youth."

For more information on this project please contact the Youth Health Centre Project Manager, Dawn Archambault at (902) 542-6329, or email darchambault@avdha.nshealth.ca.

Halifax Pride Annual General Meeting

September 13 2007

7:00 pm

Holiday Inn Select

Go to halifaxpride.com for more details

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Atlantic News

Truro Flag Raising and Rally



Charles Thompson speaking at Pride rally, Victoria park Truro August 06, 2007



Supporters watching the raising of the Pride Flag in front of the Municipality of the County of Colchester building in Truro.



Brandi and Charley Cameron signing the Pride Flag to be taken to Mayor Bill Mills at the rally

Halifax Pride Week



In this issue we feature the Halifax Pride Week wrap up. See pages 4 and 6 for related articles and our special feature centre spread: Halifax Pride Week Scrapbook for pictures. (pages 10-11)

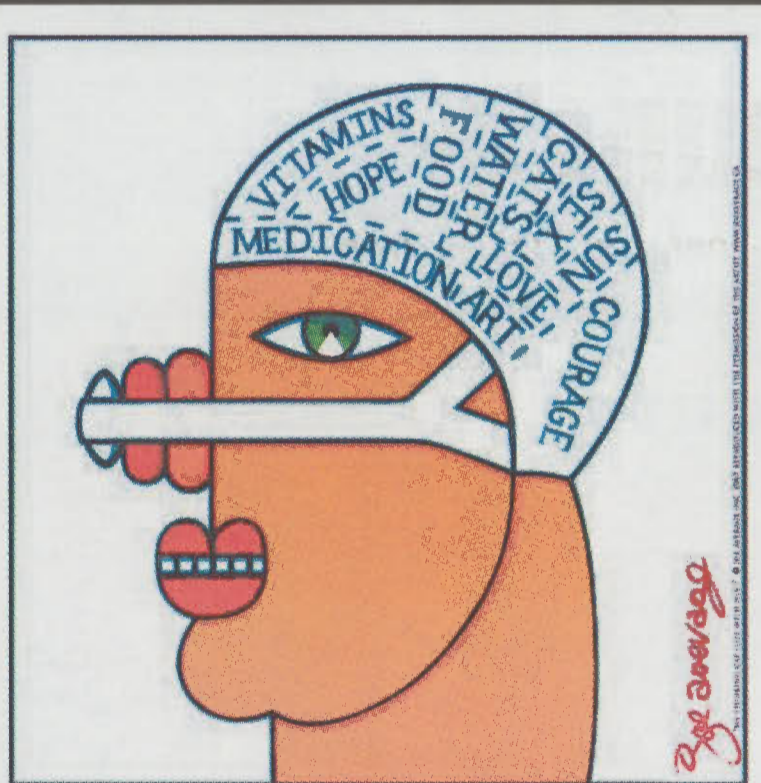
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On Friday, October 12, 2007, DalOUT will celebrate National Coming Out Day as they host their second annual "Come Out 2 the Grawood" night at the Grawood Bar and Lounge in the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave).

Similar in format to last year's highly successful event, "Come Out at the Grawood," the night will feature a drag show, music by a live DJ, audience games and some fantastic prizes. It is a guaranteed good time, so be sure to bring your friends. The cover charge is \$3, \$1

of which benefits the Nova Scotia AIDS Coalition.

DalOUT, the LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University, is open to all members of the community. Everyone is always welcome. For more information, visit [or e-mail dalout@dal.ca](http://dalout.dal.ca).



Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7 (the first Friday of each month)

Send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax):

Sep 10, Tuesday Oct 9, Nov 5, Dec 10
Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

Layout Parties (Halifax):

Sep 16, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 16
Help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and helping even once or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

On The Stands and In The Mail:

Oct 26, Nov 23, Dec 21

Cont'd from Truro p. 1

nett-Cook, Mayor Mike Smith, Ramona Westgate from Pride of Pictou County, Andy Hewlett from the Halifax Pride Committee, Sue Andrews of BLT-Womyn of Halifax, Shawn Adams from the Centre of Hope in Halifax, Jim Harpell a former Provincial NDP candidate and local business owner, Denise Holliday representing the transgendered community, and Georgina Foster of Truro Pride.

CBC, CTV and Global News were all there, as was CBC Radio, both English and French, the Chronicle Herald, and Truro Daily News. The Globe and Mail did not make it to the rally but contacted us shortly after. There was a Pride flag that everyone

signed that we are going to deliver to the Mayor and Town Council, along with a petition asking Town Council to reconsider.

The next morning a small group of supporters gathered in the rain in front of the offices of the Municipality of the County of Colchester with Mayor Mike Smith to raise

at one point he even asked me if I had accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour

the Pride Flag. It was great to see the flag flying over Truro after all of this, and only a few blocks from where it started at the town of Truro offices.

In a way Mayor Bill Mills did the gay community a great service

by refusing our request to fly the Pride Flag: if Council agreed we would have been lucky to get a writeup in the Truro Daily News, whereas we continue to receive requests from media outlets. A story in the Truro Daily News states that the town is getting e-mails and phone calls from people planning on vacationing or at least stopping off in Truro who are now refusing to do so because of the refusal to fly the flag and the Mayor's comments. We are also looking at filing a Human Rights complaint with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission about this incident; similar cases have been won against towns in Ontario and British Columbia.

Truro Pride is moving forward with plans for a dance on September 22, 2007 at the Truro Lions' Club. A new youth group is being formed and there is talk about start-

ing a local PFLAG group so, even if the decision is not reversed, we now have the support and determination to make Truro a welcoming place for all members of the GLBT community.

Our Cover

Charles Thompson and Mayor Mike Smith in front of the Municipality of the County of Colchester

Cover art, as always, by Cam MacLeod

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 January - 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 calendar of the Community Events page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and might be edited for length. Submissions should be e-mailed - in plain text - to the address noted below. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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Following the logic that if you have the paper in your hand, you don't need to know where to get it, we're dropping the full text of the *Where To Get Wayves* column.

We're replacing it with changes to our distribution network. If you'd like to tell your friends from away where to get Wayves, see <http://www.wayves.ca>.

Halifax Pride Re-Vamp

By Hugo Dann

It's probably safe to say that once you've been a Co-Chair of the Halifax Pride Committee, you either walk away in stunned relief, or you keep coming back for more punishment. I'm afraid I fall into the second category. I'm hooked by the extraordinary uplift I get when I see our fabulous community parading its Rainbow wonderfulness through the heart of this most beautiful and historic (and historically Queer) old seaport. I love Pride! I love the lectures and

the films; the high art and the low, low camp; the whole sequined mix of the sordid and sublime that is Pride in Halifax. Yet, as one of those hard-bitten former Co-Chairs, I know it takes a lot of work to put it all in place, and I'm not just talking about unloading trucks and heaving metal barriers around in a steady downpour for three hours on the Halifax Commons! It goes on for months and it's a huge challenge.

I think Pride needs to revisit its way of doing business. I think it

needs to think about becoming a year-round organization, with the same kind of staff and financial supports as the Jazz Festival and the Atlantic Film Festival. If this could happen, I believe it might be of benefit to Prides around the region, as we could share ideas and contacts. There's no doubt in my mind that Halifax can become a major destination for LGBT tourists from around the world, and that Pride will play a huge role in that. It's already making a difference. Yet for Pride to really achieve

its potential, we need to solidify our organization so it's not having to reinvent itself from year to year. I've been talking with friends and colleagues, and I've put some ideas down on paper about some ways the Committee might be set up differently. You can have a look at these on the Halifax Pride website (www.halifaxpride.com), or by visiting gayhalifax.org/pride ideas before they are voted on at Pride's Annual General Meeting on Thursday, September 13.

So this is my heartfelt plea to

all of you who care about Pride, even if only a little bit! Please have a look at the suggestions posted on the Pride website and, even better, please join us at the AGM on September 13th. I've always believed that a Pride Festival will tell you a lot about the health and well-being of any given Queer community, and all our Pride Festivals (Right on, Truro!) tell me we're very much alive and kicking, here on the East Coast.

Greater Moncton Pride Week 2007

River Of Pride Committee extends an open invitation to all in releasing the Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe Pride Calendar of Events, scheduled between September 8 through 16 inclusive, throughout Greater Metro Moncton. Remember, you are on average within a two hour drive from a guaranteed proud time.

A special welcome goes out to all students returning to classes throughout our region.

Out-of-towners are reminded that Delta Beausejour Moncton is offering anyone attending the

River of Pride week festivities a great discount, starting at just \$119 a night! This fantastic rate can be obtained by dialing 1-888-351-7666 (ROOM) and ask for the Special Pride rate reference code "MNP."

This year's theme of "Moving Walls" has effectively achieved more attention and visibility from sponsors, and especially has generated more interest from within our own community. With extra emphasis on getting more people involved this year, we have included a variety of sports events, a Family day and a Youth evening.

More parties at Triangles have been added over the two weekend stretch, with a kick off "White Party" preceded by a BBQ on September 8 and a "Party Gras" on Friday, September 14.

Our annual parade, scheduled on Saturday, September 15 at 2 p.m., will be led by Pride Marshall Cherie MacLeod, Executive Director, PFLAG Canada. A Rally will follow at Riverfront Park with the annual Pride Ball later that same evening. A special Brunch at the Delta and T-Dance at Amore Passion on Sunday concludes festivi-

ties amongst sporting events.

Our major fundraising source, monthly colour parties, finished with an all-colour bash on August 4. Special thanks to Triangles, Moosehead, Finlandia, Southern Comfort, Amore Passion, Delta Beausejour, My Place Diversity shop, volunteers and proud bar patrons who helped out in so many ways over the last seven months.

For more information, visit www.fiertemocntonpride.ca, or contact Paul LeBlanc, Secretary, River Of Pride, paulleblanc@rogers.com or 506 854 3081.



River Of Pride Committee 2007

Newfoundland GUYZ Project



The Gay Urban Youth Zone (GUYZ) Project is a project of the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is a 26-month endeavour funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Project is an excellent way for young gay men in St. John's to find a sense of community, connect with local resources, and learn how to tackle issues that affect their health and well-being. The GUYZ Project is designed to educate young gay men about HIV, STIs and Hep C, as well as inform service providers of some of the issues that gay youth face—issues such as heterosexism, judgmental attitudes, and lack of support.

Over the past 17 months, the Project has been involved in a number of initiatives: on-going bar and event outreach, education and resource development, and the completion of an online educational tool to reach young gay men. The website touches on issues of sexuality, self-esteem, sexual orientation, prevention, hepatitis, HIV, and STIs, as well as testing information. The GUYZ Project website is also accessible from the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador (ACNL) website. Please bookmark it and share it widely.

For more information, condoms, community referrals, or site feedback, please contact Chris

Shortall, Gay Urban Youth Zone Project Coordinator at the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, Tommy Sexton Centre,

47 Janeway Place, St. John's Newfoundland, A1A 1R7. You can also call locally 579-8656 x.28, or toll free 1-800-563-1575.

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Fire Impacts Queer Businesses

By Randall Perry

In the early evening hours of July 27, fire broke out inside the apartment located in the annex portion of the building housing Mollyz Diner and Menz Bar. Within a short time the flames had consumed the contents of the apartment. Local firefighters worked to contain the blaze and eventually extinguished it. However, the blaze left the annex gutted. Water and smoke caused significant damage to the businesses in the building.

Co-owner Doug Melanson indicated that both businesses were closed for over a week for repairs. "After the fire inspectors had done

their investigation, it was deemed that a cigarette or something of the sort caught the bedding on fire and it went through the apartment," he explained. "As a result we lost the entire length of the bar from two ceiling tiles out, when the water came in from the third floor. The water took out all the electronics and equipment stored in the cage and behind the bar.

"From there the water continued through and wiped out most of the alcohol and all the food in the diner," Doug continued. "Compared to the small kitchen fire we had earlier this year, this was ma-

ior. There was around \$200,000 in damage. By the middle of August, though, the second half of the dining room should be re-opened and we'll be back to normal."

When asked to address the rumours of possible expansion of the seminal Gottingen Street queer businesses, Doug explained his tentative plans. "We are definitely investigating that possibility," he said. "There's a lot of work to be done before this can happen. We need to sit down with the city to determine whether the affected section of the building can be converted from residential to commercial. We need to meet with

the liquor inspectors to ensure that we can extend our license. We have to meet with a structural engineer to determine that the building is sound so that we can create a dance floor on the second level of the Mollyz annex and eventually move the office to the third floor.

"There are also negotiations going on with our landlord with regard to taking over the entire building versus the sixty percent occupancy that we currently have. There's a lot of negotiations going on right now and lot of legwork to ensure that we can move things forward from a business point of view.

We won't know until sometime in September if this possibility exists, so right now this future growth is all in the planning stages."

BLT Womyn Camping! ISCANS News

By Karen Clarke

On the weekend of July 27 - July 29, 2007, the BLT of womyn of Halifax went camping at Graves Island in Chester, NS. This was the largest and best camping trip ever. For some, it was a chance to relax and enjoy the gorgeous weather. One camper said that "it was so nice to just be myself without prejudice." There was never a dull moment with games like Washer Toss, Bocce Ball and just throwing a baseball around. Some of the women went to the beach and cooled off, while others

went hiking in the woods. During the night we all sat around the roaring fire, exchanging stories of days gone by and singing songs. It was a chance for old friends to reconnect and to make new friends, too. A BLT camping trip would not be complete without pizza delivery and prizes for having the most fun. The memories of this trip will not soon be forgotten, and will be told over again around campfires for a long time.

You can read about our August event in the next issue of Wayves.

August has proven once again to be a very busy month for ISCANS as we continue to focus on weekly fundraising through entertainment, silver collection and barbecues. However, our biggest fundraiser draws ever closer—our annual gala Coronation ball. Coronation this year will be held at the Holiday Inn Select on Robie Street on November 3, with the theme "Debutantes And Debauchery: Rhett

And Scarlet Go Beyond The Red Door." Other Coronation Week events leading up to the gala ball include an In Town Show and Out of Town Show, where entertainers from Halifax and other areas perform for great audiences. Anyone wishing to learn more about these exciting events can visit our website at www.imperialcourtns.com, which is updated regularly.

Wayves Distribution Points Competition

Wayves is expanding its distribution network and we need your help!

If Wayves isn't easily available in your community, please help us out by suggesting a corner store, newsstand, or bookstore or other public place where we could distribute it. Send us the name of the

place and the contact information for a manager there with whom we can coordinate distribution.

The first person to suggest each new location where we end up distributing will receive "an allegedly fabulous prize!" Send your snail-mail address in with your suggestion, to submissions@wayves.ca.

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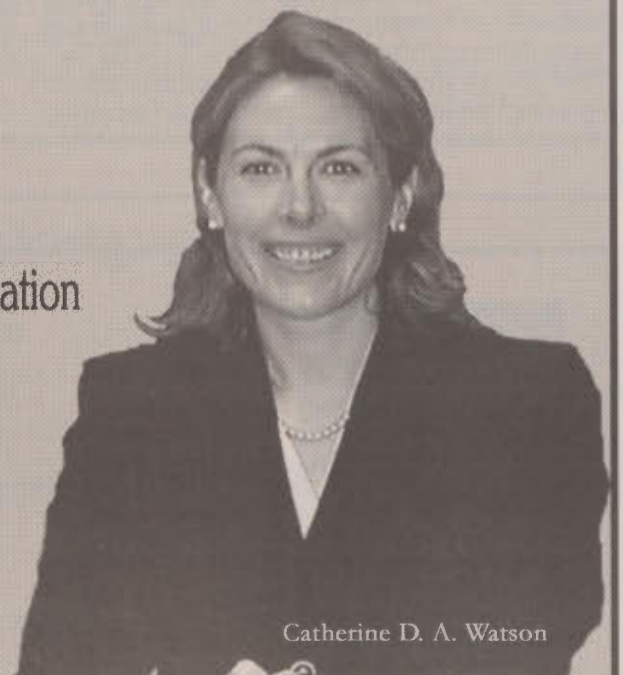
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KIBITZ AND BITEH

Hi Tom

In a small town everybody knows everybody, which is both good and bad. For example, the other day I was walking back from town, struggling a bit with my burden of packages and grocery bags when a car stopped and the driver offered me a lift. Gratefully I got in settling my library books and purchases by my feet. I was about to give him directions to my place when I noticed his signal light was already on to turn onto my street.

"I live over -" I began to say. "Yes, I know." he replied.

We drive past the lady who makes and sells two foot ceramic images of Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus by the roadside and who has the kind of vague beatific smile I associate with the heavily medicated. I feel vaguely disturbed by the fact that all the ceramic babies Jesus are left in their scanty swaddling clothes in the broiling sun without so much as sunscreen for protection. The woman's neighbour claims to be able to heal her fellow shoppers in the checkout line at the supermarket just by touching their carts. Quite a religious neighbourhood in a way.

Moments later, without any information from me, the car made a smooth turn into my driveway. I gathered up my belongings and opened the door but found myself unable to move. Seatbelt! Damn.

A hand appeared on my thigh and I knew it wasn't mine since they were both fully occupied with plastic bags. "We should get together sometime." His hand moved upward and not towards the seatbelt release. Part of my brain suggested I say something like Unhand me you varlet! - I'd been reading a Regency romance - but I wasn't quite sure what a varlet was or even if I wanted to be unhandled. (It's been a somewhat slow summer, if you know what I mean.) Another part of my brain was trying to recall what I knew about ... let's call him, Donald. He works in a store in town, lives with his parents, early forties, not unattractive I suppose though I had never thought of him sexually at all. I was mentally undressing him and wondering if he seemed more of a top or a bottom, when he slid a card into my shirt pocket. "My cell number," he said withdrawing his fingers very slowly and brushing against the volume control for lust radio. "Call me." My poor cerebellum, completely unprepared for this situation, fell back on my early childhood brainwashing in politeness. "Thanks," I said, meaning the ride home. "Um, yeah, sure," I muttered - all my language skills deserting me - and then "thanks" again when he finally disengaged the seatbelt. I bolted from the car faster than Paris Hilton from jail and then stood panting like a marathoner at the finish line once I gained the haven of my apartment. Attention

is always nice but this felt just a teensy bit creepy, although I didn't throw the number away.

My next visitor was even creepier in a way. I awoke one morning to find a squirrel capering about on top of the book cases in the living room. Now a squirrel in the outside world is cute. When he makes his way down the chimney, pushes aside the cover plate for the stove pipe opening behind the painting and enters my space, he's a rat! I yelled at him and he quickly exited but over the next 3 or 4 days he made several return visits. I knew something had to be done before he showed up with tiny suitcases and plans to rearrange the furniture. My landlord got a mesh thing to fit the top of the chimney but unfortunately Mr. Bushytail was in the chimney when it was installed. What followed next was as farcical as a silent film comedy. My landlord armed with a narrow slat of wood begins poking about in the hole, like an aging D'Artagnan with a sword, while I opened the sliding doors. There is a sudden blur of movement, my landlord trips over the ottoman, I shout something incomprehensible and the squirrel runs past the open door and hides under my desk. An hour and a half of noise making, threatening, cajoling and finally just patiently waiting, follows and the little vermin is gone.

I collapse onto the sofa and then jump about three feet when the phone rings. The voice is so soft at first I think there is no one there. "Are you alone?" he whispers. "You don't know me but I'd like to have sex with you sometime but I'd have to wear a mask." I covered the mouthpiece to muffle my laughter. "In the woods," he continues and then gives me a lurid detailed list of the acts he like to experience. I imagine a naked man by a tree wearing a feathered Carnival in Venice mask. I'm intrigued by his imagination. Then, abruptly the birdman says, "My wife's home, I'll call you back."

Yep, just another boring day in small town Nova Scotia.

Love ya!

Crawford

Halifax Pride Wrap Up

by Raymond Taavel

Stimulating, exhausting, joyful, thoughtful, diverse and very wet. Halifax Pride week festival seems to get better and better every year. Much of it has to do with a rainbow community that feels more confident in itself, and some of it has to do with an extremely dedicated set of individuals and volunteers who passionately believe that serving their community makes our lives and communities a better place.

The week included a number of event firsts - the Homo Hopper, a film festival with a do-it-yourself porn contest, (less porn than a night of uproarious laughter and quirky shorts); runs, walks and cycling activities; and a beautiful family picnic at the Dartmouth Commons.

We had the pleasure of enjoying other established events - an enhanced Harbour Cruise; Reading Out Loud, hosted again by the indomitable Jane Kansas; the Dykes vs. Divas baseball game packed them in at close to 2500.

The flag raising at the Grand Parade drew more people than ever to a pivotal and powerfully symbolic event in the heart of HRM; the community's acknowledgement of our place within it.

This year also marked a new and emerging collaboration with two major city festivals, Tall Ships and Jazz East. Halifax Pride also received some of its' best attention to date by the local media.

And then there was Pride Day - one that may be remembered as the wettest ever surely, but one that ought to be remembered because the rain didn't stop a soul from coming out and being counted. The

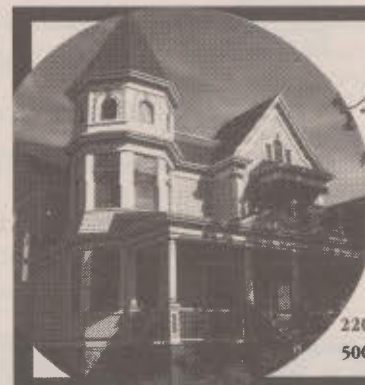
marshaling area, under the extraordinary direction of Parade Co-ordinator Andy Hewlett: burst with activity and bubbled with colours.

This year's parade included community and protest groups, the local bars, many of our valued partners, the Pride bus, the Queen fire engine and noticeable participation by our political representatives. Mayor Kelly joined us for the first time. We were honoured by Grand Marshal Candy Palmater's presence, led by a contingent of our men and women in blue.

If success is measured by number of attendees, it was unparalleled in our communities' history, if measured in spirit our community engaged in the most varied and interesting array of events and activities our community has seen to date.

The all-volunteer Pride committee worked very hard this year, and despite itself, succeeded and overcame its challenges and difficulties. Next time you see one of the committee members - thank them. Also take a moment and recall our many sponsorship partners who funded this year's events (halifaxpride.com) - and don't forget to do your business with them. And lastly and most importantly - thank yourselves for making the week of celebrations yours by coming out in all of your diversity.

Halifax Pride Annual General Meeting Thursday September 13 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Select. www.halifaxpride.com

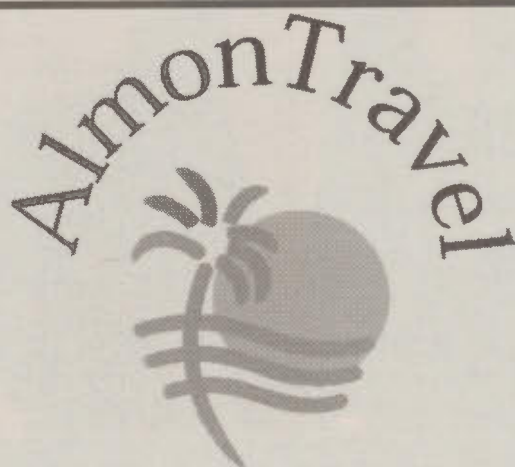


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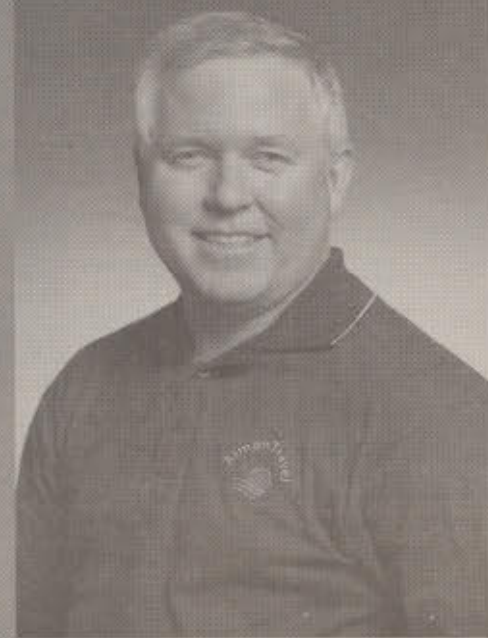
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Dawn's Early Light

Dear Dawn, I'm not gay but I do enjoy fucking men sometimes. I've been happily married for 22 years. My wife knows and is fine with it as long as I don't bring anything home. But herein lies the problem: I can't get off if I have to wear a raincoat to do it. For me bare-backing is the only way, otherwise what's the point? Is it really that risky, I mean, is it easy to catch HIV this way?

Signed, Going without my raincoat.

Dear Raincoatless, YES it is! You need to know your risks so you can make informed decisions. For example, according to Health Canada, men who have sex with

men (MSM) account for the largest number of reported HIV diagnoses in Canada. In fact, MSM account for 70% of positive HIV tests since 1985. Knowing this, you must admit bare-backing is taking a huge risk for you and your wife.

However, if you insist on "going without a raincoat" there are ways to reduce the risk. HIV is harder to pass from bottom to top than it is from top to bottom, so-

it's somewhat safer to give than receive. Gentle anal sex with lots of lube is less risky than rough sex

For me bare-backing is the only way, otherwise what's the point? Is it really that risky, I mean is it easy to catch HIV this way?"

without lube. Obviously, cumming outside is safer than inside an ass or mouth. Keeping your penis and your ass clean before and after will also help a little. If you are the top, taking a leak after sex can also lower your chance of getting some

STI's. STI's will increase your risk of HIV transmission.

These are only a few ideas to help you lower your risk. Knowledge is power—if you want to learn more, contact your local AIDS service organization, or check out www.rainbowhealth.ca for more info. It's important to communicate with your sex partners. Ask them if they are positive, but don't rely solely on what they say—they may not be aware of their own HIV status. How often do you get tested?

Knowing that you are in the highest risk group, you really have to ask yourself what it's worth—is it worth putting my life, my wife's

life and my sex partners at risk because I can't get off without a raincoat? In my opinion, that's extremely selfish. Why not use a condom? You can get some very good, very thin condoms that allow for maximum sensitivity. Just imagine how much better fucking could be without all these concerns on your mind.

Stay safe! Dawn

Come To The Light!

Dawn wants to hear from you. Let Dawn shed some light on your personal problems. Contact her at dawn@wayves.ca.

Halifax Pride Day Synagogue

by Ralph Higgins

On the morning of July 21, 2007, Dan MacKay and I attended service at Shar Shalom synagogue in Halifax. Judaism is not my normal spiritual practice—this was in fact my first visit to a synagogue—but the cantor, Ari Isenberg, was to speak that morning on the topic of being gay and Jewish. He read first from a memoir written by a gay rabbi who had struggled with his feelings and desires for many years—especially at Yom Kippur, the day of atonement when passages from Leviticus would be read aloud. Cantor Isenberg went on to describe the traditional ways of dealing with homosexuality within the Jewish faith. Fasting and prayer, cold showers, getting married, even eating figs were all methods used in hopes of "curing" gay men and women. If all else failed you would be advised to dress in black and leave the area, taking your shame away from your friends and family—an attitude chillingly familiar to most of us.

However, Cantor Isenberg then went on to say that while principles should be held onto, the rules can and should change as social

circumstances change. He pointed out that the Jewish faith in areas like divorce, interest rates and slavery. And now it is time to change the rules about homosexuality. He stated firmly that he was in favour of gay rights and was honoured and happy to be taking part in the multitudinous service as part of Gay Pride Week. I was surprised to find myself quite emotional hearing his words. Perhaps those words of acceptance and welcome touched on old sealed-away feelings from a time when I felt I could not be gay and also loved by the Creator.

I was reminded of Sister Jeanine Gramick, who for over twenty years has ministered to and worked for the queer community in spite of being told repeatedly by the Vatican to stop. Sister Jeanine has written books, organized retreats, spoken publicly on LGBT rights and co-founded New Ways Ministry, a Catholic social justice center. When pressure was brought to bear on her order, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and she was told she must refrain from

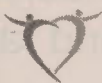
Cont'd to Synagogue, p. 18

Are you grieving the death of a loved one?

Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre's prideHealth program and the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church will be offering a SAFE support group for people in the GLBTI community who have suffered loss within the last two years. Share your experience in this difficult time.

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The Nature Of Queer V - Gay Evolution

By Gerrit Volkmann

Ever since the first proof of a link between homosexuality and genetics became evident, a heated discussion arose on how the proposed genetic factors are maintained in the human population. The nature

of homosexual sex clearly excludes the production of offspring and thus the transmission of genetic material, amongst it the putative "gay genes."

Explanations for this "Darwinian paradox" do not come easy.

Evolution of human behavior can hardly be demonstrated experimentally, so theories are the closest scientists can come up with.

Evolutionary psychologists try to explain the persistence of homo-

The more feminine attributes a man exhibited, the more his attractiveness towards women increased.

sexuality by the gross restructuring of social networks that occurred within the last 10,000 years. As the "hunter-gatherer period" ended and the "agricultural era" began, man was faced with a plethora of new tasks, which required development of more fine-tuned organizing skills in the fields of communication and social leadership, which are commonly viewed as feminine attributes.

The more feminine attributes a man exhibited, the more his attractiveness towards women increased. Women saw these men as better po-

Cont'd to page 13




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Chris Veldhoven, queerparenting@the519.org, 416-392-6878 x109

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For more details and ideas, please check out:
www.the519.org/programs/Queer_Parenting/father_visibility.shtml

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MAC Leather IX Competition Labour Day Weekend

MAC Leather Society presents: *Pirates de la Chaleur/Pirates of the Chaleur*. As you get ready for camp, make sure to include some leather and boot polish so you can take part in MAC Leather IX in Petit-Rocher, New Brunswick.



Marcel Mr Leather G.N.G. 2007

For the first time GNG Pride Weekend (Aug 31-Sep 3) will include the Ms & Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Competition on Sunday, September 2, at 6:00 pm. With the spectacular Baie de Chaleur as a backdrop, contestants from all across Atlantic Canada will take the stage. The show will include entertainment, prize draws and a victory party and BBQ! Venture on up to Camp Ectus for the contest, the day, the night, or better still, the weekend! Check out www.gngnb.ca for more information, or call Paul at (506) 854-3081 or email chinman52@hotmail.com

Here are the MAC Leather Contestants for 2007.

Diane LeBlanc is a young 48 year old, single woman, who is the current Ms. Moncton Leather. She has been into leather for 30 years. She also was the Ms. Moncton leather fellowship for 2005 and



2006 .She has been involed in the community and has volenteered in many events within the gay community..Diane also sells Pride merchandise in the Atlantic Provinces, traveling to all Pride events.

Grant Lively is 37 years old 5,10 155 lbs. Originally from Ontario grew up in Nova Scotia and has made New Brunswick home fro the last 11 years .Recently Transferd to Amherst Nova Scotia. Grant has been into the leather scene for the past 7 years and has been involved in several community fundraisers. He has participated in past Mr. Leather Moncton contests as well as MAC Leather contests.



Stewart MacDonald, Mr. Leather PEI, Rainbow Lodge, Vernon Bridge PEI. Stewart grew up in

Charlottetown PEI then headed west after graduating from UPEI with a Bachelor Degree in Psychology. Stewart worked in Montreal in retail and had his own landscaping business prior to moving back to PEI last year. This is his first tryout in the leather community and looking forward to competing with other like minded men and women.



Art Vautor is 50 years old, and stands at 5' 7" tall. A native of Moncton, he has been an active member of the Leather Community for the past several years.



Art is the co-founder of Moncton Pride, and an advocate for the rights of Gays and Lesbians in New Brunswick. He also owned and operated the first "Gay Pride" store in Moncton.

Art and his husband were one of the first gay couples in the Moncton area to be legally married when

the province of Ontario legalized marriage in 2002. And tirelessly found the province of New Brunswick to do the same. A decision which was won in 2004.

Art held the title of Mr. Leather Moncton in 2005, and was second runner up for Mr. Atlantic Canada Leather that same year. He was also first runner up in MAC Leather in 2006.

Art enjoys Genealogy, Gardening, and spending time with his husband of 7 years Wayne, and their three dogs, Sasha, Kiki, and Maggie.

Rick: I'm 48 yrs old I was born in St Stephen NB but I was raised in Wabush Labrador where my father was police chief His leather Belt and shoulder harness allways appelled to me so I guess thats where my intrest in leather first started I am a father of 2 beautiful girls sophie and chantal I'm also a proud grandfather to 2 boys Cain and Zale and I have my third on the way. I have been with the same partner for 19 yrs we met while



Troy Morehouse, 39 and holding. Troy stands 5' 8" and weighs 170 lbs and lives in Saint John, NB. Troy is employed as an electrical engineer in the telecom industry, and also a technical guy (lights, web, multimedia) for "Impulse Dance Bar & Lounge" in Saint John. Currently Mr. Leather Saint John 2007



Pictou County Celebrates Pride

The rainbow community of Pictou County celebrated their 2007 Pride Festival from August 7 to 11. It started off with a quiet ceremony at the New Glasgow Riverfront, where the Gay Pride Flag was raised.

Guest speakers pointed out to the small gathered crowd the importance of equality and diversity represented by the Pride Flag and Pride Festivities. Pictou East MLA Clarrie MacKinnon addressed how important the work is that the Pride Committee of Pictou County has done this year. Councillor Nor-



Pictou County Pride BBQ (left to right): Co-chair Albert Sampson, Lee Bexanson, and Ramona Westgate

man Paris read out a letter on behalf of New Glasgow Mayor Ann MacLean.

Other speakers included a representative from the Northern Aids Connection Society, and members of the Pride of Pictou County. Pictou County Pride chair Ramona Westgate noted that this was the second Pride Festival hosted by the Pride of Pictou County, and that for the second year in a row to arrange the flag raising "all we had to do was ask." The Pride Flag remained up for the duration of the Pride Festivities.

Other activities of the week include a Public Screening of "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" at the



Pride of Pictou County Chair, Ramona Westgate; Councillor Jack Lewis; Pictou East MLA Clarrie MacKinnon; Councillor Clyde Fraser; New Glasgow acting Cheif of Police

New Glasgow Library, a talent show hosted by the Youth Group, a BBQ and a Dance. All events were open to the general public.

For more information about the Pride of Pictou County or the Pride activities, please visit their website at www.prideofpictou-county.ca.



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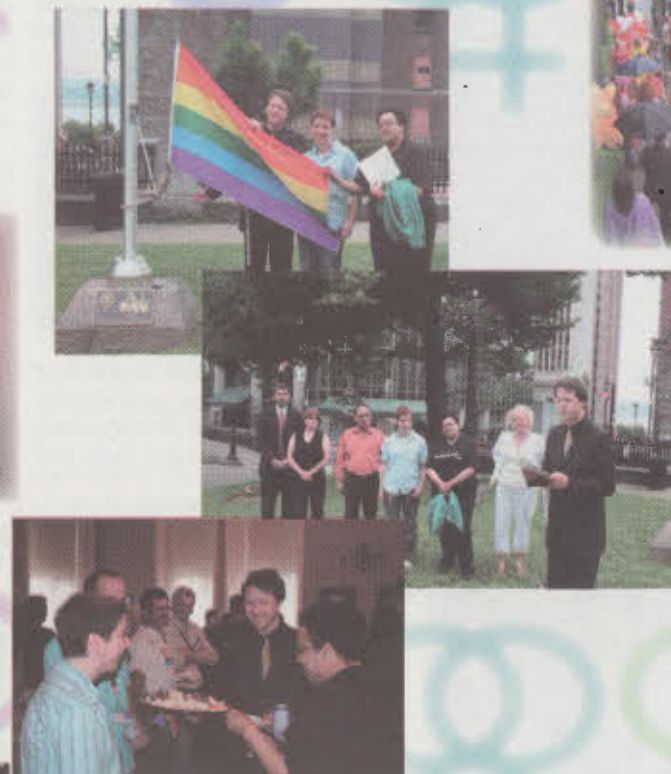
Your Halifax Pride '07 Scrapbook

Photo Credits: Gerrit Volkmann
Mike Tompkins - Wainwright Tribute

Art Gallery & ReelOut!...



Flag Raising...



DalOut Trivia Night...



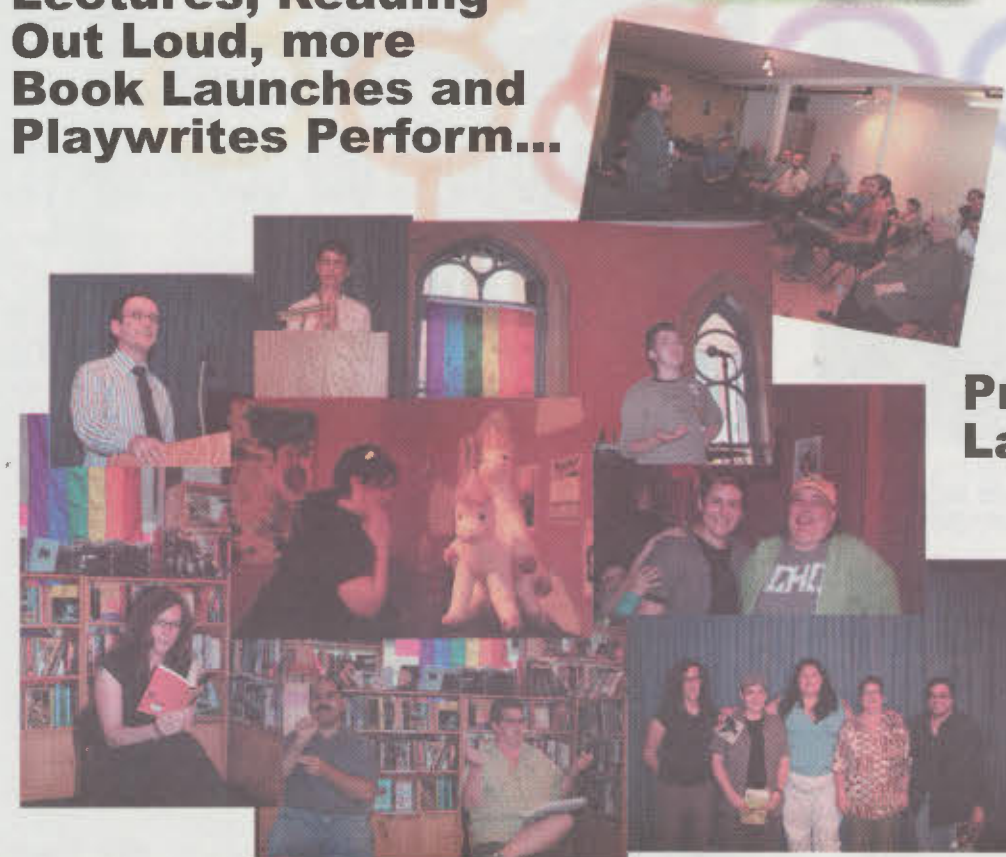
Family Pride Picnic...



Reflections Pride Show...



Youth Art, Lunch Lectures, Reading Out Loud, more Book Launches and Playwrites Perform...



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Chef's Corner



Since mid August or so, we have been in the peak of tomato season. The absolute best, in my opinion, are the heirloom varieties. They come in all different shapes, colours and sizes and have a particularly excellent balance of acidity to sweetness. This salad makes a great side to any seasonal meal, and particularly any grilled items, be they meat, fish, or vegetables. I based it on the Italian classic "Carpese" which is tomato, basil and fresh mozzarella cheese, day old bread, aged balsamic vinegar and good olive oil. This is my interpretation on an old classic brought to new life. "Viva l'Italia!"

Chef Darren is Chef and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, Halifax's newest two star restaurant, 1537 Barrington Street, Halifax, N.S. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, www.chives.ca.

Menz Bar Winner

Menz Bar would like to congratulate Jerry Sampson, winner of our trip for two to Montreal's DIVERS/CITÉ (August 3rd - 5th, 2007). The prize package includes return airfare for two, plus three

nights' accommodation at Hôtel Le St-André courtesy of Menz Bar & Moosehead. Also included are a \$50 gift certificate and two tickets to a DIVERS/CITÉ main event courtesy of Priape. Regards, Doug Melanson & David Landry, Menz Bar

Cont'd from Nature of Queer, page 8

tential fathers since they were more empathetic, sensitive and kind, and less of a danger in terms of aggression. The "new" man therefore had a selective advantage over the "old" man. Homosexuality then developed in male offspring had they received a copiousness of those female attributes.

A slightly different perspective on how homosexuality may have been manifested is through same-sex alliances. Men were able to gain power and respect through homosocial behavior, thereby ensuring their survival. The genetic traits of this behavior were thus preferentially transmitted to offspring, and then further evolved into homosexuality? May I ask at this point: Whatever happened to same-sex alliances?

The only fact-based theory picks up a point that I mentioned in one of my earlier columns: the unusually high number of homosexuals in the maternal line of families. A research study suggests that females in maternal lines of homosexuals show a higher fecundity than do females in maternal lines of heterosexuals, thus transmitting "larger quantities" of genetic material, and thus possibly "gay genes."

In all of the readings on the evolutionary persistence of homosexuality, I was struck that one fact was never addressed: the actual transmission of genes by homosexuals due to sexual reproduction. It seems to me as though scientists think that homosexuality excludes the production of offspring. Okay, this is true for the nature of homosexual sexual activity: man-on-man

and woman-on-woman does not equal a baby, but: gays produce sperm and lesbians have eggs, so we are definitely able to reproduce. Many lesbians choose to give birth, and surely there are gays that would like to have children of their own (me, for instance). Besides, there are numerous gay men that come out of the closet after having produced offspring, i.e. after passing on their genes. So the transmission of gay genes by homosexuals themselves surely contributes to homosexual persistence as well. Now that's research to look into!

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Heirloom Tomato Salad "Carpese Style"

Ingredients (side salad for 4)

- 4 large beefsteak tomatoes (tops sliced off and reserved, core hollowed out)
- 2 lb. assorted mini heirloom tomatoes (washed and quartered)
- 2 slices day old Italian loaf (rub with olive oil and grill on both sides, then small dice)
- 1/4 cup crumbled gorgonzola blue cheese
- 1/2 cup torn fresh basil leaves
- 1 tbsp minced red onion
- 4 tbsp prepared basil pesto

Vinaigrette

- 1/2 cup whole garlic cloves
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 of a roasted red pepper (jarred are O.K., cut in small dice)
- 1/4 cup white balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup minced fresh chives
- 1 tsp fleur de sel and
- 1/2 tsp fresh cracked pink pepper (or to taste)

Method

1. Place the garlic and oil in a sauce pan and bring to 180F on a deep fry thermometer, reduce heat to 160F and poach the garlic until fork tender. (note: this should take about 10 minutes; garlic should have no colour.) 2. When garlic is ready, remove it from the oil, give it a rough chop and set aside. Whisk the vinegar into the oil, add remaining vinaigrette ingredients, stir, and place in an airtight container. Refrigerate overnight for best flavour. 3. When ready to make salad, place all ingredients except for the beefsteak tomatoes in a mixing bowl. Toss the ingredients with enough vinaigrette to coat everything, season the inside of the beefsteak tomatoes, and fill with the mixed salad. 4. Place 1 tbsp of pesto in the center of 4 serving bowls, place a stuffed tomato on top of the pesto in each bowl, drizzle with a little more vinaigrette, cover with their respective tomato tops and serve.

Note: This salad is always better when the tomatoes are at room temperature.

Halifax Rainbow Community Centre

Two Halifax groups, Centre of Hope and BLT Womyn, have started a petition to explore people's interest in a "Rainbow Community Centre" here in HRM. Shaun Adams of the Centre of Hope writes, "Through our group discussions, and board meetings, we feel very strongly that this resource is needed for the community. We envision a place where people can meet, be themselves, and feel acceptance. We would love to see workshops, education, video conference technology, and space rentals available to groups within our GLBTQ community." You can find their petition located at the Dalhousie Women's Centre, at 6286 South Street. If you would like to know more, please check out centreofhopehalifax.org.

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

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

Egale President & Atlantic Director, St. John's, NL: (709) 690-5244 email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

Gay Men's Gathering: at PO Box 36054, Halifax, B3J 3S9

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

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

Halifax Transguys: support group for transmen at any point in transition, locally and in Atlantic Canada. at Please write for further information on our upcoming meetings and social events.

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

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

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society, assorted cities: Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: chinman52@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

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

Propitiation: A fellowship of gay and lesbian Anglicans and their friends. 416-977-4359 email: propitiation@hotmail.com (We meet in members homes on a Saturday or Sunday Evening once every other month for Evening Prayer Discussion, refreshments and fellowship.) at -contact for meeting location. We prefer our heritage, worship, and Spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer. We are troubled by such right wing organizations as the prayer book society and Essentials.

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Editorial meeting one Monday night a month; layout one Sunday a month; see the Calendar on our web page) at downtown Halifax - email us for details

New Brunswick (506)

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church, Saint John: invites you to worship. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick, Fredericton: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. 459-7518 email: sidaids@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.aidsnb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

AIDS Saint John, Saint John: improve quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV, reduce the spread through education 652-2437 email: aidsj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aidsaintjohn.com

East Coast Bears, Fredericton: adult men who are, or like, masculine, hairy men. 506-455-2856 email: info@eastcoastbears.com web: www.eastcoastbears.com (See webpage for schedule.)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton: Occasional social events and Email listserve. email: jamesw@stu.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

Gais, es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG), Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area): 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.

Integrity, Fredericton: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. web: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity/ (Watch our website for details of 2007 planned events, (coming soon). Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation.) at St John's Anglican Church, 59 Broad Road, Ormococt, New Brunswick.

Moncton Line Dancing, Moncton: LINE DANCING for all levels from beginner to advanced. No partner required. No dress code. , meets every Wednesday (8:30pm sharp) at Triangles Bar, corner of St. George and Archibald.

Moncton Transgender Support Group, Moncton: Transgressors, their allies, families and friends. email: ellisk@nbnet.nb.ca (Meets Monthly, email for

time and place.)

PFLAG Canada - Fredericton, Fredericton: all welcome. email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Wednesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Wednesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

PFLAG Canada - Moncton, Moncton: GLBTT2IQQ persons and their parents, families and friends. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (occasionally on the 2nd Monday - please call) at 7:30-9:30 PM at U. de M. in Rm 302, Adrien-J.-Cormier Building.

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst, Sackville NB/Amherst NS: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

PFLAG Canada - Saint John NB, Saint John: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. 648-9700 email: wandr@nbnet.nb.ca, tigger@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.pflag.ca/saintjohn.htm (1st Friday of each month September - June at 7pm. 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, Saint John: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: events@portcityrainbowpride.com web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

River Of Pride, Moncton: Organizes, promotes and produces Moncton's Pride events! email: monctonpride2007@gmail.com web: www.fier-temonctonpride.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and last Tuesday (contact ilaisha@nbnet.nb.ca for further meeting and event dates) at Triangles bar 234 St. George St. Moncton NB

Safe Spaces Fundy Region, Saint John: Committed to ending discrimination around issues of sexual orientation in youth. email: safespaces@gmail.com web: www.safespacesfundy.com (See our webpage for schedule of meetings and socials @ www.safespacesfundy.com)

Safe Spaces Moncton, Moncton: Safe Spaces offers support & counselling to GLBTQ Youth between 14-25. 869-6224 email: safespaces@nb.aibn.com web: www.safespaces.ca

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

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library, Saint John: 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.

SIDA AIDS Moncton, Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaids@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 165A Gordon St., Moncton, NB, E1C 1N1

Spectrum, Fredericton: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum, meets every Tuesday (7 pm) at SUB 203

The UNBSJ Q-Collective, Saint John: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 or 648-9227 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.UNBSJ.ca (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university GLBTQ 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, participate in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton, Moncton: Visé à éduquer, à sensibiliser et à offrir des ressources dans la langue française. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/ (Visitez le site Web ou envoyez un courriel pour en apprendre davantage au sujet du travail que nous accomplissons.)

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

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

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

Conception Bay North AIDS Interest Group, Conception Bay: Conception Bay North AIDS Interest Group is a volunteer organization, education and prevention 709-596-4433 email: cbn.aids.intgr@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.cbnaig.org (Taylor Bldg., Carbonear Road, P.O. Box 993, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, A0A 2M0)

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

LBGT-MUN Resource Centre, St. John's: LBGT-MUN

is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers! 737-7619 email: lbgtmun@mun.ca web: www.mun.ca/lbgt/ (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! LBGT-MUN: "A Positive Place, for Positive People!"

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.pflag.ca

St. John's Pride, St. John's: St. John's Official Pride Organization. 709-746-6564 email: info@stjohnspride.net web: www.stjohnspride.net

Nova Scotia (902)

Acadia Pride, Wolfville: Acadia's GLBT group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiu.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (7:30pm (during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre, Wolfville: 585-2140 email: 057996c@acadiau.ca web: axe.acadiu.ca/women-centre (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

Affirm United, Halifax Metro: GLBT & Friends support, action and worshiping community within the United Church. 902-461-4528 email: ajstew@eastlink.ca at Box 33067, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Sydney: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms! (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@accb.ns.ca; christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca, meets 1st Tuesday (6:00pm Board Meetings - Anonymous HIV Testing Available - See website for full calendar of events.) at 150 Benlinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Halifax: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)429-7922 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous, Halifax: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community: (902) 463-7895 email: courage449@yahoo.com web: www.rationalunacy.com/cout, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, Halifax: 455-9656

Bedford United Church, HRM/ Bedford: An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

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

Bluenose Bears, Halifax: Club for bears and those who like them. 463-4312 email: bluenosebears@accesswave.ca, meets 3rd Wednesday

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

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre, Truro: Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (80 Glenwood Drive, Truro, N.S., B2N 1P3 Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30)

Cumberland Pride, Amherst & Area: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com, meets 3rd Thursday (7:30 PM)

DalOUT, Halifax: LGBTQ Society at Dalhousie. 494-2190 email: dalout@dal.ca web: societies.dsu.ca/dalout, meets every Thursday (During the academic year we meet at about 7pm each Thursday night.) at Dalhousie University, check OUT our website or contact us for details

Family Pride Camping Association (Rainbow Spirit), Halifax: FPCC plans events for GLBT families with kids of all ages. From Camping weekends to bowling events. email: info@fpca.ca web: www.fpca.ca (Contact us if you are interested in helping out or would like to be contacted when we have events.)

Frontrunners Halifax, Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/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 at Visit and get on the email list for more info.

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

Group Harrison Society, Cape Breton: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. (902)270-6969 email: groupharrisonsociety@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/groupharrisonsociety, meets last Saturday (of every month Admission \$6.50 - \$5.50 for members- Best light and sound show around! Restricted 19 yrs and over) at Steel Workers Hall, Sydney

HalGal Mailing List, Halifax: events and information for queer/lesbian/bi/trans women and their allies in Halifax. web: groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal

Halifax Rainbow Speakers, Halifax: Speakers available, contact us if you are interested in joining also. 494-6662 web: www.thenovascotiapublicinterresearchgroup.dal.ca (Call for times & locations)

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society, Halifax: 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

Intensity Dance, Halifax: non-profit dance collective and presenting organization. email: intensitydance@yahoo.com web: intensitydance.tripod.com

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Project, Halifax: support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under from across Nova Scotia. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (support and connection across, Week one: Monday - Transgender Discussion group 7-9 pm; Tuesday - 18 & under Discussion group 6-8 pm; Week two: Tues. Drop-in - 6-8 pm; Wed. - Movie Night 7-9 pm. Week three: Mon. Transgender Discussion group - 7-9 pm; Wed. Activity Night. Week four: Tues. Theme Drop-in - 6-9 pm; Wed. Movie Night - 7-9 pm. A youth food bank and STI testing on site. Please refer to website for times and details.) at 2281 Brunswick Street.

LGB Youth Support Group Lunenburg County, Bridgewater: fun social/support group for under 25 through the Sexual Health Ctr & LGB Youth Project. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca (Postponed until further notice: Volunteer facilitators needed! (over age 25))

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

Northern AIDS Connection Society, Truro: HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland & East Hants. 895-0931 email: nacsns@hotmail.com web: nacsns.tripod.com (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.

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

Outlaw, Halifax: Queer Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School. (Meetings vary. Please email if interested.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG Canada - Amherst/Sackville: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (Contact us for meeting details.) at Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG Canada - Halifax, Halifax: support and education for parents, family and friends. (902) 443-3747 email: ab274@chebucto.ns.ca (September-March: 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-4 PM April-June: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM) at individual homes

PFLAG Canada - Middleton, Middleton: Parents & friends. 902-825-0548 email: middletonns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflag-canada.ca/middleton.html, meets last Friday (7-9pm) at the Wilmot Community Centre civic address 13972 Highway #1 wilmot. Wilmot is located just between kingston and Middleton. The hall depending on direction that your coming from. Left if your coming from the East side and Right if your coming from the West direction.

PFLAG Canada - Sydney, Sydney: PFLAG Sydney provides support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneys@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month at 7:30pm. No meetings for July and August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

PFLAG Truro: 662.3774

Positive Connections: Teleconferenced support groups for people living with AIDS. email: connections@acns.ns.ca, meets every Monday (evening 7:00pm - 8:00pm) at by phone. No long distance charges. For more info call 425-4882 ext 228 or 1-800-566-2437 ext 228 or e-mail.

Pride Cape Breton Society, Sydney: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website for other events. (902) 539-4627 web: www.pridecapreton.com (Dances on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Check website for dance theme!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

Pride Guide Publishing: publisher of community focused maps, directories, event programs and more. 902-423-6999 email: prideguide@eastlink.ca

Pride of Pictou County, New Glasgow: All GLBT in Pictou County. 695-5222 web: www.PrideofPictou-County.ca (see web page for meeting info)

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

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

Red Door, The, Kentville: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 28 Webster Court

RESPECT, Truro: Students Making Healthy Decisions. 902-893-6300 email: respect@nsac.ca (P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3)

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environ- mental), Truro: Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 902-893-6300 email: lyoung@nsac.ns.ca (Meeting are as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome! 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets every Sunday (11 am) at 2786 Agricola St. Bloomfield Centre, Suite #108

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society:

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

Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland County, Cumberland County: We provide sexuality information and education in an environment that respects and supports choice. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.cfsh.info at 12 LaPlanche St., Amherst Monday - Thursday, 9 - 5 (by chance or appt.) Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms

Sexual Health Centre Lunenburg County, Bridgewater: Confidential information, support & services for all ages & genders. Free condoms & info pamphlets. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.LunCo.cfsh.info (Open by chance or by appointment) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

South Shore Pride Social Club, Bridgewater: for 19 & older. 685-3297 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca (No meetings at this time.) at We hold dances on the third Saturday of each month from 9:00PM to 1:00AM. No dance in July. Door prizes and 50/50 draw and a major prize draw at June dance. Cash Bar. Call or email for location.

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

Team Halifax, 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 Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society, (Cape Breton/Halifax/Annapolis Valley): email: tpineo@hotmail.com web: To be released

Tightrope, Halifax: leather & denim brotherhood. See our monthly events listing at http://gay.hfxns.org/LocalEvents. 455-0623, ask for Don, meets 3rd Saturday

Truro Pride, Truro: A group supporting GLBT individuals in the Colchester County. 902-895-0931 email: truropride@hotmail.com, meets every Wednesday (6:30 p.m.) at Coffee and conversation every Wednesday evening at the FairTrade Cafe on Prince Street, between Commercial and Dominion Streets. The group is open to all and the cafe is a gay friendly environment. For information call the Northern AIDS Connection Society at 902-895-0931 or email truropride@hotmail.com The Truro Pride also hosts dances and other activities, ask for details.

Universalist Unitarian Church, Halifax: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500, meets every Sunday (10:30) at 5500 Inglis St

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House, Kingston: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 902-765-2821 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: facetwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception of in November. There is two dances held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

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

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

Prince Edward Island (902)

Abegweit Rainbow Collective, Charlottetown: Serving GLBTTQ Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arpei.ca web: www.arpei.ca, meets 2nd Tuesday (of each month) at ARC Offices at 144 Prince Street, 3rd floor

AIDS PEI, Charlottetown: 566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 144 Prince Street

Gay PEI Mailing List, province-wide: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pei-owner@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei (It's an electronic list, there aren't meetings. You can join and start posting at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei at any time. All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list.)

GLBT Youth group, Charlottetown: Safe Space Drop-Ins. 367-3408 or toll free 1 877 380 5776 email: youth@arpei.ca web: youth.arpei.ca at 144 Prince St. We have a lending library, books, movies, magazines and a place to hang out and chat. Special events planned throughout the year.

Narcotics Anonymous, Charlottetown: a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 566-9733 or 1-800-205-8402 (Mondays & Fridays 8:00pm) at 178 Fitzroy St

Events >>

Amherst

Second Monday

PFLAG Amherst/Sackville - in Amherst one month, Sackville the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street.

First and Third Wednesdays

Amherst and Area, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group Meeting, 7-9pm. Anyone who is GLBT or questioning their sexuality in the Amherst, Oxford, Springhill, Pugwash and Parrsboro areas is welcome, this is a safe space where anyone can come and feel safe in talking about their sexuality and just being themselves without fear of ridicule or harassment. lgbypp-amherst@hotmail.com, all emails confidential.

Third Thursday of each month

Cumberland Pride Support Group: Social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Thursday of each month. Contact information: Gerard Veldhoven at 902-660-5004 or E-mail: gaylords_1975@hotmail.com

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House Meets every Thursday evening from 7-9pm and also on the first Saturday of every month hosts a Gay/Lesbian dance for ages 19 and up from 9pm-1am. If you need more information concerning themes or other events that may take place call 902-765-2821 or email menembracingmen@yahoo.ca

Every Sunday

Valley Girls is a social group for lesbians in the Annapolis Valley. Coffee Group on Sundays. For more information e-mail the group at Valley_Girls@yahoo.com

Bridgewater

Third Saturday of each month

Wileville Dance. Smoke free. For more details

call 685-3297 or email info@southshorepride.ca or www.southshorepride.ca

Cape Breton

Every 2nd Saturday

Pride Cape Breton Society hosts community dances at the Southend Community Centre in Sydney; admission just \$5., and open to those 19 yrs. of age and older.

Charlottetown

...see Prince Edward Island

Fredericton

Every Tuesday

Spectrum, UNB and STU's social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, etc. students. As a group, our aim is to create a safe and supportive space for those who are questioning or discovering their sexuality, as well as providing a social outlet for members of the campus LGBTQ community. While our membership is primarily composed of UNB and STU students, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. 7 pm, Top floor of SUB 203 (in the Sexuality Centre, across from the Ballroom) Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at spectrum@unb.ca

Every Wednesday

UNB/STU Women's Collective, at the University Women's Centre in the SUB, 5pm. Contact Lyndsey Gallant at gvnkr@stu.ca or call 450-3870.

Third Sunday of each month

GLB ANGLICANS AND FRIENDS Integrity is a non profit organization of Gay and Lesbian Anglicans and Friends. Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation. Integrity Fredericton was formed in October 2004 and supports and encourages Gay Men and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. A Eucharist followed by a coffee hour discussion is held at 4:00 PM on the third Sunday of each month at St. John's, 58 Broad

Road, Oromocto. For more details check out website: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity

Fourth Wednesday of each month

PFLAG Fredericton meets at 7 PM at the Unitarian Fellowship, 874 York Street. Everyone welcome. Discussion, guest speakers, support and special events. For more information email pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca. Confidentiality assured.

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

BOOM! NIGHTCLUB

www.boomnightclub.ca, 463-Boom!

(2666)

474 Queen Street

Thursdays - Retro night - 70s, 80s, 90s... All dance mixes from a different decade each week. Open 4-1.

Fridays and Saturdays - Happy hour 4-9, All-extended-mix mainstream club music 9-2.

Sundays - New Brunswick's one and only T-dance! All-anthem dance music, 4-7.

Halifax

Every Sunday

Bedford United Church. 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an Affirming Congregation and welcome everyone. Services at 9 am (Casual & Contemporary) and 11 am (Quieter & More Reverent in tone) Starting June 24-Sept. 9, one 10 am service. For more info, call 835-8497.

Every Sunday

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome!. 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets at 11 am at 2786 Agricola St. Bloomfield Centre, Suite #108

Last Friday of each month

Bedford United Church **New group for members of the Rainbow Community** You are invited to try out a group for fellowship and support of spiritually inclined members of the Rainbow Community! The group will gather on the last Friday of each month beginning September 28, 2007 from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the church parlour (closest door off Sullivan's Hill). Bedford United is an Affirming Congregation and located at 1200 Bedford Hwy in Bedford. Meetings will be of a casual, informal nature with the group determining the agenda that they'd like the meetings to follow. Please call the church at 835-8497, e-mail affirmingcongregation@bedfordunited.com or visit http://bedfordunited.com/affirm.php for more information.

Second Sunday of each month

Play Group for Queer Families! 3-5pm 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. For info, call 422-8780 or email lynnmacdonald@hfx.eastlink.ca

First and Third Mondays

Young people's group, at Safe Harbour, at 7 pm, Bloomfield Centre 2786 Agricola Street, Suite 108. The group watches an LGBT movie with some spiritual or other worthwhile value, eats some pizza and discusses the movie. Everyone age 30 and under is welcome.

First and Third Tuesdays

Formerly known as the Queer/Straight Alliance, Mount Pride in the GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. We are an active and online group that meets bi-weekly on tuesdays at 12 noon in the diversity center in Roseria on campus, and online at mountpride@yahoo.com. Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers, and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open

to anyone who would like to join.

First and Third Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project Social Drop-in Nights. This is an unstructured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever, 6-9pm, 25 and under, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project 18 and under Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed, 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

First and Third Sundays

BLT-WOMYN OF HALIFAX DISCUSSION GROUP! This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered womyn's Only! -Free Group, NO Dues, NO Fee's- MEETINGS are every second SUNDAY. @6pm - 7:30pm (Please remember when applying to this group, send full name and a contact number or call sue at 499-0335, everthing is kept PRIVATE!) LOCATION: DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S CENTRE 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) HOW TO JOIN THIS GROUP: Come to a discussion night or send us your e-mail address or call a moderator (Sue @ 499-0335). If you have any questions. A discussion group for Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered women, who will meet to have open discussions, in a positive environment. To discuss topics concerning ourselves and our community. This is a bi-weekly meeting on Sundays. http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ OR sueandrews1964@hotmail.com

First and Third Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project Movie Night, 25 and under, starting at 7pm. 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca,



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Pick up the oversized 650 ml bottle of our signature queer beer for a limited time only!

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<< Events >>

www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project ages 18-25 Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second Wednesday of each month

Spirituality for Lesbians, 7:30-9PM. 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. For info about the place of the next meeting call 459-2649 and leave name and number. Personal mailbox: confidentiality assured.

Aug 30, Sept 13, 27, Oct 11, 25

Anonymous HIV Testing, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia 1657 Barrington St, Suite 321, 5-8pm. 425-4882 for an appointment.

Sept 2, 16, 30, Oct 14, 28

Koinonia Ecumenical Church - Meaning 'community'. Services bi-weekly at 12:30pm at Halifax Feast downtown. Pastor Elaine, 876-8771 or koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca

Sept 11

Venus Envy Event: Body harnesses are fantastic for creating beautiful, effective, and sexy bondage for all types of bodies and many different sorts of scenes. You can use a harness for very secure rigging. Or you can make a pretty rope outfit. Create intense harnesses for pain sluts. How about sensual breast bondage? Midori will show you at least 6 different varieties of body harnesses. You can choose the ones you want to practice

with attentive supervision from Midori. Dress & Supplies: Wear comfortable clothing that allows freedom of movement. Bring a large towel or yoga mat if you would like to use the floor. And, of course, bring rope—the more, the merrier! (Suggested minimum: 3 or 4 pieces of 20, 25, or 30 foot lengths. If the rope is for a smaller person, bring the shorter lengths. For a larger person, bring the longer lengths.) No experience necessary. 2.5 hours @ 7:00pm. for everyone \$25.00 (limited income \$15.00) for more info or to register contact venus envy at 422 0004

Sept 12

Venus Envy Event: Getting What You Want in SM with Midori. Not sure how to start your first SM scene? Have you ever come out of an SM experience feeling unfulfilled? Why not learn how to get what you want? This class will help both the top/bottom, dominant/submissive to experience a fulfilling scene. No specific experience needed. 2.5 hours @ 7:00pm. for everyone \$25.00 (limited income \$15.00) for more info or to register contact venus envy at 422 0004

Sept 18

Venus Envy Event: Going Down: A Guide to Fellatio. If you're interested in licking boys' bits, but aren't sure where to start or what to do once you get going, this workshop is for you. From basic anatomy to tips for the advanced, this workshop will cover a wide range of information about giving head. 2 hours @ 6:30pm. for everyone \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) for more info or to register contact venus envy at 422 0004

Sept 25

Venus Envy Event: I'm Coming! A Guide to Women's Orgasm. Some women never experience orgasm, some can have orgasms once in awhile, or on their own, or never on their own, or ... you get the picture. The female orgasm can sometimes be rather elusive, and that can be okay, but it can also be very frustrating. This session will look at some

of the reasons women have difficulty with orgasm, offer suggestions around play to enhance sexual feelings, as well as covering important anatomical information. Discussion includes g-spot, clitoris, and tips to use both alone and with a partner. 2 hours @ 6:30pm. for everyone \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) for more info or to register contact venus envy at 422 0004

October 11

DalOUT celebrates National Coming Out Day hosting their second annual "Come Out At The Grawood" night at the Grawood Bar and Lounge in the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave.) Similar in format to last year's highly successful event, the night will feature a drag show, music by a live DJ, and some fantastic prizes. It is a guaranteed good time, so be sure to bring your friends. The cover charge is \$3 with \$1 going to the Nova Scotia AIDS Coalition. DalOUT, the LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University, is open to all members of the community. Everyone is always welcome. For more information, visit <http://societies.dsu.ca/dalout> or e-mail dalout@dal.ca.

Halifax Youth Project Calendar

Youth Project events operate in a 4-week schedule. To find out what week we're operating in, please see our website or contact us! www.youthproject.ns.ca, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, 429-5429

Week 1

Monday - Transgender Discussion Group: A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what trans youth have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. A place to talk about trans issues and make new

friends! 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Tuesday - Discussion Group (ages 18 and under) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Wednesday - Discussion Group (ages 18-25) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 2

Tuesday - Social Drop-in Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick street

Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 3

Tuesday - Guest Speaker & Discussion night (ages 25 & under) A new speaker every week to educate & spark discussion. This is a structured environment. 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick street

Wednesday - Activity night (ages 25 & under) A chance to have fun and perhaps learn something new. Activities will be on this night lasting two and a half months. First activity class IMPROV classes. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 4

Tuesday - Social Drop-in Themed Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event with a fun & exciting theme. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick street

Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Halifax Bar & Business Calendar

BLUE MOON BISTRO/BACK BAR
2099B Gottingen St., Halifax, (902) 446-3644

5 pm-2 am, 7 days a week

Sunday - August 5th 2007 Cousin Cletus strives to entertain the masses. All proceeds will be raised from the BBQ and silver collection goes to local chosen charities.

August 12th 2007 is the 7th annual Studio X Le Noir Community Achievement Awards. Check bar for further details on www.imperialcourtns.com

Monday - August 13th 2007 Ms. Vicki and friends "Walk for Life". \$3 cover and ISCANS BBQ on the patio.

Tuesdays and Thursdays are Karaoke with DJ Special Tee. Check out our specials.

Wednesdays - Blue Moon Swinging Dancers. Come learn how to swing dance by cute willing instructors. No cover.

Fridays and Saturdays - The Blue Moon presents special House DJ's. Check bar for further details.

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August LINE UP

Mondayz 5pm-9pm - BEER, BURGERS Special...! Ask our Bartenders for details!

Wednesdayz 9:30pm - 1:30pm Karaoke with Bear777 - Sing the Mystery Song & Win up to \$300!

Fridayz 5pm-10pm TGIF (Thank God I'm Fabulous) COCKTAIL Party - U Want It, We'll Shake It!

Fridayz & Saturdayz DANCE PARTIES with our House DJ's from 10pm-2am
Sundayz: BRUNCH 8am-3pm &

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Noon Till Close!

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THUR 11am till 10pm

FRI: 11am till 11pm *BAR till 2am

SAT BRUNCH MENU - 8am till 3pm

- Diner till 11pm * BAR till 2am

SUN BRUNCH MENU - 8am till 3pm

- Diner till 10pm New LUNCHEON

Specials & Daily Features

Mondayz - BURGERZ & MOOSEHEAD

Night

Tuesdayz - MOLLYZ YOU PICK

- PASTA & WINE Comboz

Wednesdayz - WINGS & MOOSE

Draught

Thursdayz - All U Can Eat Mussel &

MOOSE Night!

FISHY Fridayz - Mollyz BEER

BATTERED Fish & Chips & MOOSE

Draught

Saturday & Sunday - BRUNCH Menu

8am till 3pm

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Lockers with Valid Student I.D.

Tuesdays - TOONIE NIGHT - \$2 Bucks

OFF Lockers, Drink Specials till Close!

Wednesdays - HUMP NIGHT - 1/2

price pass for your next visit

Thursdays - It's NAKED Night! Towels

Optional

Fridays - Black Out in "The HOLE"

SAT. & SUN. - Early Bird Special 6am

till Noon, Rooms \$15 & Lockers \$7.50

&

Drink Specials till 6PM!

Sundayz - FREE 30 Minute Cruiseline

Pass from 6pm till Close

Moncton

Every Thursday

LGBT AND FRIENDS VOLLEY BALL, resumes

September 13th École carrefour de l'acadie gym.

No experience required. Info : Rodge 383-1410

or Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00 / player includes

refreshments.

Tous les jeudis

VOLLEY BALL POUR LGBT et AMI-E-S,

recommence 13 septembre. École carrefour de

l'acadie. Aucune experience requise. Infos : Rodge

383-1410 ou Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00 / joueur

(rafraichissements inclus)

Third Monday of each month

PFLAG Moncton has monthly support meeting

from 7:30-9:30 in room 302 of the Adrien-J.-

Cormier bldg at U de M campus. Everyone is

welcome at our meetings.

THE 13TH ANNUAL
TORONTO GAY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

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WWW.GAYHOCKEY.COM

←← Events

Second and Fourth Mondays

SAFE SPACES MEETING, 7pm. Support group for GLB youth, 14-25. For more info, 869-6224 or safespaces@nb.aibn.com

Last Saturday

Moncton Leather Chapter Leather Nights at Triangles! With the interest and number of people that have started wearing Leather in Moncton, it only seems natural to have a monthly Leather Night so that any man or woman can wear their Leather and know that they will not be alone in doing so when they go to Triangles.

Sept 23

AIDS Walk for Life Moncton. Funds raised by individuals or teams will be used to provide HIV prevention programs and services in Southeast New Brunswick. For further information or to register, contact Judy at SIDA/AIDS Moncton at (506) 859-9616 or e-mail sidaidsm@sidaidsmoncton.com

Moncton Bar & Business Calendar

TRIANGLES

234 St. George St, open Tues-Sun 8pm-2am

Tuesday & Wednesday: Free Pool, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters \$3 all night
Wednesday: Learn to Line Dance - no charge!

Thursday: Karaoke Mystery Song - \$25 added each week until the correct song is picked! Beer / Bar Shots \$3 until midnight, Shooters \$2.75 all night

Friday & Saturday: Dance Music with DJ daBoss, Summer Special Beer with Shooter \$4 11pm-midnight

Sunday: Request all your favourite songs with DJ daBoss, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters \$3 all night
Check out our monthly events page at www.trianglesbar.com, and send

comments & suggestions to thegirls@nb.sympatico.ca

Our colour parties are back - watch for the blue party, coming up June 2. Check our website for upcoming Colour Party dates.

Petit-Rocher

Aug 31 - Sept 3

Gais.es Nor Gays (GNG) Pride Weekend, including the Ms and Mr Atlantic Canada Leather at 6pm Sunday. For information and applications forms contact wayne richard, waydo7@hotmail.com, 506 388 1755 or your local watering hole. The show will also include a bbq, entertainment, prize draws and a victory party. Venture on up for the event, the day, the night or better still the weekend, check out www.gngnb.ca for more information.

Sackville

Second Monday

PFLAG Sackville / Amherst - in Sackville one month, Amherst the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street.

Saint John

Third Saturday

Gay Men's Supper Club, 220 Germain St. <http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com/> for more information.

Saint John Bar & Business Calendar

CLUB MONTREAL

Wednesdays: No cover, free pool
Thursdays: No cover, karaoke with prizes

Fridays: No cover, open turntables
Saturdays: \$5 cover after 10 PM
Sundays: No cover, free pool
Your birthday: no cover, one free drink, just show your ID!

St. John's - LGBT-MUN

Every Friday

Coffee House: Every Friday, 12-2 (LBGT Office, 6th Floor UC, 6002) Every Friday we invite anyone and everyone to come to LBGT and enjoy a cup of Coffee or Tea (regular or herbal) with us (members, non-members, etc). It's a great chance to vent, meet some new people, etc. Our office is located in UC-6022.

Every Second Friday

General Meeting every second week. They take place at UC-6022 at 11:00am.

St. John's Bar & Business Calendar

Zone 216

216 Water St, 754-2492

<http://www.hello.to/zone216>

Winter Hours

Open Fri&Sat Nights 10pm-late

No cover before 12 Friday

No cover before 11 Saturday

Sydney

...see Cape Breton

Truro

Every Wednesday

Truro Pride: GLBT support group in Colchester County, Nova Scotia. (Coffee hour at the Fair Trade Café on 535 Prince Street in Truro, every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm. For information call Northern AIDS Connection Society at 902-

895-0931 or email truopride@hotmail.com

WAYVES DATES!

Check out the front of the magazine for Wayves deadlines and meeting dates -- all are welcome!

Wileville

...see Bridgewater

Wolfville

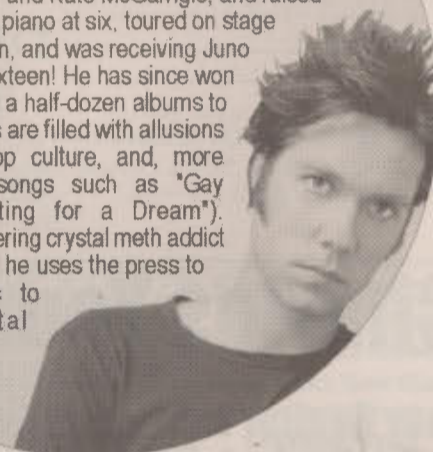
Every Second Tuesday

Kings County Prostate Cancer Support Group, 7-9 pm in the East Kings Memorial Public Health Centre on Earncliffe Ave in Wolfville. You can

ask questions you forgot to ask the doctor or nurse and you can think aloud to help you make your decisions. There is growing evidence that your participation in a group of people who have gone through the processes you are now facing is mentally beneficial and may well contribute to your recovery from prostate cancer interventions. We are an easy-going informal group of 12 men, some of whom bring their spouses/partners to our monthly meetings. Know that you are truly welcome to join us and if you need more information please get in touch with me by e mail dickgroot2003@yahoo.ca or by phone 542 6125. Our correspondence address is the same as my home address: 210 Main Street, Wolfville NS B4P 1C4.

Queerly Canadian Rufus Wainwright

Although he strongly identifies with Canada, Rufus Wainwright was born in the United States, to folk singers Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, and raised in Montréal. He played piano at six, toured on stage with his family at thirteen, and was receiving Juno Award nominations at sixteen! He has since won two Junos, and released a half-dozen albums to critical acclaim. His lyrics are filled with allusions to opera, literature, pop culture, and, more recently, politics (in songs such as "Gay Messiah" and "Waiting for a Dream"). Wainwright is a recovering crystal meth addict and a rape survivor; he uses the press to bring awareness to these societal problems.



NSRAP Annual Fundraiser Gala
Saturday, September 15th, 2007

6:30pm

Harbourfront Marriott Hotel



with Host
CANDY PALMATER

from the
"Candy Show"

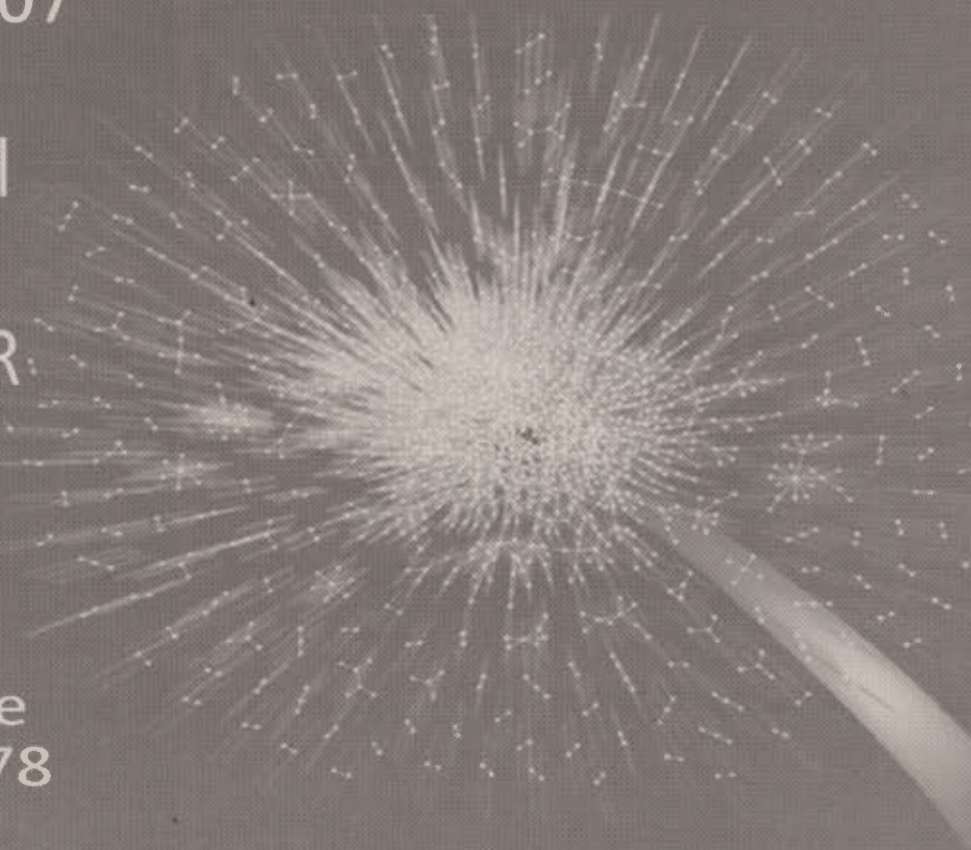
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Samantha Loppie

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groups

MARITIME GAY WOMEN starting group in Moncton to make friends. Hope to meet people who ski, play cards, like nature, Maritime travel, golf, whatever you're interested in. If you're alone, or would like to meet new people, email makefriends@mail.com

Men's Reading Group meets regularly in Halifax. Come meet interesting people and discuss gay literature. Check our webpage at www.menread.com. Email menread@gay.com or contact 454-9111 for more information.

family

South Shore lesbian couple looking for male couple or single gay male

to assist with pregnancy. Open to co-parenting. Must be willing to relocate or travel. Serious inquiries only please. Respond in confidence to: greenfarm41@yahoo.ca

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spiritual

CALLING ALL ANGLICANS An Integrity chapter has been formed in Nova Scotia. Call George 902-757-1706. For Propitiation (traditionalist Anglicans) call Peter 416-487-7406 (evenings).

LESBIANS, GAY MEN, BISEXUALS will find themselves welcome by Quakers, who recognize that there is "that of God in every person." Call (902) 429-2904 for more info.

support

HALIFAX RAINBOW SPEAKERS: Project Proud Lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, two-spirited and queer volunteers wanted to participate in public education workshops. No special knowledge or experience necessary—training, practice and support provided. Let your rainbow shine! Ramona 902-494-6662, nsprig@is2.dal.ca

HALIFAX TRANSGUYS is a support group for transmen at any point in transition, locally and in Atlantic Canada. Please write: halifaxtransguys@yahoo.groups.ca for further info on our upcoming meetings and social events.

HOW TO PLACE ADS

CLASSIFIEDS: 25 words for \$9, 25 more for \$6, 10% off if you run the ad 3+ issues.

EVENTS CALENDAR, GROUPS & SERVICES: free.

All paying ads must be pre-paid. Send to submissions@wayves.ca or Wayves, P.O. Box 34090 Scotia Square, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S1. See www.wayves.ca for insertion deadlines and graphical advertisement rates.

Deadlines: page 2! (hint: always the first Friday of the month!)

Cont'd from Synagogue, p. 7

speaking publicly on homosexuality, she changed her order and joined the Sisters of Loretto, who support her work and advocacy on behalf of the queer community. When asked how she can be a good Catholic and yet defy the orders of her church, she replied that she makes a clear distinction between the church—which for her means all the people of the Catholic faith—and the church hierarchy. As Cantor Isenberg might say, she follows the principles of her faith, not the rules of its leaders.

I remembered, too, the United Church minister who officiated at the wedding of two women friends of mine and who added so much to the joyful celebration of love and connection—clearly someone who followed the embracing spirit of his religion rather than the thou shalt nots.

How sad it is that there are still queer men and women who feel that they must make a choice between their faith and their natural sexual feelings. This is a political rather than spiritual issue, a fight for power, not a struggle over faith. Those religious groups who remain the most adamantly opposed to acceptance of homosexuals as part of the natural diversity of human beings, are also politically the right wing conservatives—like those Americans who believe any criticism of George W. Bush is a direct attack on the United States.

They make religious virtues out of denial and repression, just as they confuse the letter of the law with its spirit. They judge their fellow humans according to old rigid rules, rather than finding joy in the founding principles of all faiths: compassion, acceptance and love.

Groups & Services

Cont'd from p. 14

PEI Pride, Charlottetown: Organizing The Island Pride Festival July 7th-14th, 2007. (902) 388-0969 email: pridepei@isn.net web: www.peipride.com (See webpage for meetings www.peipride.com) at 286 Fitzroy Street, Charlottetown, PE or phone (902) 388-0969

PFLAG Canada - PEI, Island wide: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pflagpei@eastlink.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca, meets 3rd Tuesday at Ferry Road Centre, 24 Ferry Road, Cornwall, PE

PRIZMS, Charlottetown: PEI's first all dance party! Catering to the gay and lesbian community. email:

PRIZMS@canada.com (please email for upcoming events and location information) at PRIZMS expose yourself to the high energy-highly social atmosphere. "PRIZMS - Dance in the Light" Email for upcoming events dates and places

UPEI Rainbow Alliance, Charlottetown: Fellowship, information, social events, awareness-raising. All welcome. email: rainbow@upeir.ca web: upeir.ca/index.php at see UPEI Women's Centre for more info

Charles Young

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charles@exitadvantage.ca
(506)451-5114



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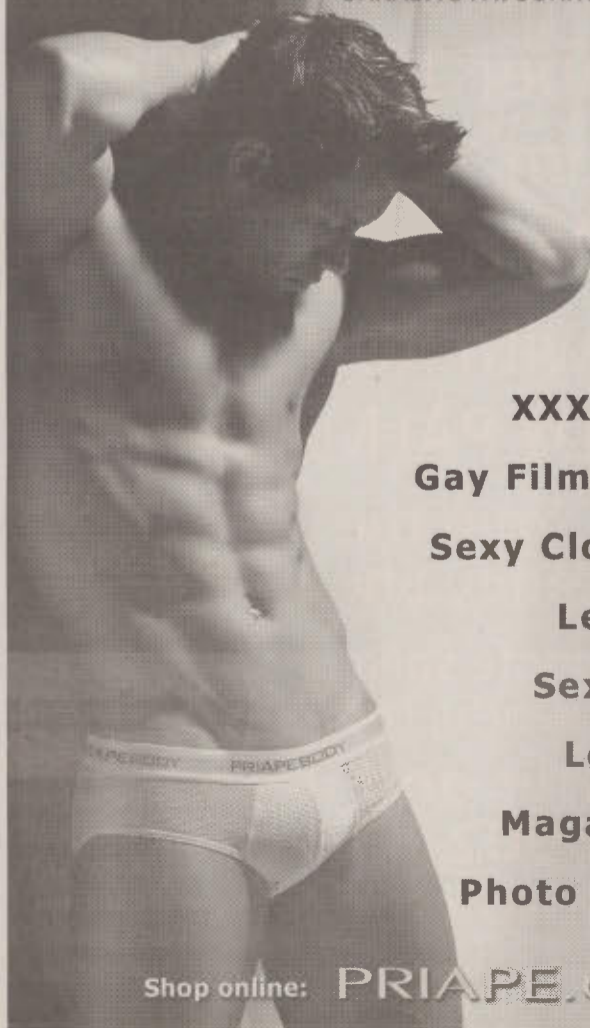
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wolfgangleather@yahoo.ca

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

WAYVES
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Opinion / Letters

Religious Zealots like Mayor Bill Mills

by Jack Halifax
 "Read Romans, chapter one." The infamous statement of Truro mayor Bill Mills rings in my head. I have to admit I no longer own a bible. If I did I would probably look it up out of curiosity, but that's neither the point nor important to me at all. I was raised reading the bible and can quote it word for word in defense of just about anything from why not to litter to improvements of the social-welfare system. But I don't, in defense of any of my opinions—I use logic and reason (critical thinking skills learned in university).

And in my own long quest to become secure in my own sexual-

ity, I searched beyond logic and I searched my soul. There was a time when I looked to the bible for guidance as to whether or not being gay was wrong or right. And when I tell people that I went through a sexuality-reprogramming program as a teenager—they're usually horrified. Some are amazed that such programs exist.

Yes, there were and still are ministries for homosexuals who want to "choose" to leave the gay "lifestyle." The Evangelicals have groups called Desert Stream and Living Waters, the Mormons have a group called Evergreen, the Catholics even have a group for Priests who can support each

other in resisting temptation, and then there is the non-denominational HA-FS or Homosexuals Anonymous which has a chapter in Yarmouth.

There are even psychiatrists who used aversion therapy for the purpose of sexuality reprogramming in the 70's that are still on staff at Canadian universities. While it is now a discredited treatment for people—it included electroshock, or nausea-inducing drugs used during pornographic slide shows—animal behaviourists tried using the shock type aversion therapy to reprogram three "gay" penguins in a German zoo as recently as 2005 (call the SPCA!).

Thank God, I was never subjected to that type of therapy. And while I resisted the reprogramming, like the penguins, I certainly got a good mind fucking that has taken years to heal. I have come to the point where I don't mind talking about it and I really appreciated one lesbian friend who said, "thank goodness you're still with us." I can even laugh about the absurdity of it. For example, the two co-leaders of the group I was in slept with each other, and then confessed and repented the dirty deed later. I too must confess that I slept with a few young men in the group. Being an especially tough case, I never really felt bad about myself for having

done it. I chuckle to myself when I think of it as the strangest group of self-loathing fuck-buddies I've ever known.

While I don't read the bible (Sorry Bill) or affiliate with any particular religious faith, my experience has allowed me to evolve into a confident spiritual gay man. I have been able, despite the efforts of religious zealots like Bill, to reconcile my faith in God and my faith in myself. I have, however, lost faith in people who use the bible to prop up poorly defended statements or to justify hate or mistreatment of any of God's children.

Open Letter To Truro Mayor Bill Mills

An open letter to His Worship, Mayor W. R. Mills and Members of Truro Town Council:

Like fog in winter, homophobia and transphobia often appear, seemingly without warning and in some of the most treacherous combinations. Truro has experienced such a thing recently. Possibly the thickest wall of homophobic fog to come off the Fundy in many years has covered Truro as the mayor of Truro failed in his official capacity to separate Church and State. The wording of his recent flag banning announcement created a chill that will be felt across Canada in every community.

Pride is about acceptance and the right to live your life. Ten percent of Canadians are GLBTI, and like everyone else have the right to be who they are, to be proud of who they are, and to live life with dignity and without public ridicule

or attack. Twenty-five percent of Truro's families are GLBTI. Many have experienced the loss of loved ones who killed themselves or moved far away because of the promotion of homophobia and transphobia.

The flying of the Rainbow flag is a reminder of those who died without hope, and a call to us and to the public in general to recognize that we all have a right to personal respect and safety. The mayor's actions have called into question Truro's reputation as a compassionate and accepting community. His action will continue to create disharmony and social unrest, as some will take his remarks as a call to arms and preach more hatred, and GLBTI will be labelled sinners and social outcasts. Schools and educational facilities have striven hard to educate the public about diversity, but these lessons are in

danger of being quickly forgotten. Trans people and their families who felt safe last week are now the center of attention; gay and lesbian families are once more pointed out and pointed at for what they are instead of who they are.

The Rainbow flag is not about promoting a so-called gay lifestyle, it is about understanding sexual and gender diversity and celebrating acceptance. In Canada there must be no way for one group/person's beliefs to be used to create a society in which 25% of Canadians have to feel that they or their family members are less than acceptable as citizens.

Homophobia and transphobia as forms of hatred equal racism or anti-Semitism. Public awareness and education can reduce it. Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project works to eliminate barriers as well as educate politicians and community leaders on these issues. The mayor and the council need to realize that the right of free speech does not allow anyone to use an official office to spread hatred and propaganda against 25% of a population they are sworn to serve. The council's actions have been short-sighted and

long-reaching. Hopefully, Truro's citizens will show the Maritimes that they are bigger than the Council and stand for what is right and

reasonable as a free and accepting society for all Truro citizens.

Sincerely, Denise Holliday



Last Month's question:

In the last Wayves issue we asked you readers "Is there a need for a LGBT Community Centre in your area?" The responses were overall positive: 14 readers voted Yes, three were not sure and four said No.

The general consensus was that a community centre is needed as a drop-in centre "where...people can go and feel comfortable," as "a safe and welcoming place for all." Special acknowledgement went to youth who are struggling to come to terms with their sexual orientation; a community centre could facilitate their search for identity and coming-out process, with those who have already gone through this process providing mentorship.

Other readers thought more in a networking way, where a community centre could be used as a meeting space for groups within the community, to educate about LGBT issues and HIV/AIDS, and to provide legal services. The most passionate response sees the community centre as a chance to bring the various groups of our community closer together, and that the whole idea of a community centre is "long overdue."

The only comment that came with a No response displays worries that a community centre might end up being run by the wrong people, "who...will always make it what THEY want rather than what other people want in the community."

This Month's question:

This time, we would like to know your opinion on the happenings during Truro Pride: Should an elected official (such as the Mayor of Truro) be allowed to selectively govern, based on his own conviction?



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