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WAVES

August 2005

for atlantic canadians



**Rosie does
Halifax!**



**New Brunswick and Spain
get Equal Marriage!**



*They swim
on our team!*



Where You Can Find wayves

September 2005 issue on-the-streets by August 26

New Brunswick...

Fredericton: AIDS New Brunswick; Boldon's Bookmart; Campus "Smoke" Shoppe, UNB; Molly's Coffee House / Cargo Bay; Student Resource Centre, St. Thomas University; UNB/STU Spectrum; Westminster Books, King Street; X-Citement Video, Queen Street

Moncton: Reid's Newstand; SIDA/AIDS Moncton; Triangles; United Book Exchange, Mountain Road; X-Citement Video

Sackville: Bridge Street Café; Mount Allison; Tidewater Books

Saint John: AIDS Saint John; Mahogany Manor

Newfoundland...

Corner Brook: Corner Brook Status of Women

Gander: Gander Public Library

St. John's: AIDS - Newfoundland and Labrador; Bennington Gate; LGBT

M.U.N.; Our Pleasures; Shopper's Drug Mart, Le Marchant Road; St. John's

Public Library; Word Play; Zone 216

Nova Scotia...

Amherst: Carvel Upholstery and Draperies; Cumberland County Family Planning

Annapolis Royal: The King George Inn

Antigonish: Antigonish Women's Centre; Student Union Resource Centre; Webb's Superstore

Bedford: Bedford Library

Bridgewater: Second Story Women's Centre

Canning: Canning Library

Dartmouth: Adult Cash & Carry; Alderney Gate Library; CD Heaven; Dartmouth North Library; Delicious Deliveries; Healing Our Nations; Jake's Video & Variety; Nova Scotia Government Employees Union; Wolfgang Leathers; Woodlawn Library; X-Citement Video, Main Street

Halifax: AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia; Alteregos Café; Apollo Sanna; Atlantic News Stand; Blowers Street Paperchase; Bookmark; Buy the Book and More; CD Plus; CKDU Radio; Club NRG2; Counseling and Community Support Services; DALOUT; Dal-Tech; Daily Grind; Diamond; Fresh Salon & Spa; Fresh Start B&B; Grad House (Dal); HMV; Hairdressers' Market; Halifax Backpackers Hostel; Junk & Foibles; Khyber Club; Libraries: Captain William Spry, Halifax North, Keshen Goodman, Killiam, Spring Garden Road, Weldon Law; Menz Bar; Mount St. Vincent University - Rosaria & Sexton; Night Magic; Fashions; Nooks and Crannies; NSCAD - supply store; N.S. Advisory Council - Status of Women; One of a Kind Clothing; Outside The Lines; Planned Parenthood Clinic; Random Play; Read All About it; Reflections; Robyn's Grocery; Room2Move Fitness; Seadogs Spa; Second Cup - Spring Garden; Shoe Shop; SUB, Dal and St. Mary's; Venus Envy; Video Difference; X-Citement Video, Quinpool Road; Youth Project

Kentville: Annapolis Valley Regional Library - Kentville Division; The Red Door

Lower Sackville: Halifax Public Library; Sackville Library; X-Citement Video

Lunenburg: Elizabeth's Books

Middleton: Mark Rutherford; 92 Balcom Crescent, Nictaux

New Glasgow: Pictou County Women's Centre

Pictou: Pictou Library

Port Williams: Port Williams Public Library

Sydney: AIDS Coalition; Cape Breton Pride; Harrison Society; Maple Leaf Lounge; McConnell Memorial Library; Sexual Diversity Centre, CBU

Tantallon: Tantallon Library

Truro: Central Nova Women's Resource Centre; Colchester Sexual Assault Centre; MacQuarries Pharmasave - The Esplanade; NSCC Truro Campus; Northern Aids Connection

Windsor: The Hants Youth Health and Resource Centre

Wolfville: Acadia Pride; The Atheneum, Acadia; The Coffee Merchant; The Odd Book; Wolfville Public Library

Yarmouth: TOOTS; Tri-County Women's Centre; Western Counties Regional Library

Prince Edward Island...

Charlottetown: AIDS PEI; Afternoon Delight; Reading Well Bookstore; That's Entertainment!

British Columbia...

Prince George: GALA-North Society

Vancouver: Little Sisters

Ontario...

Ottawa: After Stonewall; One-in-Ten

Toronto: Glad Day Bookshop; Out on the Street

Manitoba...

Winnipeg: Rainbow Resource Centre

Letters

Proud to be a Canadian

Dear Wayves Readers:

Proud to be a Canadian. Proud to be a Bluenoser. Proud to live on the Eastern Shore.

An Open Letter to the Politicians and People of Nova Scotia

June 28th was a monumental day for me. Having just participated in an international legal conference

highlighting the challenges that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people face on a global level, I decided that I live in the greatest country in the world. A pretty amazing feeling leading in to Canada Day celebrations here in the HRM. I can assure you

all that a global community of true believers in inalienable rights and equality put forth a collective cheer when the majority of the Canadian Parliament voted to extend marriage to all loving couples within Canada, and beyond.

First and foremost, let me thank my own Member of Parliament, Peter Stoffer, for supporting what I know was a challenging position for him, especially given the demographic of this riding in which I live. I have much faith in the people of the Eastern Shore and have had nothing but positive experiences living here with my family. I trust that the constituents will continue to judge you based on your fine skills as a Parliamentarian and a member of the New Democratic Party. My family and I have appreciated your words of encouragement as we fought this equality struggle.

Next, let me thank the over-

whelming majority of Nova Scotia MPs who supported this legislation. Specifically, I want to thank Michael Savage who spoke openly on this issue and discussed the ideals of his family, several of whom I have had the opportunity to work with and befriend over the years. And Gerald Keddy, who faced

Peter MacKay continues to support the notion that my family structure, indeed my valid marriage in this province, is not one he can support.

severe opposition from within his party and from opponents to this legislation, yet took the time to come to a decision that the test of time will show was the absolute right thing to do. To Scott Brison, whom I've had the pleasure to meet on several occasions, you are a risk-taker and an inspiration to many in our community. Your position as a representative in a rural riding of this province is a testament to the ability of people from Nova Scotia, both rural and urban, to judge fairly and without prejudice.

My final praise of our federal MPs is reserved for one of Nova Scotia's, indeed, one of Canada's biggest promoters of equality, and not just for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. I speak, of course, about Alexa McDonough. I cannot think of a bigger ambassador for equality and justice that has emerged from this province in my lifetime. Thank you, thank you, thank you. While Jack Layton got to take the credit as party leader now, we all know who the people were that laid this foundation within the NDP, and

your voice has always been one of the loudest and most eloquent.

I also want to thank successive provincial governments, all Conservative at the time, for departing from the extreme and almost uniformly non-egalitarian ideologies of their current federal counterparts. Conservative governments in this province introduced human rights amendments and legislation to equalize rights and obligations for same-sex couples under the Registered Domestic Partnership system, and ultimately, did not oppose our claim to have same-sex marriages become legal in this province. As someone who grew up in Pictou County, I am particularly proud of Premier John Hamm.

Sadly, I cannot express the same pride in three of our federal MPs, and I am most disappointed with one in particular, Peter MacKay. Mr. MacKay and I grew up in the same community, are roughly the same age, both attended Dalhousie University and I had the pleasure of meeting his father on several occasions when he was my MP and I was a young aspiring Parliamentarian. I credit Pictou County as an area where I developed many of the ideals of fairness and respect that guide me in my adult life. Yet, for some reason, Mr. MacKay continues to support the notion that my family structure, indeed my valid marriage in this province, is not one he can support. I can only hope that he, and his parliamentary colleagues Mr. Cuzner and Mr. Casey, will eventually learn from the other fine examples of reasoned politicians from all political stripes in this province.

And finally, to the people of Nova Scotia, I express my grati-

Cont'd on p. 15

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Aug 5, Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4

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

Production Meetings (Halifax)

Aug 8, Sept 5, Oct 10, Nov 7

Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

Layout Parties (Halifax)

Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 16, Nov 13

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:

Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 29, Nov 26

Integrity / Anglicans on hold

Dear Wayves readers:

What's up with the local Integrity, the GLBTT Anglican group? Well - locally it's apparently nothing. George Parker, the main organizer for many years has moved and due to personal matters, cannot run the group.

There does not appear to be enough real interest here to make it a viable proposition. The last meeting that we held was attended by only 3 people (one beside Mark and me) and we have only had one meeting with a significant turn out in the past year or more.

It is unfortunate that there is not more interest especially given all of the hullabaloo in the Anglican Church about blessing of same sex unions. I imagine that the latest "ruling" by the primates theologi-

cal commission, who ruled that this was a matter of church doctrine will be very disappointing to many people. I have read the report and although I have some significant reservations about whether or not their call of this being doctrinal is warranted (apparently others in the church are questioning this and their conclusion may be rejected at the next synod) I think that they have raised the bar for the conversation. On the other hand maybe I'm just being a Polyanna.

If we are to continue this chapter of integrity in any way shape or form, a communications guy would be really important. If you know of anyone who can help out, please get in touch with me.

Thanks in advance, Kees Zwanenburg, zwanenburg@hfx.eastlink.ca

Atlantic News

Study on Crystal Meth in Canada's Gay Communities

A professor in the Faculty of Arts at Saint Mary's University is delving into research that explores how health providers are responding to gay men's use of crystal methamphetamine in gay communities across Canada.

Dr Russell Westhaver, who conducted the research says government and local community organizations in cities with large gay populations are working together to address the use of crystal meth and have established health promotion programs to reduce the dangers associated with its consumption.

Dr Westhaver underscores concerns about the use of "tina" by gay men are embedded in fears about the link between crystal, increased rates of unsafe sex, and increased rates of HIV, particularly among younger gay men.

According to Dr Westhaver, the use of crystal among gay men is being addressed by a number of organizations in Vancouver such as the Methamphetamine Response Committee (MARC), The Gay Men's Crystal Methamphetamine Working Group, Health Canada's

Drug Strategy and Controlled Substance Programme, and media outlets, which include the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and Xtra! The same course of action in addressing the problem of crystal in gay communities is



now becoming evident in city centres like Toronto and Montreal.

"Gay service organizations, health initiatives, health providers, and individual gay men are increasingly characterizing crystal methamphetamine as an epidemic - as a choice between 'life or meth' - that is destroying the vitality of the gay community and the lives of individual gay men," says Dr. Westhaver.

While his research will utilize academic and mainstream literature, his work will also draw on the viewpoints from those who are actively involved in addressing the issue of crystal use in Canada, like service providers, physicians, and community development workers.

His current work, certainly unique on many fronts, stems from research he's conducted on circuit parties, which are large, all-night dance parties similar to raves. Unlike raves, however, circuit events are attended primarily - almost

entirely - by gay men.

He expects to release both works - health providers' reactions to crystal methamphetamine use among gay men and circuit parties - in late 2005.

"Emergency / Impersonation" scam

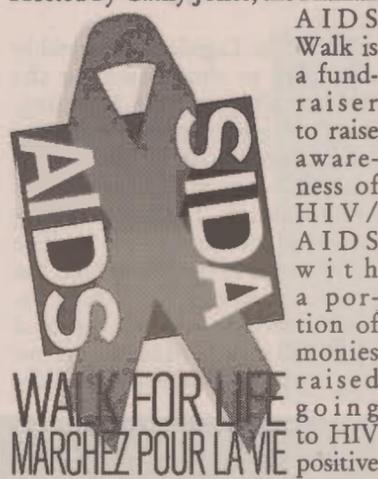
Someone you know, usually another boardmember in a society you're a member of, calls you and says they were on vacation (often in Toronto) and were mugged and beaten up and their wallet, car keys, plane ticket etc have been stolen, and can you send them some \$\$ please.

When you say they don't sound much like your friend, they reply that they have been severely beaten, throat bruised, tongue and lips are cut etc - can you send them some money please. Later you find out that your friend is not away and is in no distress whatsoever. If You Are The Target Of This Scam: 1) check the facts. Maybe it really is your friend. 2) Otherwise, report it to Phonebusters at 1-888-495-8501 or www.phonebusters.com, and report it to your local police.

The name that Phonebusters use for this scam is "Emergency" type scam, or "Impersonation."

Walk For Life

The annual Halifax AIDS Walk, presented by and in support of the AIDS Coalition of NS (ACNS) will take place September 25th 2005. Hosted by Cathy Jones, the Halifax



AIDS Walk is a fundraiser to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS with a portion of monies raised going to HIV positive members in our community, many of whom live in poverty, either on a disability pension or on support from Community Services.

While most medication costs are covered, there are other medical costs such as vitamins; special

care needs and alternative therapies that they must cover themselves. The money obtained through this fund helps to offset those costs. A person who regularly accesses our fund had this to say, "Knowing the Health Fund is there for me is important and it helps me get those other things that are small but important."

4,200 Canadians are infected with HIV each year, infection rates have increased over the past 5 years despite prevention messages; rates among young women are alarming. It is estimated that 30,000 Canadians are living with HIV/AIDS and are not aware they are positive. Despite advances in drug cocktails, there is no cure for AIDS!

Contact: Kat Biondi, AIDS Walk Co-coordinator, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, 425 4882 ext 229, fund@acns.ns.ca

New NGALE Web Page

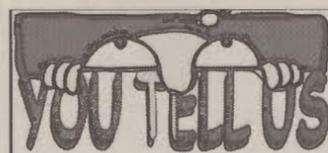
NGALE (Newfoundland Gays And Lesbians For Equality) has launched a new website currently located at its temporary home at <http://www.ngale.cjb.net>. This is exciting news from NGALE, under its new executive formed in April. The website will offer a host of new information and resources from the web and caters specifically to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The website, launched July 3rd, 2005 will be a great accomplishment for NGALE, and will offer never-before seen features for Newfoundland and Labrador, including the ability for students, teachers, and the general public to request information resources. The website will also offer a way for the public to generously give to NGALE, as well as offer public information on LBGT issues in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as volunteer opportunities, news, and events happening in the province for our LBGT brothers and sisters.

NGALE is a not-for-profit organization in Newfoundland and Labrador which aims to provide support and referral for LBGT and LBGT-friendly individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador.

About Our Cover

Spain, New Brunswick, and Rosie O'Donnell herself proudly fly over our cover this month, with Atlantic Canada's queer swim team, *The Atlantiques* painting a bit of a rainbow in the pool!



We're waiting for more responses for the current You Tell Us! Is My Fabulous Gay Wedding promoting stereotypes? Surf up <http://wayves.ca/> to tell us!

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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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NB Attempts Legalizing Discrimination

By SarahRose Werner
Saint John, New Brunswick
A last-minute attempt by the New Brunswick government to undermine the marriage rights of same-sex couples was single-handedly blocked by NB NDP Leader Elizabeth Weir.

On June 28, five days after Justice Judy Clendenning handed down her decision that the province of New Brunswick must allow same-sex couples to marry and only hours before the federal House of Commons passed the Civil Marriage Act, the government of New Brunswick introduced a bill into the provincial Legislative Assembly that would allow not only religious officials but also civil officials to refuse to marry same-sex couples.

NB Bill 76 provides that "a person who is authorized to solemnize

marriage under [the NB Marriage] Act may refuse to solemnize a marriage that is not in accordance with that person's religious beliefs" and that "the Minister of Justice may appoint such deputy clerks... as the Minister considers necessary to ensure that there is adequate access to the service of solemnization of marriage in each judicial district."

Equal marriage supporters in New Brunswick were alarmed that the bill gives a blanket authorization for public servants to discriminate against couples wishing to be married. For example, conceivably a clerk or deputy clerk who happens to be a devout Catholic could refuse to marry a couple if one member was previously divorced.

Furthermore, the bill's "protection" of the rights of the couples to equal access to public services is much weaker and depends on

what the Minister of Justice "considers necessary." The Minister may "consider" it acceptable for couples to have to drive hundreds of kilometers in order to be married. He or she may "consider" it acceptable for couples to have to wait several months until a willing clerk is available.

The situation is aggravated by several other factors:

1) It is expected that relatively few religious officials in New Brunswick will be willing to perform same-sex marriages. To date Centenary Queen Square United Church in Saint John, Sackville United Church in Sackville and the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton have officially declared their openness to doing so. A

very few others may follow. This makes the availability of civic marriage officials all the more important.

2) New Brunswick has less cash than most other provinces. Clerks and deputy clerks are provincial employees. They have to be paid. It would be all too easy for the Justice Minister to say that s/he can't hire more clerks because the province can't afford them.

3) The current NB Justice Minister, Brad Green, has consistently acted against the interests of same-sex couples throughout his term in office.

With the Legislative Assembly scheduled to shut down for the summer after its June 30 sitting, the Tory government - with the full cooperation of the Liberal "opposition" - was in a hurry to push Bill 76 through. The bill was giving its second reading on June 29. The "Committee of the Whole" (i.e. the process of having the whole Assembly recommend the approval of the bill instead of sending it out to a separate committee) and the



NB MP Elizabeth Weir & Premier Bernard Lord

third reading were scheduled for June 30. However, the Tories had failed to reckon with Elizabeth Weir, the holder of the lone NDP seat in the Assembly.

With much else to deal with on her legislative plate, Ms. Weir contacted equal marriage activists and asked them for assistance in

may refuse to solemnize a marriage that is not in accordance with that person's religious beliefs

pulling together the relevant legal information necessary to fight the bill - stockpiling ammunition, so to speak. One

point that was established was that Ontario is the only province to date to pass legislation that's in any way similar, and the Ontario legislation applies only to religious officials. Leave it to the NB government to be the only ones to attempt to authorize public servants to discriminate!

One legal decision that has particular application to Bill 76 is the decision on Hill v. Woodside (1998), in which Fredericton Mayor Brad Woodside's right to freedom of expression was weighed against Kim Hill's and Allison Brewer's right to the public service of having the mayor proclaim Gay Pride Weekend. (What is it with guys named Brad, anyway?) In the decision Brian Bruce, writing for the NB Human Rights Commission's Board of Inquiry, very clearly sets out the obligations of public servants, including balancing private views against statutory obligations.

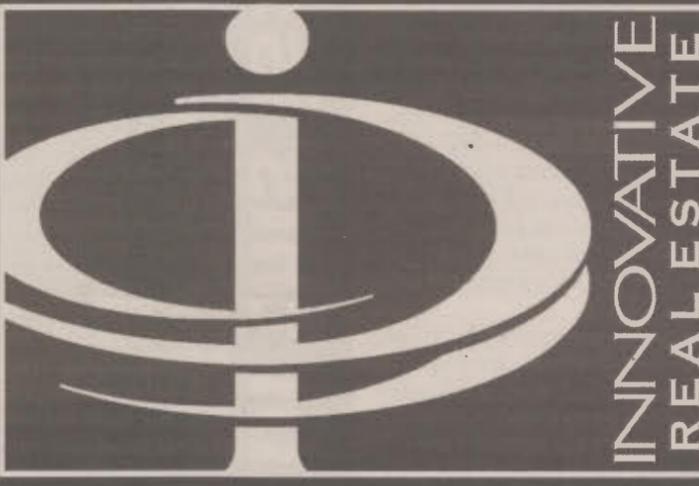
On June 30, Ms. Weir arrived in the Legislative Assembly well-armed with the Woodside decision and other court decisions. She

rose in the Assembly to challenge the government and question Bill 76's violation of Section 5 of the NB Human Rights Act, which guarantees equal access to "any accommodation, services or facilities available to the public." She was ready to drag out the Committee of the Whole for as long and far as it needed to be dragged.

However, before she launched the heavy artillery, she figured she'd try one perfectly aimed bullet. Holding the Committee of the Whole and the third reading on the same day requires the unanimous consent of all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Gambling that the Tories were not willing to continue sitting after Canada Day just for the sake of this one bill, Ms. Weir informed the Justice Minister that she would not give her consent. As a result, the Minister opted not to call Bill 76 at all before the Assembly recessed for the summer at the close of day on June 30.

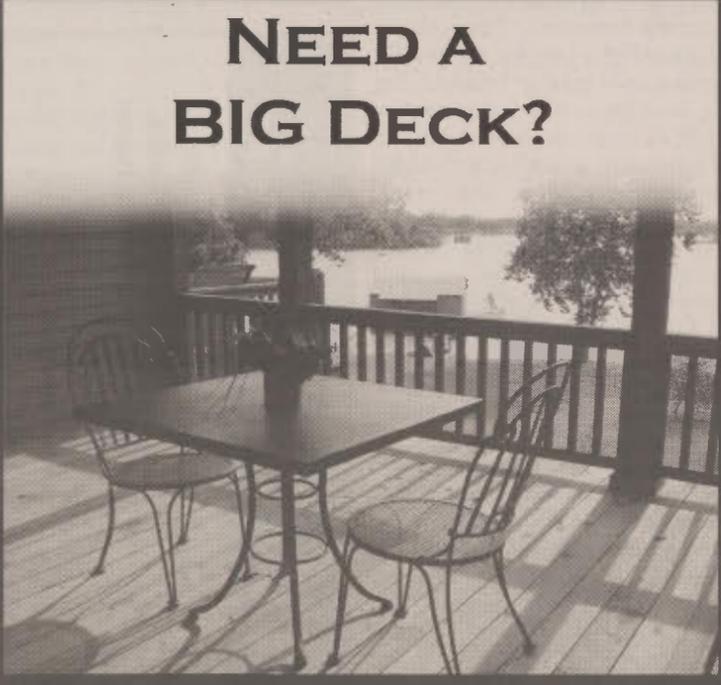
With that one shot, Ms. Weir won the day's battle for equal marriage supporters in New Brunswick. However, to win a battle is not to win the war. NB Premier Bernard Lord is saying that he will bring the bill back when the Legislative Assembly resumes sitting this fall. Whether or not it will come back in the same form, with public servants as well as religious officials allowed to discriminate, is open to question.

In the meantime, New Brunswick MLAs are back in their constituencies for the summer. What a perfect time for constituents to drop by for a little chat on equal rights!



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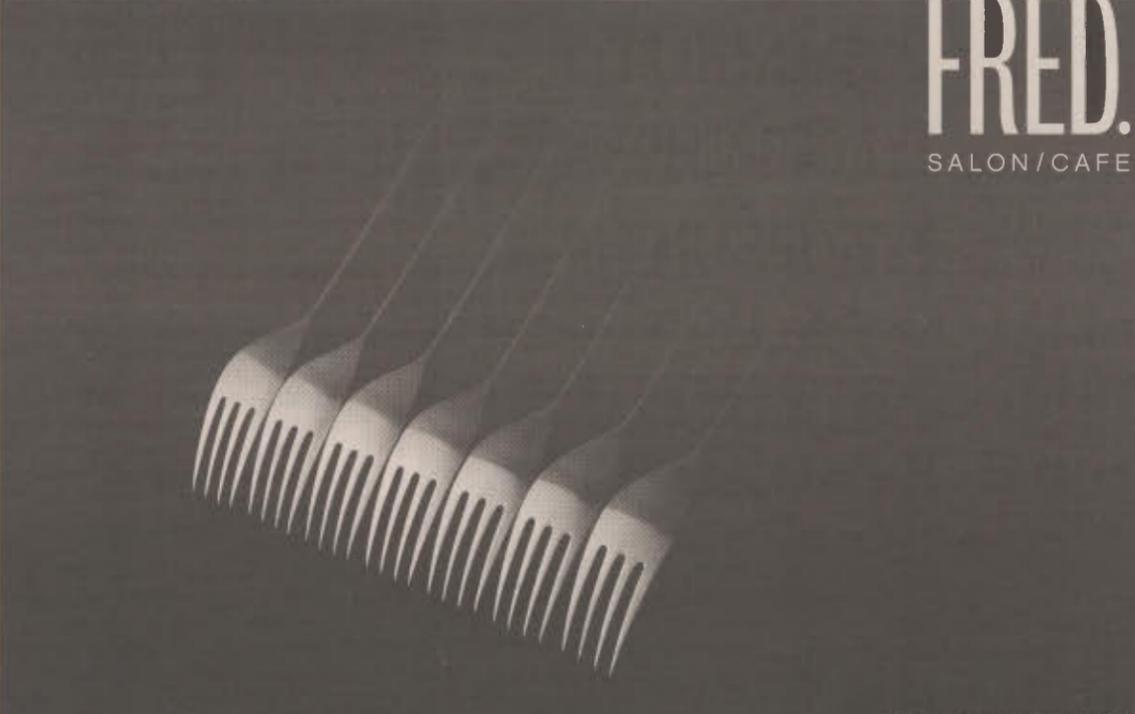


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Moncton Pride!

The day the world was gay

By Louise Steeves
Once a year, GLBTQ citizens in cities all over the world take part in events that celebrate our community's accomplishments, both personally and legally. For me, this year's Greater Moncton gay pride parade was an exceptional one, one that I'm not likely to forget.

Being the Pride Ambassador, nothing gave me greater pleasure than wearing that bright red sash draped over one shoulder. For once, I was a lesbian...and everybody knew it. There was no question or room for mistake. I was a big, fat, proud dyke! For that one day, I didn't have to choose whether I needed to hide my sexuality or come out. If we could only wear a red sash every day!

As I waved to people in the crowd, my pride shone through even the biggest rain cloud that



loomed over our heads. I was greatly impressed with all of the positive feedback I received from those looking on. I was overwhelmed by the respect and admiration I saw in the faces of the crowd. People honked and gave the thumbs up in support; some cheered encouraging words; and some applauded. My mother even joined the parade and gladly held a sign that read, "Canadians for Equal Marriage."

Being Pride Ambassador was an experience I'll treasure for the rest of my life. I was never more proud of who I was and who I was representing than I was that day.



The Moncton Leather Chapter (TheMLC) kicked off Moncton Pride Week once again this year and held the 5th Annual Mr. Leather Moncton 2005 contest on Sunday, June 12th, 2005 and the 1st Annual Mz. Leather Moncton 2005 contest. Mr. Leather Moncton 2005 is Art Vautour-Toole, and Mz. Leather Moncton 2005 is Cecile Ouellette! Both Moncton Titleholders will now compete at the MACLeather 7 - "Survivors" contest being held in Moncton, September 30th to October 2nd, 2005.



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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Dear Tom,

Well, as Bob Dylan said "The Times They Are A-Changin'". (I've never understood the "a-changin'" part of the title; Does it stand for all-changin' or is the extra syllable thrown in just to make it scan better?) Anyway, the other night as I was a-watchin' the news about the a-passin' of Bill C-38, I thought about how far we really have come in the past few years. And how appropriate that this landmark piece of legislation should happen just before Canada Day! Although it is generally regarded as just-not-done to say so, I am really proud to be a Canadian and more so now than ever. I was more profoundly affected by the passage of C-38 than I had expected. After all I am not partnered, and even if I were I'm not sure that marriage is what I would want. Still, when the news was broadcast around the world that gay couples were now included in a significant, legal way in Canada, recognized officially as legitimate couples, well, I will admit to you -but only in the confines of this private letter - that I got a lump in my throat. Kind of like having your grandmother show up at your high school graduation- an acknowledgement of importance.

On Canada Day itself, I raised my cosmopolitan to the spirit of Pierre Elliot Trudeau and as the pink liquid sloshed over the rim onto the hot grill of the barbecue I said a quick Thank You to the man who said "the government has no business in the bedrooms of the nation." Nowadays with web cams, lots of people are doing business in their bedrooms in full view of the nation, but that's another topic altogether.

And Spain! Good old Catholic, haunted-by-the-spirit-of-Franco Spain joined in to declare gay marriages legal. Just imagine all the wedding cakes adorned with tiny matadors holding hands!

What the fundamentalists haven't accepted is that the "traditional family" hasn't existed for decades. June Cleaver is dust, fake pearls, Toni perm and all. Women carry briefcases and fathers push strollers. We should applaud the changes rather than lament the past.

Recognition. That is what it is all about.

Think of all the small rituals that we use to mark significant passages in our lives. Birthdays, for example. My good friend, and verbal sparring partner, Barry Poppins turned 50 this year. There was a huge birthday bash planned by his partner, Butch Gaylick. Even the peripatetic Anthill attended (I know peripatetic sounds like a pompous word but "of no fixed address" smacks of the court report.) The original idea was that I would show up as well, a kind of bonus surprise but we decided that given his advancing years, we should avoid creating unnecessary shocks - he's rather delicate emotionally. (That and the fact that MasterCard said, NO! to the plane ticket.)

The Gay Republican - remember him? He's a bit of a hypochondriac so he always insists on pink icing on his birthday cake - he finds the colour of Pepto Bismal soothing. He shares a birthday with Joan Crawford so every spring he makes a point of eliminating all the wire hangers from his closets.

Rituals. They matter.

My buddy GiGi had a student who came out in her class. You know with all of our collective steps forward, "coming out" remains a hugely significant milestone. It defines courage. No one is ever ready to come out, you do it in the timid expectation that you - and your significant loved ones - will become ready. It is action based on hope. We need to develop a ritual to mark the importance of this kind of occasion. There should be a lavender welcoming committee or, at the very least, a fruit basket.

Pride parades remain important rituals. When we pin on our pink triangles we reclaim a symbol of humiliation and refuse the old shame and fear. For some Pride Week is a memorial to Stonewall and the summer of 1969, a time when "over the rainbow" seemed a long way off. And now, in Canada, in 2005, the rainbow gleams a bit more brightly.

The passage of a bill in parliament - a ritual, a step, a public demonstration of...if not quite affection, then something closer to acceptance than we've had before.

Well, Tommo, time to fill my hip flask with gin and partake in another summer time ritual: the beach bon fire.

Love ya!

Crawford

Marriage: A History Lesson

By Theresa MacDonald

One of the issues which was before the court in the proceedings leading to Bill C-38 is whether this traditional definition of marriage violates the Canadian Charter of Rights because it discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation. Although at the time the Charter of Rights was drafted, the federal government refused to specifically include sexual orientation, it maintained that the "open-ended" language of the section on discrimination included sexual orientation. To understand what this means it is important to understand its history.

According to law professor Kathleen Lahey in her book *Are We Persons Yet? Law and Sexuality in Canada*, the traditional definition of marriage in Canada can be traced back from Canadian law through English common law to Roman civil law and early law codes that influenced it. In these early law codes, Roman civil law, the common law of England, and Canadian law there is a tradition of defining marriage to "give legal expression to social hierarchies." From early law codes and Roman civil law through to Canadian law, the tradition has been to create "legally incapacitated groups relative to adult male citizens." Unlike the Charter of Rights, these laws were never intended to preserve the rights of citizens in general, but rather were intended to "define and control" groups relative to adult males.

Consider the influences of this tradition on Canadian society. In 1929, the tradition of discrimination based on sex was challenged by the British Privy Council ruling that women were persons. Until 1929, under Canadian law, women were not regarded as persons and represented a group with significant legal "incapacities" relative to men. There is a similar tradition of discrimination based on sexuality or sexual orientation. Although

homosexuality was decriminalized in 1969, groups defined by sexuality or sexual orientation continued to represent groups with significant legal "incapacities" relative to (heterosexual) men. Professor Bernard Arcand, in his book *The Jaguar and the Antelope: Pornography and the Modern World*, describes the definition of women as inferior as "one of the hallmarks of Jewish, Christian, and Greek civilizations, and thus one of the most fundamental notions of Western culture."

It is not surprising then that among the presenters at the Supreme Court hearings are religious groups who wish to maintain the traditional definition of marriage. However, to characterize their arguments as based on religious doctrine is misleading. Although "couched" in religious terms, they too reflect the expression of a social hierarchy. Professor Lahey points out that before Roman civil law was influenced by Christian religion, marriage laws changed to include the union of two men. The traditional definition of marriage that religious groups wish to defend reflects a social hierarchy which Christian religion resisted changing. Although characterized as religious doctrine, the traditional definition of marriage reflects the historical influence of Christian religion in preserving a pre-existing social hierarchy.

The Charter of Rights represents a fundamental "break" with this basis for traditional marriage. Underlying the Charter is the concept of defining and protecting the rights of all Canadian citizens, and it is a very recent concept in Canadian society. In contrast, the traditional definition of marriage is based on a social hierarchy and a tradition of discrimination.

Cont'd on p. 15

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Same-sex marriage comes to New Brunswick

By Rev. Eldon Hay

"N.B. ruling redefines marriage as union of 'two persons'," (June 24, A1, A9). This headline is the newest indication that acceptance of homosexuality is changing in our province.

Apart from the recent decision of the court, there are other advances. Many more homosexuals are out - not afraid to say who they are and what they stand for. Yet there are scores still in the closet - frightened to fully express their inwardly experienced sexual orientation.

A gay colleague walks his dog on the streets in a New Brunswick town. A car passes, a window is rolled down, and unprintable homophobic epithets are hurled, tumbling over the sidewalk, resoundingly reaching the ears and the heart of the pedestrian ... the car speeds off.

Premier Lord has said that the province wouldn't put up a fight if the courts or Parliament ordered it to make a change for same sex marriage; though he added that he personally believed in the traditional view of marriage. In the area of gay rights, Bernard Lord pursues leadership by following from the rear; Liberal leader Shawn Graham is in lock step with him in this regard.

From a gay rights activist perspective, the movement for gay rights is agonizingly slow. Yet from an opposing point of view, the movement seems fast, even aggressive. "Many thousands of Christians hold that homosexuality is reprehensible," said one clergyman. "So when we're told that it must be accepted....we're going to have to allow something we think is reprehensible to be looked on as being OK." Undoubtedly, that's a stretch.

There are reasons why many Christians hold such views. Singular biblical verses are selected, underscored, repeated. Others verses, holding equally negative views of other behaviours, are allowed to fall into benign neglect.

Leadership from religious persons is a factor. Four conservative Christians tried to intervene in the recent New Brunswick court decision; their pleas were overturned - the judge determined that they weren't bringing anything "new or unique" to the table. Pope Benedict XVI, like his predecessor, is

very critical of gay relationships. In June 2004, the national Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada passed a resolution affirming "the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relations." But the Anglican church in New Brunswick in June of this year repudiated that decision - upholding the teaching that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. Most Christian churches are either hostile towards gays, or keep silent about the matter. The United Church, officially open on a national level, leaves the ultimate decision up to local congregations. In New Brunswick, with its scores of United Church congregations, most remain either closed to gays, or maintain a very low profile. There are but two United churches openly and publicly affirming of gay persons' presence in the province: Centenary-Queen Square in Saint John, a long-termer; and Sackville United, which has recently held a vote in favour of same-sex marriage.

Sharply contrasted with conservative, Catholic and mainline denominations is the policy and practice of Unitarian and Quaker communities. The Unitarian Fellowship in Fredericton in particular has a long standing and consistent welcome and inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons. In a province parched, there are a few oases of openness.

In spite of some progress, the distance between gay rights leaders on the one hand, and those opposed to extending rights to homosexuals, on the other - is hardly decreasing. And it may not, for some time. A recent poll conducted by Corporate Research Associates across Atlantic Canada, took the pulse on a number of issues - one of them being same-sex marriage. The percentage of those in favour was less in New Brunswick than in the Atlantic region. Don Mills, CEO of Corporate Research Associates says, "It is one of those issues that is going to be very difficult to resolve."

Difficult to resolve. Irwin Cotler, federal justice minister, knows about this. "Look at my family, my three daughters all support same-sex marriage. Yet my wife does not, and my 18 year-old son says "Why is this even an issue? I

don't understand why it is an issue, dad, because he's grown up with it." Cotler has faced a great deal of negative criticism over the matter. Yet he says he doesn't consider opposition to be mean-spirited. "I don't think it's meanness. I think it's anguish. Some people are pained by this, and when I meet them, I see it." Despite the deeply emotional debate, and his vulnerability because of it, Cotler says, "We have to try and respect the plurality of perspectives in this country."

There are lessons to be learned from this Cotler account. Cotler puts his hand to the task, and forwards the rights of minority persons. Cotler accepts the views of those who oppose: he respects their point of view. I salute his attitude and his action. First, pursue the rights of the minority. Secondly, respect those opposed; but do not be put off or paralysed by their distress. Justice for the oppressed

Cont'd on p. 15



Eldon Hay is a United Church retired minister, a Mount Allison emeritus professor, and an Order of Canada member.

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Attention Gay Swimmers in Atlantic Canada!

By Lindsay Patton

Did you know that Atlantic Canada has a gay swim team? The Atlantiques is a group of gay swimmers, some of whom train with the masters swim team in Moncton, some of whom train on their own. By the way, the masters in masters swimming refers purely to age (18+), not swimming proficiency. Masters swimmers vary in experience from novice swimmers to accomplished competitors. The motto of Masters Swimming Canada is "Fun, Fitness, Friendship and Participation."

The purpose of this article is to encourage other gay swimmers in Atlantic Canada to join the Atlantiques, start local training groups, swim with us at gay swim meets,

and get together at local swim meets. Some of the upcoming gay meets are the "Coupe de Montreal" this November, the "Swimmers in Heats" meet in Ottawa in February, and the 1st World Outgames in Montreal in 2006! The "Coupe de Montreal" meet in 2003 was the first meet the Atlantiques attended as a team, and we returned in 2004. We want to take our biggest team yet to this November's Coupe, which will be held in Montreal's Olympic pool as a trial run for next year's Outgames! The Atlantiques were started by two swimmers who got together to get in shape and start training for the Games in Montreal in 2006. We started out swimming on our own in public swims and then joined

the masters club at the CEPS in Moncton. We quickly recruited two more swimmers and had regular weekly swims with dinner afterward. Last year we added a swimmer from Newfoundland who came with us to the Inter-



national Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships in Florida and the 2004 Coupe de Montreal. We would love to build up the team with more gay swimmers from around the Atlan-

tic provinces. Whether you swim on your own or with a masters club, get in contact and join us at an upcoming meet! <http://Atlantiques.org> or info@atlantiques.org

Sports Briefs

Everyone is welcome to contribute brief articles on upcoming gay and lesbian sporting events, experiences as a gay/lesbian athlete, or any other sports-related activity. Send your contributions to any Wayves magazine address. The sports news was compiled by Mark Mutrie.



Guatemala and El Salvador during his professional career. After returning home from a road trip with his team, his mother said to him that someone had told her that he was gay. She also let Oliver know that her response to this information was, "Well, if it's not a daughter-in-law, it'll be a son-in-law!" A perfect response and an amazing demonstration of acceptance. His father wasn't quite so supportive. Oliver stated, "He is part of a rigid society and a culture where machismo is exacerbated." Oliver has now settled in Barcelona with his partner.

Oliver's Mom

Former Uruguayan soccer star, Wilson Oliver Elías came out publicly in the June issue of Gay Barcelona magazine. Oliver played for teams in Uruguay, Venezuela,

Utrecht Success

Les EuroGames Utrecht 2005 ont été un immense succès pour les 20 000 visiteurs, 2 883 athlètes et 524 bénévoles. Ces gens sont venus de 44 pays pour participer en 9 sports. Les EuroGames ont été aussi un grand succès pour les organisateurs de OutGames Montréal 2006. Des banderoles de Montréal 2006 ont été affichées sur tous les sites de compétitions et l'ambassade du Canada aux Pays-Bas, en collaboration avec la Délégation Générale du Québec à Bruxelles, ont offert un cocktail VIP qui a rassemblé au-delà de 200 chefs d'équipes sportives européennes. Pour nous, qui ne sommes pas des VIP, Montréal 2006 a tenu un kiosque d'information et d'inscription durant les Eurogames grâce auquel plus de 1500 chandails Outgames ont été distribués. Mark Tewksbury, coprésident de Mon-

tréal 2006, a également présenté les Outgames lors des cérémonies de clôture des EuroGames.

It's a wonderful life

The Halifax FrontRunners Running/Walking Club offers the opportunity to exercise and socialize with other gay- and lesbian-friendly walkers and runners. You'll be greeted with a warm smile at the main gates of the Public Gardens (corner of Spring Garden and South Park) every Saturday morning. Walkers leave at 9:00 am; runners at 9:30 am. Everyone meets for refreshments afterwards. For information, call



Bruce at 902-422-7579 or Jim at 902-826-7356. Halifax Frontrunners - for a wonderful life.

Just say no

Just say no to steroids. Organizers of Chicago's Gay Games VII announced in April that physique, powerlifting, and wrestling events would include post-event testing for steroids. In powerlifting, participants were required to sign up for a new "Out-of-Competition Athletes Registry" by July 15, 2005 - one full year before Gay Games VII opens. Any powerlifter who wins but is not part of the new "Athletes Registry" will receive their medals only after automatic drug tests come back negative. Athletes who use steroids and other supplements for medical purposes, such as those who are HIV-positive, will be able to compete in a "Guest Lifter" category.

Steroids are, of course, a problem that goes far beyond the Gay Games. In his recently published book *Juiced*, outfielder and power-hitter Jose Canseco gives us a glimpse of steroid use in professional baseball. On several occasions, he found himself cloistered in a men's room stall with Mark McGwire. McGwire would drop his pants and Canseco would inject steroids into his buttocks. McGwire has refused to admit to using steroids. He's also commented that he doesn't judge other athletes about steroid use nor their sexual orientation, among other things. Such statements may have been an attempt to deflect attention away from himself and steroid issue.

Une vie merveilleuse

Les Halifax FrontRunners est un club pour les gais et les lesbiennes qui aiment marcher et courir. Tout le monde sera accueilli chaleureusement par d'autres du même esprit à l'entrée principale du Public Gardens. Les marcheurs et marcheuses commencent à 9h00 le samedi matin et les coureurs et coureuses commencent à 9h30. À la fin de

Cont'd on p. 15

I never would have guessed.

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The Leather Men of Atlantic Canada

A calendar review

by Randall Perry

How comforting it is to know that the Imperial Court of Nova Scotia (ISCANS) was able to snag all the leathermen in the region and immortalise them in "The Leather Men of Atlantic Canada" 18-month calendar. Well, at least all the photogenic ones. Or some whose boyfriends are drag queens. You can dress a twink in chaps, gauntlets and a cowboy hat and you still have, well, a twink in leather. I doubt that many of these fellows have ever experienced the business end of a flogger or whip. I doubt few have worn their leathers outside the bedroom or the gay bar.

The calendar has it right in the "hot" department. The guys certainly are hot. With rare exception, washboard abs and worked-out biceps and pecs of death are the order of the day. But who are the guys? Unlike the Divas calendar, there are no names attached to the photos. One might infer the names by looking at the highlighted dates in the various months - Rejean Leclerc's birthday is highlighted in August, and he's there as Mr. August 2006 - but who is Mr. August 2005? And what's with the unending listings of drag pageants throughout a leather calendar? Oh, right.

So, where are more of the real leathermen in this region and why are they not in this calendar? Where are the founders of Tightrope? The Moncton Leather Chapter? The Mr. Atlantic Canada Leather Society? The current MAC Leather titleholder, Wayne Toole, is featured as Mr. October 2005, and I must admit it's one of the best pictures I've ever seen of Wayne. However, there are five previous titleholders who embody the spirit of leather



life who were not featured.

There are scores of leathermen around who have forgotten more about leather than most of us will ever know. Allow me to name-drop: Steve Laviolette. Don Murchy. Leith Chu. Al Stewart. Wolfgang.

Leather is not about how you look. It's how you feel about yourself and about being part of a brotherhood of like-minded individuals. It's not about who has the shiniest boots or the ability to drop a devastating quip. With few exceptions, the photos in this calendar are men wearing leather. Not leathermen.

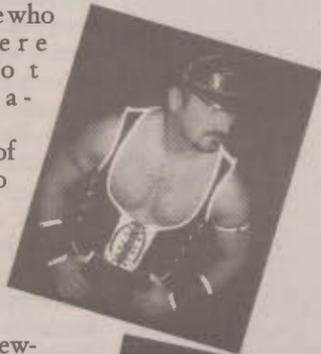
All right, it's for charity. And the project was produced on a small budget. And there's a tight little history of the Imperial Court system included for our edification. And there's a great picture of Her Most Imperial and Sovereign Majesty Empress V Deva Station (say that five times fast) on the inside back cover, who thanks everybody involved and manages to avoid the word "leather." In fact, "leather" appears only 4 times in the entire calendar. At least it's on the cover.

For those who will no doubt say, "Oh, she's just bitter because she didn't get asked," sorry, this is one publication I'm glad I'm not in. I'm certainly not hot.

Good first effort, girls! You put together a great calendar of hot leather-wearing men of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In the future it might be more profitable and workable to stick to wigs and heels. Or if you're going to do another leather-wearing men calendar at least punch a hole in the thing so it can be hung on the wall.

ISCANS Calendar Launch

June 16th, Liquor Dome



Rosie O'D Day in Halifax



By Raymond Taavel

The much anticipated day began at 7am Tuesday July 12 at Pier 21 with the arrival of the "R Family Vacations" flagship, Norwegian Dawn, enroute from New England

I must admit the scene earlier that morning was somewhat surreal, because of the number of people

waiting for the esteemed celebrities and guests to disembark for their all-gay-day in Halifax.

I did notice there were an unusual number of women waiting, some with strollers or well behaved toddlers in tow. In retrospect is no real surprise given the respect and appreciation our lesbian sisters have for Ms. O'Donnell.

The action, however, started soon enough at Pier 21. MCC Safe Harbour minister, Darlene Young and a Justice of the Peace, Janet Connolly were preparing to marry off 10, now count them 10 American same sex couples during the course of the day. The atmosphere had a palpable sense of excitement and occasion, as though the significance of what was happening would linger here long after the newly-weds tied the knot.

At 11am Mayor Kelly hosted a reception at the North Magazine on Citadel Hill which turned out to be quite delightful. It was fun watching Rosie O as she did her 'walk' through the Citadel grounds listening to and watching Nova Scotia's bagpipers, surrounded by the media and tourists caught off guard at the sight of celebrity in their midst.

I know it may be bland to say, but the reception was nice. There

was a sense of occasion about the reception, created partly by Rosie's presence but mostly by the effect her presence had on the people in the room.

Rosie is not shy about the politics of her existence: about the implication of what she is doing and how she lives her life and how that affects others. She was unabashed about her admiration for Canada and the culture of tolerance (read acceptance if you will) we have struggled so hard and long to create, about her disappointment with her own country, 'her president' and his attempt to 'write bigotry' into the U.S. Constitution. She also expressed how much the 'safety' of Halifax as a destination meant to her and the gay families that accompanied her on her journey.

"Every time my president opens his mouth we love Canada even more," she said, prompting laughter.

Cont'd on p. 15

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Chuck's Spaghetti Armatigiani

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Ingredients

5 Cloves of Garlic
4 Tbsp of Olive Oil
10 Rashes of Bacon
1 chopped white Onion finely diced
½ cup of chicken stock
1 cup of white wine
3 Tbsp of Balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp of tomato Paste
1 Can of diced tomatoes
1 tsp of chilli flakes
1 tsp of parsley flakes
Mozzarella Cheese

Directions

Fry diced garlic cloves, onions and bacon in pan with Olive Oil Brown and then pour white wine, chicken stock and vinegar. Let alcohol evaporate
Add Tomato paste
Add diced tomatoes
After bringing to boil, let it simmer for 15 minutes and then sprinkle chilli flakes, parsley, and then mozzarella on sauce

Yields 4 servings

Spain Says "Sí!"

By Gilles Marchildon, Executive Director of Egale Canada (www.egale.ca)

It was an undeclared competition, according to several Canadian lawyers and activists who supported equal marriage. This group of people jokingly compared to an Olympic competition the process whereby countries were slowly but surely recognizing same-sex marriage.

The two top 'medals' have already been claimed. The Netherlands won the Gold when, in 2001, it became the first country in the world to legalize civil marriage for same-sex couples. The Silver went to another European country when Belgium followed suit in 2003.

It appears that the Bronze medal must now be awarded to Spain, another nation on the Old Continent, even though Canada's House of Commons passed Bill C-38, the equal marriage legislation.

There had been concerns that C-38 would get delayed until the Fall but federal Liberals obtained support from the Bloc Québécois and the NDP to prolong the current session of Parliament. Plus, a surprise and quick vote on the NDP-inspired budget cleared the legislative deck and made room for C-38 to be debated.

The ruling by the Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick, handed down June 23, probably also coaxed Members of Parlia-

ment. That decision caused New Brunswick to become the 8th province to extend equal marriage. Days later, on June 28, the House of Commons finally gave its approval to make this the law across Canada.

Canada's legislation, adopted by a solid margin of 158 MPs in favour against 133, must still be passed by the Senate and given Royal Assent by the Governor General. Technically, the Bill is not Law until those two additional steps are fulfilled, expected to happen by the time you read this.

That's why Spain gets the Bronze. There, the new law legalizing same-sex marriage came into effect on July 3 after receiving the King's signature and being published in the government's registry.

Prime Minister Zapatero and his governing Socialist party had pushed the controversial bill through the lower house of representatives or congress but it was rejected by Spain's Senate. The lower house therefore had to vote again on the bill, allowing the bill to move forward and become law.

In addition to allowing same-sex couples to legally marry, Spain's legislation also gives couples the right to adopt children. In Canada, adoption by same-sex couples is already allowed in most jurisdic-

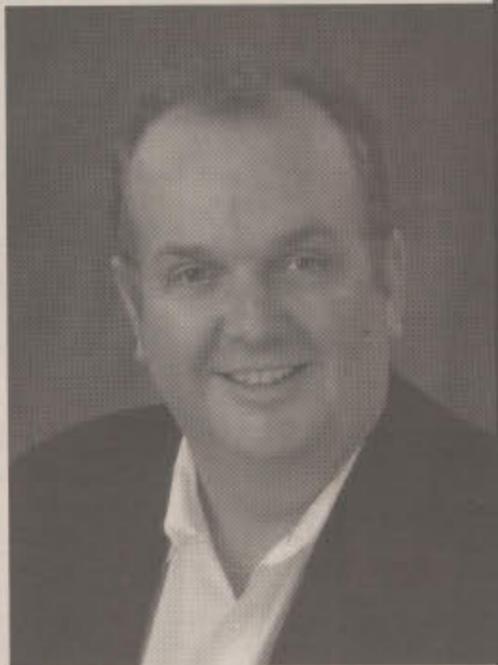
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ADVANCING a tradition of EXCELLENCE

Interview with Bruce La Bruce

by Ralph Higgins for Wayves
Many adjectives have been used to describe Bruce LaBruce: eccentric, talented, touchy, neurotic, brilliant, over-rated. On a quizzing scale he would figure somewhere between Bart Simpson and Quentin Crisp. He is a writer, filmmaker, producer and commentator who has been both reviled and honoured for his "pornographic little moving pictures". Bruce LaBruce remains a controversial and iconic figure in the landscape of Canadian and international independent film-making.

We spoke with Bruce LaBruce about his work.

Wayves Why filmmaking? What got you started?

BLB I went to film school at York University in Toronto initially with the intention of becoming a film academic and critic, but I took two years of production because I was curious about the film-making process. I eventually dropped out of production because it was too expensive and technically overwhelming, but I went on to receive a Masters degree in film theory. While I was working on my thesis, however, I became disillusioned with academia and started to make super 8 movies in the context of the downtown punk and alternative art scene. Super 8 was a very cheap medium, and it was also technically easy, so I got over my tech fear somewhat. So I started with experimental super 8 shorts before making a feature length super 8 movie (No Skin Off My Ass), which my producer blew up to 16mm and put on the festival circuit. My movies have been popular on the festival circuit ever since. I moved on to 16mm, and more recently, digital

Wayves - One of the things I noticed was a completely different narrative style between your writing and filmmaking. In writing you are very articulate, opinionated, very stream of semi-consciousness, with very emphatic points and ideas. The Reluctant Pornographer, for example or the Up Inside The Movie columns in Honcho are razor sharp, intelligent. In your films by contrast, there is a kind of sparse narrative line and minimal dialogue. Many of the characters seem barely verbal at all. Care to speak to that?

BLB Hmm, I'm not sure I entirely agree with that. My movies are very verbal, sometimes verbose; it's just that I generally have worked with non-actors and often used voice-over or dubbed dialogue that is disconnected from the image, so it may give the impression of being less articulate or verbal. If you actually look at the script for, say Super 8 1/2, which was published in the Plug-In book about my work called Ride Queer, Ride, I think you'll find it has the same verbal quality that you might find in the writing I've done for various magazines. I think it also

has to do with the fact that I make "pornographic" movies, and in fact my last two movies have been made for porno companies. People don't generally associate a lot of dialogue or pontificating in such movies, but in both Skin Flick and The Raspberry Reich there is actually quite a lot of verbiage and verbal play.

Wayves - Well, speaking of porn, your films have been described as pornography masquerading as art. I find the depictions of sexual-

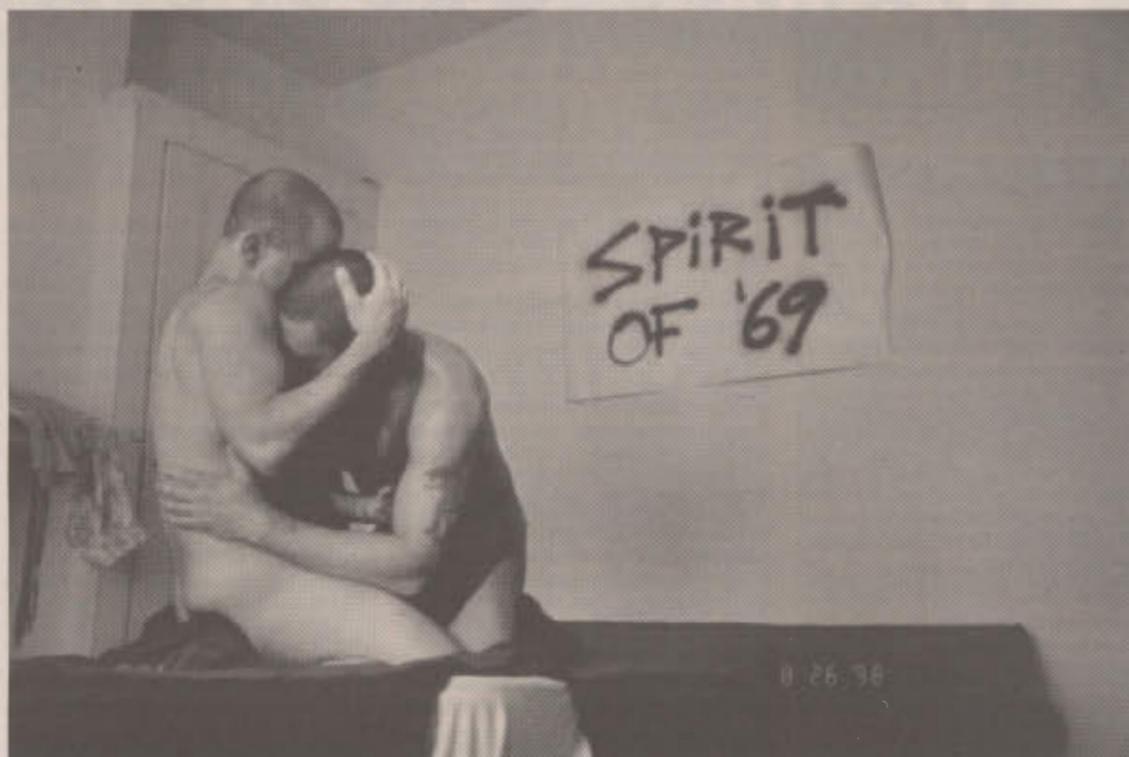
I think we just have to expand our definition of what porn can be.

ity very realistic and wondered if it was your intention to avoid the coyness of panning away to fireplaces and pounding surf? Sex is sometimes not pretty, it can be awkward and silly as well as romantic and tender and I think that is what your films show. We've created far too much mystique around sex and refuse to let it be what it is.

BLB I think you have to look at the progression of my movies over the years to address these issues. My early short experimental super 8 movies that I made in the late eighties were very much in the tradition of avant-garde film-making, using collage and ironic juxtaposition of images, found or stolen images, a disjunction of sound and image, etc. I did use narrative elements, but they were definitely in the experimental mode.

My first two feature length movies, No Skin Off My Ass (1991) and Super 8 1/2 (1994), were also more in the style of the avant-garde or underground movie, and in fact I was alluding to the tradition of the gay avant-garde cinematic tradition, from Genet to Anger to Warhol to Jack Smith, etc. These movies were sexually explicit but they wouldn't really be considered pornography.

Hustler White (1996) was less sexually explicit, but more fetishistic and closer to pornography in tone, and it was the first movie in which I used real porn stars. My latest two movies, Skin Flick/Skin Gang (2000) and The Raspberry Reich (2005), were made for actual porno companies and the idea was to create scenarios in which real porn stars could have sex with each other. Granted, my scenarios are much more elaborate and convoluted than in the average porno movie, but they are still porno movies at heart and have been consumed by audiences as porno. Both movies also operate, however, as a critique of porno, foregrounding the conventions of porno, and often satirizing them or putting them in quotations. I do like the idea of showing sex in a more romantic and tender way in movies, or showing its awkward or silly side, and I try to do that as well, but ultimately it's still pornography. I think we just have to expand our definition of what porno can be and be a little more

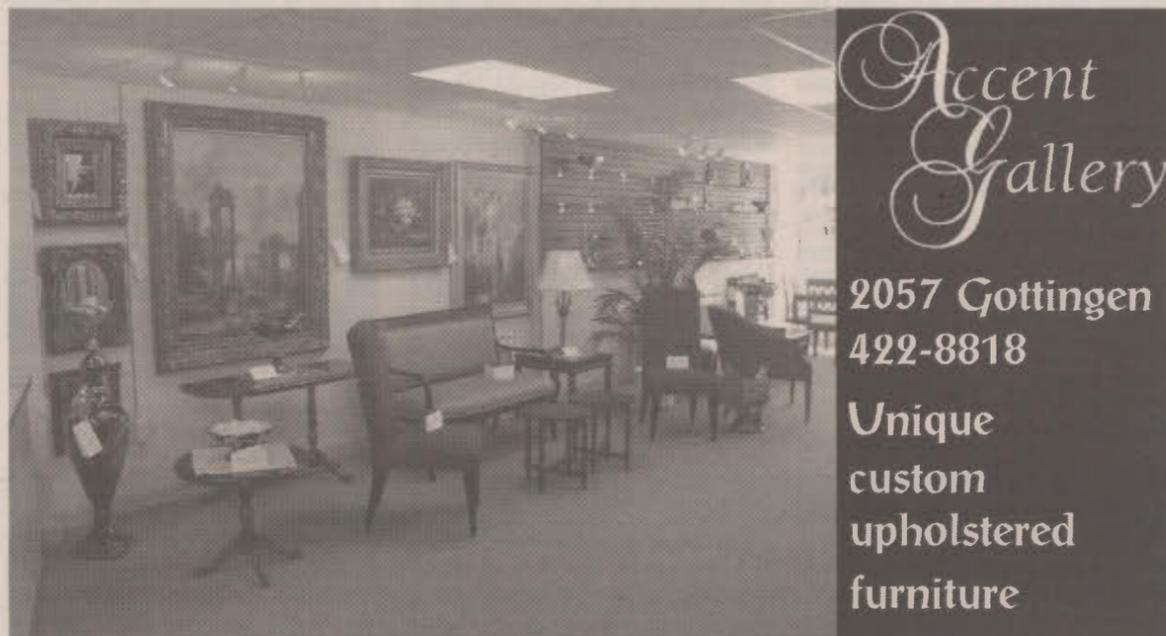


creative and imaginative with it. I also make very overt political statements about gay culture and gay representation with my movies, which some people dislike because they think it gets in the way of the pure sexual pleasure. But I always say, hey, porno is a multi-billion dol-

lar industry, there should be room for all different kinds of porno. If I want to make political statements with my porno, I should be able to. There's plenty of other porno for porno purists to watch.

Ask for Bruce LaBruce films at your local vid rental store or they

are available, mostly online, from various outlets like www.tlvideo.com. LaBruce has his own site, www.brucelabruce.com, which is not for the faint-hearted or the intellectually challenged.



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WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Transgender: ATG is a Transsexual support/resource group in Atlantic Canada. Contact Jennifer or Lynn for info. email: atgrp@hotmail.com (Contact Jennifer (jenn_lynn2_ca@yahoo.ca) or Lynn (ladyelle@3web.net) for more detail)

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces. web: groups.msn.com/AtlanticCanadianLesbians

Canadian Transsexuals Fight for Rights: One-stop site for needs, accommodations, doctors, therapists, legal etc. web: www.cliff.org

CHAT-OAAW, Halifax: This online chat group for Out And About Womyn accepts members from NB, PEI, NFLD & NS. email: oaaw@eastlink.ca web: www.geocities.com/oaawchat (CHAT-OAAW, Maritimes: This online sister-group of Out And About Womyn is for general chat and accepts membership from lesbians across the Maritimes.)

EGALE Vice-President & Atlantic Rep., St. John's: (709) 690-5244 email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

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

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. email: halifaxtransguys@yahoo.com web: www.halifaxtransguys.com at Please write for further information on our upcoming meetings and social events.

Healing Our Nations, Dartmouth: HIV/AIDS prevention in a manner respectful of our native way of life. 1-800-565-4255 email: hon@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 45 Alderney Dr., Ste. 607, Dartmouth, NS.

Integrity Nova Scotia PEI, Nova Scotia / PEI: Gathering of GLBT Anglicans and their friends of Nova Scotia and PEI. email: integritynspei@yahoo.ca (Monthly meetings. Email for details)

Maritime Lesbians: Online info for all maritime lesbians. web: www.maritimelesbians.com

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society, assorted cities: Dedicated to developing gay men's leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: info@macleather.net web: www.macleather.net, meets 1st Saturday (See webpage for event schedule, location, and other details.)

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

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

Project E: Presentation for youth, on gender expression, myth busters, proper terminology and other facts. email: projectex3@hotmail.com web: www.freewebs.com/xprojecte/ at available via web page

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine! email: submissions@wayves.ca web: www.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: casunited@nb.aibn.com, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St

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, reduce the spread. 652-2437 email: aidssi@nb.aibn.com web: www.geocities.com/aidssi

Atlantiques Swim Team, Moncton: Swimming for fitness or participating in Masters swimming competitions. email: info@atlantiques.org web: atlantiques.org (Contact us by email for swim times and social events. LGBT Swimmers from elsewhere in Atlantic Canada are welcome to join the team and go to meets with us.) at the CEPS pool at the Université de Moncton.

Boom Nightclub, Fredericton: Gay Bar. (506) 463-2666 email: info@boomnightclub.ca (Hours: Mon & Tues - Closed, Wed 4-12, Thurs 4-1, Fri & Sat 4-2 and Sun t-dance 4-8)

Catalyst, Mount Allison U, Sackville: support & information for Mount A students, occasional social activities. 506-364-2357 email: krotter@mta.ca (Catalyst meets approximately every week from Sept-Dec and Jan-April. For meeting info, contact Kris Trotter at 364-2255 or the Students' Administrative Council at 364-2231. Catalyst is not active during the summer.) at Fax: 506/364-2216

Closet Chat, Saint John: Discussion space &

guest speakers. 506-333-3711 email: clstcht@nbnet.nb.ca, meets every Tuesday (8:00 PM) at Centenary-Queen Square United Church 215 Wentworth Street

East Coast Bears, Fredericton: adult men who are, or like, masculine, hairy men. 506-455-2856 email: info@eastcoastbears.com web: www.eastcoastbears.com, meets 4th Sunday (See webpage for schedule.)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton: library & occasional social events. email: jwhitehe@unb.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.

Moncton Gay Pride, Moncton: The Moncton GLBT group that organizes events and promotes as well as puts on Moncton's Pride events! , meets 3rd Sunday

Moncton Transgender Support Group, Moncton: Transgenders, their allies, families and friends. 536-0599 email: eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca (We have regular meetings, contact Eldon for time and place.)

Out in the Valley / A la campagne, Fredericton: Gay and Lesbian Outdoors Club. email: Out-intheValley@hotmail.com

PFLAG Fredericton, Fredericton: all welcome. Francis @ 454-8349 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca

PFLAG Moncton: Parents, families and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans (transgender and transsexual), two spirit, queer and questioning persons. 536-0599 email: eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca web: www.maritimelesbians.com, meets 3rd Monday (every 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm at U de M. (except December - 2nd Monday)) at Eldon Hay, 35 Union St., Sackville, NB E4L 4M6.

PFLAG Sackville/Amherst: Parents, families & friends-of, and, GLBT persons. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca web: www.maritimelesbians.com/, meets 2nd Monday (Please see calendar on our web page.) at Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG Saint John, Saint John: 652-3995 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. 693-1145 email: danny@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

Q-Collective, Saint John: a UNBSJ-based group of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and their friends. email: glbtq_unbsj@hotmail.com web: groups.msn.com/GLBT-Friends/ (Post an email to the MSN group at GLBTFriends@groups.msn.com. Your message will be visible to all subscribers. (In order to join the group, a person must use a hotmail account.) The Q-Collective also has a mailing list: to subscribe, email glbtq_unbsj@hotmail.com.)

Safe Spaces Fundy Region, Saint John: Committed to ending discrimination around issues of sexual orientation in youth. email: safespaces@gmail.com web: www.safespacesfundy.ca (See Webpage for schedule.) at Community Health Centre, 116 Coburg Street, Saint John, NB

Safe Spaces Moncton, Moncton: Safe Spaces offers support to GLBTQ Youth between 14-25. 869-6224 email: safespaces@nb.aibn.com web: www.safespaces.org (Safe Spaces offers support to GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED or QUESTIONING Youth between the ages of 14-25. We offer individual counselling (via phone, e-mail or in person) and we also offer support groups. Awareness activities are offered in the community.)

Saint John Lesbian / Bi Women's Support Network, Saint John: for women-loving women. 642-1284 email: silesbi@email.com web: www.geocities.com/silesbi/, meets 3rd Friday

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library, Saint John: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: casunited@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 Wednesday (7 pm) at Tilley 28 (downstairs Arts Common Room)

UN sur DIX, Moncton: l'Association des Étudiant(e)s gais, lesbiennes et bisexuel(le)s de l'Université de Moncton. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/

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

Woodstock GLBT Family Outreach, Woodstock: Books, movies 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

Canadians for Equal Marriage, St. John's: The provincial committee connected to the national coalition lobbying for equal marriage. (709) 690-5244 email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.equal-marriage.ca (Canadians for Equal Marriage, St. John's NL: The provincial committee connected to the national coalition lobbying for equal marriage. (709) 690-5244 email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.equal-marriage.ca at AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, 50 Harbour Drive, St. John's NL.)

LBGT-MUN Resource Centre, St. John's: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and support centre staffed by trained volunteers! 737-7619 email: lbgtmun@mun.ca web: www.mun.ca/lbgt/ (Open Weekdays 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM; two-three meetings each month; Coffee-House Fridays from 12-2pm; movie nights and other social events occur at least three times per month!) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved! LBGT-MUN: "A Positive Place, for Positive People!"

NGALE (Newfoundland Gays And Lesbians for Equality), St. John's: We offer support to LBGT people and education on LBGT issues to the general public. (709) 579-8656 email: info@ngale.ca web: www.ngale.ca (NGALE Inc. (Newfoundland Gays And Lesbians for Equality) offer support and education to LBGT persons, their families and friends, as well as the general public. (709) 576-8656 at AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, 50 Harbour Drive, St. John's NL.) at AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, 50 Harbour Drive, St. John's NL.

NGALE LIST-SERV, St. John's: Email discussions & events for Newfoundland. email: subscribe@ngale.cjb.net, meets 1st Wednesday at 50 Harbour Drive: ACNL Office

PFLAG - SJ, St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. (709) 579-8656 email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.pflag.ca (PFLAG St. John's NL: Information or referral to one of our parents. (709) 579-8656 email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.pflag.ca at AIDS Committee Newfoundland and Labrador, 50 Harbour Drive, St. John's NL.) at AIDS Committee Newfoundland and Labrador, 50 Harbour Drive, St. John's NL.

Nova Scotia (902)

Acadia Pride, Wolfville: community at Acadia. 585-2165 web: dragon.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm during academic year) at Beverage Forum (SUB)

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

Affirm United, Halifax: support, action and worshiping community within the United Church. email: stewarar@gov.ns.ca at Box 33067, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

AIDS Coalition Of Cape Breton - ACCB, Sydney: 567-1766 web: www.accb.ns.ca at 150 Bentinck St., Sydney, NS B1P 1G6

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: for the g/l/b/t communities- (902) 441-7505 email: cour-age449@yahoo.com web: www.rationalunlucy.com/coul, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St. Mary's Basilica, basement - side entrance

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, Halifax: 455-9656

Bluenose Bears, Halifax: Club for bears and those who like them. 463-4312 email: bluenosebears@accesswave.ca web: www.geocities.com/bluenosebears, meets 3rd Friday

Cape Breton Pride: dedicated to promoting well being & unity of our gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgendered community. email: capebretonpride@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/capebretonpride (Monthly women's, men's and/or gblt dances and social events. For up to date info and official Pride Week details, check the webpage or write c/o 41 Broadway, Sydney, N.S. B1N 2Y3)

DalOut, Halifax: LGBTQ Society at Dalhousie. 494-2190 email: dalout@dal.ca web: is2.dal.ca/~dalout, meets every Thursday (7pm) at SUB Room 321

Family Pride Camping Association (Rainbow Spirit), Halifax: Rainbow Spirit, Canada's only week-long summer camp for children of LBGT parents. 455-0186 email: info@fpca.ca web: www.fpca.ca, meets 2nd Monday (Contact us if you are interested in helping out, or have a child who would benefit from attending Rainbow Spirit, our annual week-long camp.)

Fundy Fruit, Valley: Social group for valley folk: hiking, movies, snowshoeing, board games, parties. email: fundyfruit@yahoo.ca (Times & locations sent out by email.)

Gay Camping Club, Halifax: The outdoorsy kind of camping (not just for RVs!). email: gaycampingclub@hotmail.com web: www.gaycampingclubhalifax.ca

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

GayFathersHalifax, HRM: Is a peer support group for gay and bisexual fathers. Contact Gilles @ 448-3565 or Gorden @ 446-7793 email: Gay-FathersHalifax@hotmail.com web: groups.msn.com/GayFathersOfHalifax, meets 1st Wednesday (7-9 p.m.) at Dalhousie Legal Services, 2209 Gottingen Street (corner of Gottingen & Cunard) press the buzzer.

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. 564-6939 (Socials fall on the last Saturday of every month- Admission \$6.50- Best light and sound show around Socials are held at Steel Workers Hall, Sydney) at P O Box 1118, Sydney, NS (902)-564-6939

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

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society, Halifax: Fundraising. 476-4225 email: info@imperialcourts.com web: www.imperialcourts.com (Meeting times 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 and connection across Nova Scotia. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca (1. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays - Social Drop-in 6-9pm. 2. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - Support meeting 7-9 pm. 3. Grade 7-9 Group - Wednesday 6:30 - 8 pm - same week as support meeting.) at 2281 Brunswick St

LGB Youth Support Group Lunenburg County, Bridgewater: fun social/support group for 25 and under. 543-1315 email: pplc@auracom.com web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (Postponed until further notice: Volunteer facilitators needed!)

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

Mount Pride, Halifax: Social group, open to anyone. email: mountpride@yahoo.com, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (Meets bi-weekly, 12 noon) at Diversity Center in Rosaria

Northern AIDS Connection Society, Truro: HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colc., Pictou, Cumb. & E Hants. 895-0931 email: L_o_p2000@hotmail.com (Our Board of Directors meet regularly on the third Monday of each month.) at Futureworx 80 Glenwood Dr., Truro, N.S.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, Halifax: fostering change through networking, education, outreach & community education. 832-9100 email: nsrap@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.nsrap.ca (See Web Page) at 106 - 40 Waterfront Dr. Bedford, NS B4A 4J1

Out And About Womyn (OAAW), Halifax: Social group for lesbians in the local HRM region. email: oaaw@eastlink.ca web: www.geocities.com/outandaboutwomyn (OUT AND ABOUT WOMYN is a social group for lesbians in the local greater-Halifax region only. Small membership fee pays for various activities and social events for members and (sometimes) their children, throughout the year.)

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

Over 30's Club: Socials, usually potluck dinners. 464-8925 email: atlanticoverthirty@hotmail.com (one Saturday evening a month) at members' homes, mostly Halifax but occasionally out of town.

PFLAG Halifax: support and education to parents, family and friends. 443-3747 email: ab274@chebucto.ns.ca, meets 3rd Sunday (2:00 pm) at individual homes

PFLAG Sackville/Amherst: Parents, families & friends-of, and, GLBT persons. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca web: www.maritimelesbians.com/, meets 2nd Monday (Please see calendar on our web page.) at Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG Truro: 662.3774 email: s.r.burns@ns.sympatico.ca

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.

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

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment), Truro: Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 902-893-6300 email: yvonna@nsac.ns.ca (Meeting are as requested.)

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: A Christian Church with a positive affirming ministry to the GBLT community. Everyone is welcome! 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets every Sunday (7:00pm) at 2786 Agricola St. Bloomfield Center, Suite #108

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society: Sexual Diversity Society of UCCB: email:

diversity@stunior.uccb.ns.ca

South Shore Pride Social Club, Bridgewater: for 18 & older. 685-3297 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca, meets every Monday (7:30PM - 9:00PM)

Team Halifax, Halifax: All GLBT over 18, athletes and performance artists, as well as anyone willing to help out. 422-9510 email: ingrid@teamhalifax.com web: www.teamhalifax.com (No fixed schedule at this time, look on website for further details.)

The AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Sydney: Support for those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, advocacy, and prevention/education free condoms. (902) 567-1766 email: christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca at 150 Bentinck St

Tightrope, Halifax: leather & denim brotherhood. See our monthly events listing at <http://gay.hfxns.org/LocalEvents>. 461-1972 (ask for Mike), meets 3rd Saturday

Truro Adult Group, Truro: Wayne at 897-6654 or Gina at 895-8363 (bi-weekly)

Truro Gay Youth: Vida at 897-4366.

Truro Pride: GLBT support group in Central NS. 897-6654 or 895-8363 email: truropride@hotmail.com web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/greenoaks/Home.html (Every second Wednesday at 6:00 PM. See webpage for next date.) at Calico Cafe @ 564 Prince Street, Truro, NS.

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. 825-6170 or 825-3197 or 760-1004 after 8pm email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: faceitwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, dances on the first Saturday of the month.) at email or call for locations

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 email:

Atlantic Canada Events Calendar >

Amherst

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. lgbyp_amherst@hotmail.com, all emails confidential.

Third Thursday of each month
PFLAG Meeting 7:30-9:30pm at Maggie's Place, La Planche St, Amherst. Parents, friends, family & allies of GLBT community.

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday
Valley Gay Mens Coffee House Meets every Thursday evening from 7-9 pm and also on the first Saturday of every month hosts a Gay/Lesbian dance from 9pm-1am. We are having two dances in May, on the 7th and 28th and no June dance. The 28th dance will be a special Apple Blossom event.* If you need more information please contact 1-902-825-3197 or 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@yahoogroups.com.

Bridgewater

Every Monday
South Shore Pride Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Club holds meetings in Bridgewater every Monday from 7-9pm. Call 685-3297 or email thoron.ca@yahoo.ca for details. www.geocities.com/Westhollywood/village/2384

Cape Breton

Sept 24, Nov 26
CommUNITY dances (men and women) will take place every second month, with a separate men's and women's dance taking place the alternate month. Please check our website: geocities.com/capebretonpride for locations and details of events.

Oct 29
MEN'S dance. Please check our website: geocities.com/capebretonpride for locations and details of events.

Oct 22
WOMEN'S dance. Please check our website: geocities.com/capebretonpride for locations and details of events.

Cape Breton Pride!

July 23-31
Cape Breton Pride Week! For news and updates of the island's gay and lesbian community, or if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please visit our website at www.geocities.com/capebretonpride. If you wish to join our mailing list for updates as they occur, drop us an email and we'll be happy to include you.

- July 23 Baseball Game, Pride Dance
- July 24 Pride Parade, Miss CB Pageant & Talent Show
- July 25 Hike and BBQ
- July 26 Open Forum at the Library
- July 27 Music Fest at Maple Leaf Lounge
- July 28 Gay Bingo
- July 29 Beach Party / CampOUT
- July 30 Wrap Up Party
- July 31 Church Service

Fredericton

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.

July 28, Aug 11, 25
PRIDE CHAT.... an informal and informative gathering where gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and friends of the gbltq community can meet and discuss issues relating to our community, while being in a safe and comfortable environment. Pride Chat will have Guest Speakers on a regular bi-weekly basis to speak to the issues you want to discuss or learn about. Pride Chat meetings are at Wilmot United Church at Carleton Street entrance, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

BOOM! NIGHTCLUB
www.boomnightclub.ca
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
Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00 pm, Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Suite 108

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 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@yahoogroups.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, Third and Fifth Tuesdays
LGB Youth Project 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, 2281 Brunswick Street

Second and Fourth Tuesdays
LGB Youth Project Group 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

Every Wednesday
An all gay men's bowling league is starting up in the new year and I am looking for any men who are interested in joining. 7pm to 9pm at The Bowlarama at Bayers Road Shopping Centre. If you are interested in joining contact Richard at 440-6729 after 4pm.

First Wednesday of each month
GAY FATHERS OF HALIFAX is a peer support group for gay and bisexual men. We meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We also get together for a monthly Pot Luck social. For more info contact Bruce @ 469 5490 or Gilles @ 448-3565 or email GayFathersHalifax@hotmail.com or visit our website at http://groups.msn.com/GayFathersOfHalifax If you are interested in facilitating meetings, organizing activities or simply meeting a great group of men, then send us an email.

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.

July 28, Aug 11, 25, Sept 8, 22
Anonymous HIV Testing, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia 1657 Barrington St, Suite 321, 5-8pm. 425-4882 for an appointment.

July 31, Aug 14, 28, Sept 11, 25
Koinonia Ecumenical Church - Meaning 'community'. Services bi-weekly at 12:30pm at Halifax Feast downtown. Pastor Elaine, 876-8771 or koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca

July 28-30
SUZIE GOO from Menial Sins: Having already warmed up with Pride Week, prepare yourself after for Thursday July 28th-Saturday July 30th, when Menial Sin's Theater Company goes to Church at the Church on North Street (5657 North Street). Combining drag performer and

actors, Menial Sins brings you Halifax's first Drag Musical. Rouge will star with others from the Drag community (such as Amanada Benzonva, April Showers, and Ben Dover). Tickets are 10 dollars a person and only sold at the door. Doors will open at 7PM for the 8 o'clock show.

August 5-7
The 17th Annual Courage Round Up, sponsored by gay men and lesbians in AA will be held at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis Street in Halifax. Our program includes fellowship, spirituality, speaker meetings and workshop discussion of recovery topics in a relaxed and peaceful setting. This year's theme is the Joy of Living." Courage is a small and intimate round up and always has been, and is the only gay and lesbian AA roundup in Atlantic Canada and maybe the only one of its kind in Canada east of Toronto. Registration opens at 3 p.m. on Friday. Registration is \$30.00 at the door (or \$25.00 if paid before July 1 and this includes luncheon on Saturday. Supper on Saturday is extra and the estimated cost is \$10.00. Send your cheque or money order to: Courage Round Up, c/o 6 Campeau Court, Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia B3G 1J5. For information call Mike at (902) 449-5859. email msa52@hotmail.com or check our website at www.rationalunacy.com/courageroundup/

August 29
Tightrope Event: "Summer Heat in Jockstrap" at MenzBar, 9pm-11pm.

September 10
Tightrope Event: Bondage Demo at MenzBar, 9pm-11pm.

September 25
AIDS Walk For Life
WHO? The Halifax AIDS Walk is presented by and in support of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS). ACNS is a non-profit, community-based AIDS organization whose mission is to empower persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and those at risk through health promotion and mutual support and to reduce the spread of HIV in Nova Scotia. WHAT? Sunday, September 25, 2005—Register today...gather a Team Together! Halifax AIDS Walk, hundreds of walkers in the HRM coming together to show support in the fight against HIV/AIDS by raising money for our Health Fund

and awareness of HIV/AIDS.
WHERE? Halifax Commons

Halifax - LGBYouth Project

The Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Project is out in full force this summer. We'll be having a lot of fun stuff to do all summer - and all of our events are open to everyone - gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight (and curious and questioning) youth under 25. The Youth Project - at 2281 Brunswick street - is open from 9-4, and we're open to anyone just dropping by to say hi. The building itself has gone under a lot of renovations, looking better than ever for the summer ahead. We also welcome Patrick Daigle, the new Support Services Coordinator. Check out the events below! For more details, call 429-5429 or e-mail youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca - all events are open to all youth 25 and under, and are strictly drug- and alcohol-free.

Every Second Wednesday
Summer Movie Nights! Come out for popcorn and a movie! Wednesday nights.
August 3rd - The Truth About Jane
August 17th - Touch of Pink
August 31st - D.E.B.S

Proud Halifax Pride '05
Come out and join us for our Pride Week events!

July 23 - PARADE! Come early and help set up the float, or come and join us on the float. Prep starts at 9:00am. To be on the float, just show up at 12:00pm

July 30
Digital Scavenger Hunt: Register your team of 3-4 to compete in a citywide hunt for fun and challenging photo ops. Each team must have a digital camera. Prizes for the best pictures! [If you don't have a full team, register anyway.] 11:00am, Youth Project Office, 2281 Brunswick street. Register your team!

August 20
Gay/Straight Alliance FALL Kick-off! This event will be a great opportunity for students involved with GSAs to get together, have some fun, build some skills and share ideas for the fall. Saturday, August 20th 10:00am - 4:00pm. Check the website for registration information - coming soon.

CLUB
NRG

Weekly
Events

SHOWTUNES

MONDAYS

TUESDAYS

WEDNESDAYS

THURSDAYS

FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS

SUNDAYS

Queer as Folk @11pm
Retro Night with DJ Laptop @10pm

Karaoke and 30cent Wings
\$100 Cash Prize @10pm

Halifax Idol
\$100 Cash Prize @10pm

Classic Karaoke with Justin
\$100 Cash Prize @10pm

DJ Laptop Spins
@10pm

Drag Show

I.C.E. Entertainment
Presents:
2215 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS
(In the Village)
902-420-1323

Friday July 29th
It Ain't Nothing But A Party
Featuring: Supreme Selectaz
from St. Lucia - \$5.
Party starts at 10PM

Sunday August 7th
Studio X Lenoir
Community Achievement Awards
9pm

Sunday July 31st
Girlz @
Party Night Out
9pm

www.clubnrghalifax.com

< Atlantic Canada Events Calendar >

Halifax Bar & Business Calendar

MENZ BAR & Partz Dept.

2104 Gottingen St in Halifax's Gay Village, 902-446-6969, www.MENZBAR.ca, FREE INTERNET 7 DAYS A WEEK, Daily Food & Drink Specials 4:30 to 7PM

Sundays - Open Mic & Karaoke with Troy Ward \$50.00 Prize and Mystery Song JACK POT...win up to \$300

Sundays - BBQ in Support of MANA for HEALTH (weather permitting)

Mondays - Customer Appreciation Night - Call us for details!

Tuesdays - Toonies Night

Wednesdays - Karaoke & Wings with BEAR777 \$50 1st Prize; \$25 2nd Prize and Mystery Song JACK POT...win up to \$300

Thursdays - Les Girlz starring Studio X. Le Noir

Friday & Saturday - Dancing on the ceiling with DJ Electro

Saturday July 30th - Ripped Jeans Contest: show us your hole...and win!

Halifax Pride' 05

Friday July 22nd

Beach Party ... bring your towel ???

Saturday July 23rd

M.A.C. Leather OINK IV Party & Tightrope's PIG on a SPIT with Buffet Sides (Tickets in Advance), 50/50 Boots to Balls draw in support of the GLB Youth Project

Sunday July 24th

Halifax Pride'05 Survivor Brunch, \$1 from each breakfast will be given in support of Halifax Pride' 05

DOUBLE Open Mic Night with Troy 1st Prize \$100, Mystery Song Jack Pot, Win Up To \$300

NRG2

www.clubnrgHalifax.com

Mondays: Retro Night w/DJ Face

Tuesdays: Karaoke & Wing Night hosted by Troy 20c wings with \$100 prize.

Wednesdays: Studio hosts Open Drag - \$75.00 prize

Thursdays: Karaoke & Wings with Justin, 20c wings with \$100 prize

Fridays & Saturdays: Dancing all night

REFLECTIONS

www.reflectionscabaret.com

Mondays: Mondays consist of a great show hosted by Ben Dover called "Stack

the Vote" which is a lypsync show. \$3 for the show. Anyone can try for some great cash prizes and lots of fun! DJ HedFones to follow.

Tuesdays: Karaoke with Troy Ward. Come out for the chance to win \$100 cash every Tuesday night! DJ HedFones spins all your favourite tunes after Karaoke. Check it out! No Cover.

Wednesdays: Wednesdays consist of great live bands on stage till 1am followed by great Retro music. \$3 cover for bands till 1am. Ladies free. Then, DJ Sapho will tear up the dancefloor with some great retro music no cover.

Thursdays: Lulu LaRude hosts Five Minutes Of Fame-the anything goes talent show where we give away \$200 cold hard cash to the winner each night. This is the hottest night through the week. 10pm \$3. Lulu is always a hoot. Check it out! DJ HedFones follows with great dance music all night long.

Reflections is open 7 days a week. from 1pm-4am Monday-Saturday and 4pm-4am Sundays, wheelchair access, 5184 Sackville St. 422-2957, 1-877-422-2957 toll free

SEADOG'S SAUNA & SPA

2199 Gottingen Street, in the HEART of Halifax's Gay Village, Open Mon-Thu 4pm - 8am & 24hrs on Weekends. We accept VISA, M/C & Interac, 902-444-3647 www.SeaDogs.ca

Mondays - Student Night, free locker with valid I.D.

Tuesdays - LOCKERAMA, all lockers \$10

Wednesdays - Hump Night, 1/2 price pass with purchase of a room or locker

Thursdays - Naked Night, Towels optional!

Tightly Whitey Undie Night - 1st & 3rd Fri of every month

Leather Night - 1st Sat of every month

Blue Collar Night - 3rd Sat of every month, Wear your Favorite Gear!

BLACK OUT Party - 2nd & 4th Sat of every month!

Early Bird Special - Sat and Sun 6am till Noon, Rooms are \$10 & Lockers are \$5

Halifax Pride'05

For the Boyz...

NAKED NIGHT EVERY NIGHT, ALL WEEK LONG!

BLACK OUT in Center Block! Thur-Fri-Sat

@ Midnight

Venus Envy & SeaDog's Present

PUSSY PLAYHOUSE!

Wednesday, July 20th

8PM till 2AM

Advanced tickets \$15 at Venus Envy, \$20 at the door!

For info call Venus Envy @ 422-0004

Moncton

Second Tuesday of each month GLBT Support, 7:30pm at 245 Lutz St in Moncton. We discuss the realities of life within the GLBT community, share stories and gain support from others. Meetings are confidential, and new people are always welcome. For more info, call 506-863-1888

Third Monday of each month PFLAG Moncton has monthly support meetings from 7:30-9:30 in room 339 of the Taillon bldg at U.deM. campus. Everyone is welcome at our meetings.

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 30

The very 1st "Mr. & Ms. Atlantic Canada Leather" contest. If anyone, female or male is interested in more information or wanting to be a contestant for the contest, please contact Steve Laviolette by Email at: TheMLC@Rogers.com or by phone at (506) 388 - 2781. I look forward to hearing from you.

Montréal

July 9 - August 5, 2006

A group of Acadiens/Acadiennes from everywhere are planning to participate at the first Outgames Rendez Vous Montreal between July 29 until August 5, 2006. There will be dozen of gays and lesbians from all around the world who will participate at that cultural and sporting event. If you do your inscripton before the end of 2004 you will have

a reduction of your inscription fees. If you want to join our acadien team please contact yvonbonbon@hotmail.com

Saint John

Third Saturday

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

Saint John Pride

August 8-14

PORT CITY PRIDE WEEK! http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com/ for more information. Parade is August 13th!

Saint John Bar & Business Calendar

BABYLON EAST

www.babyloneast.ca

The newest sociable gay bar in New Brunswick, on South Market Street.

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 Third Wednesday

Arriba's Night! Arriba's is a bar in the same building as Quintana's De La Plaza, in Churchill Square. We get together and attend this venue on a regular basis, due to its closeness to MUN and the fact that these are "Student Saver Nights" (drinks are cheaper and there are free nachos with every drink!). Before going to the venue, people are asked to meet at LBGT-MUN at 4:30pm to head over (and to grab seats before everyone else - teehee). Make sure to wear some Pride stuff so we can tell that you're there to meet us! (Note: this venue is 19 years and older)

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

Tatamagouche

Nov 25-27

Rainbow Weekend 2005 at the Tatamagouche Centre! From evaluations of last year's retreat, we have decided to: include more singing - please bring musical instruments; be more intentional about including physical activity - we will take time to stretch and move around amidst too much sitting; honour "Sacred Silence" again on Saturday morning with some suggested activities as well as allowing you to find your own helpful "stillness"; make use of the Open Concept in our programming again on Saturday morning; leave Saturday afternoon free ending with "the labyrinth" for those who are interested. More information available from robertj100@hotmail.com

Truro

Sept 17

2nd Annual Country Hoe Down Dance Lion's Club in Truro \$7.00 admission/ Bar on location Wear you best cowgirl or cowboy outfit...you might win a prize!

WAYVES DATES!

Check out page two for Wayves deadlines.

Wileville

Third Saturday of each month Dance 9PM to 1AM. Smoke free. For more details call 685-3297 or email info@southshorepride.ca or www.southshorepride.ca

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

Cont'd next page

WANT TO LIST AN EVENT FOR OUR READERS? SEND YOUR EVENTS DETAILS TO SUBMISSIONS@WAYVES.CA NOW! EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE! MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE CONTACT INFO!

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& Jockstraps

Menz Bar 20/08 9pm

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Interested - Call Laurie 461-1972

MENZ BAR

In the Heart of Halifax's Gay Village

Sat., Aug. 6:
Show us Your Gear @ Blue Collar night

Sat., Aug. 13:
DaIOUT's HOT HOT HOT Summer Fund Raiser

Sat., Aug. 20:
It's a Corn Boil for LGB Youth Project

Sat., Aug. 27:
Want to get sashed? Mr. Menz Bar Leather Contest Ask at bar for contestant details

Noon - 2 am • 2104 Gottingen Street • 902-446-6969 • www.SeaDogs.ca/MenzBar

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.

Cont'd from *Adoption*, p. 16

the adoption of my grandson is/was for the best. I feel they would make this judgment, not because I am too old, or because I am not physically or financially capable of doing what is best for him, but because they feel he should not be raised by a lesbian grandmother, never mind asking them to entertain the possibility that he be adopted by homosexuals. Well, guess what? NOT TRUE! And, it's about time these people, whether they are straight, lesbian/gay or bisexual, get the message that these uninformed/ misinformed ideas need to stop. This will happen as they are presented with proof to the contrary and I am here to do just that.

Cont'd from *Same Sex* p. 7

minority must not be stopped or unduly delayed by discomfort among some of the majority. I'm a gay rights activist. I've been involved in a number of marches and vigils when the "other

side" is present, and in the same geographical area. We do not agree. Perhaps neither side is particularly loving. Yet there is undoubtedly a degree of acceptance, of tolerance. There are no bricks thrown, no shots fired. New Brunswick isn't a perfect province; but it could be much worse. We may not have perfect peace; but we don't have violence. I'm grateful.

Same-sex marriage is not acceptable to everyone, not yet. Neither was female suffrage, the full inclusion of Jews in Canadian society, the ordination of women in certain Christian denominations. A favourite aunt of mine despises our national flag; and near 1 July will display the Red Ensign. We're not all at the same place, that's okay. Yet, in New Brunswick a formerly excluded minority has found a lawful place in the sun. I'm grateful for that, too.

Cont'd from *Spain*, p. 10

News of Spain's new law was greeted with cheers by the country's LGBT community as a couple hundred thousand people took to the streets of the capital, Madrid, to celebrate.

The Catholic Church and some of its followers, unsurprisingly, are vehemently opposed.

While it is somewhat disappointing that Canada did not move forward more quickly to enact legislation recognizing equal

marriage for same-sex couples, thus earning the 'Bronze' medal, we can't begrudge the fact that another jurisdiction embraces equality.

Spain's legislators are to be applauded for their resolve in moving forward with a law based on the principles of equality. Furthermore, they did so without any court decisions paving the way. All we can say is: "Olé!"

Cont'd from *Proud* p. 2

tude. I am truly amazed, yet not surprised, at how quickly the public opinion on the issue of equality for same-sex couples has shifted in this province. I have experienced it first-hand in my own family, and beyond in my community and in the workplaces of both myself and my partner. It is because of you that this will stand out as a monumental July 1st celebration for our family and a tribute to Canadian values that are able to strike a balance between various fundamental freedoms in this country. Happy Canada Day!

Sincerely, Kim Vance, Musquodoboit Harbour

Cont'd from *Sports Briefs* p. 8

la course les membres s'amuse avec la conversation à un café. Téléphonez Bruce à 902-422-7579 ou Jim à 902-826-7356 pour des renseignements. Halifax Frontrunners, c'est vraiment un pas vers une vie merveilleuse.

A Big Jump

The North American Gay Volleyball Association (NAGVA) Championship was held in Dallas, Texas this year during the last weekend



in May. Daniel Vaudrin, President of Equipe Montréal, and Éric Pineault, sport coordinator for the Outgames, attended the event as ambassadors for Montréal 2006. They are pleased to report that thirty teams announced their intention to participate in the Outgames next summer. The 1st World Outgames and Equipe Montréal's Big Jump tournament will also be added to the NAGVA event calendar.

Cont'd from *Rosie* p. 9

ter and applause. But there was something serious that underlined her comments. Families on this journey felt 'safe' here and didn't have to explain themselves, didn't have to explain why their children had two mommies or two daddies and THAT was OK here. There was also some regret in those comments. Sadness, perhaps, in the fact that the country of her birth granted the rights to 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' only to straight people.

"Halifax is a gay-friendly place," she pronounced, to applause and perhaps a little disbelief.

But she was acknowledging a progress that we as lesbians and gays have fought long and hard for and that acknowledgment will resonate for a long time in this port city.

Thanks Rosie. Come back soon.

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Adoption of the Finest Kind

By Cage Gallagher
 Just over a year ago I found myself confronted with a huge responsibility. I was parenting my grandson. As lost as I was in my own emotions, No teenager needs a seventy-year-old parent. With a heavy and fearful heart I began my search for his parents. I knew the longer I waited to make the transition, the harder it would be on him...on both of us.

My quest was intense to say the least, a lot of emotions flying off my sleeve, many unformed questions on my lips, and a whole lot of love flowing from my heart. Back then life for me consisted of many nights rocking him while he slept, breathing in his smell as if each moment was being experi-

enced for the last time, and a lot of time asking myself, "What's next? How will I ever bring myself to do this for him and yet not feel as if I were giving away my heart?" The only thing I was sure of was that my grandson was never going to be a thrown away responsibility. In my search I considered several people, and asked many questions, most of them silently directed at myself:

I knew that regardless of their decision on this, it was as if these people had always been his parents.

What was I expecting these parents to "look" like? What would their ideas be on raising children? Would they put his needs first? Or, for that matter, another fear, would they put

him so much in the center of their lives that he becomes the cog of their relationship with each other? Would I recognize them on sight? I told myself that all would reveal itself as it was time, and it did. Out of the personal turmoil came my most prevalent question: "Will you raise my grandson to embrace all healthy aspects of life with respect and understanding, INCLUDING homosexuality?" All seemed agog at the idea of becoming his parents but the process seemed to be all about them and I saw very little, if any, signs of anything else. The answer to my concerns always seemed to lack sincerity coming from them as if a quick satisfactory response was all they needed to provide and I would certainly believe them; pass over the most important person in my life and hope for the best. In other words, I doubted their sincerity. If I had doubts about their commitment to this concern, how could I trust their Integrity in my second request, to remain his grandmother? After all I consider integrity one of the most important and necessary traits in parenting and in life.

Through a dear friend I connected with a couple wishing to adopt, and all our fates were sealed. Ten minutes after our telephone conversation I knew I had found the perfect parents. [Not to be confused with being perfect, incapable of making mistakes.] AND they are lesbian.

Gifts come in many forms and so often arrive without warning. My grandson is certainly one of these gifts. However, in this instance, I am referring to his parents. I have never seen new parents fit into the role as quickly as they have, certainly not with as much self-confidence and decisiveness as they project. It did not take many visits before I realized that my continued connection with my grandson was now merely a bonus. I say this because I knew that regardless of their decision on this, it was as if these people had always been his parents. I knew he would finally be going home!

His parents continue to be two parts of a great parenting team, two healthy sources of spiritual and emotional nurturing and grounding. Every day I see them mapping out safe places for our boy to grow in, safe people for him to associate with, and they do this with an enormous amount of love and patience, and integrity. They are forever respectful of his boundaries and are teaching him, with their actions, to respect theirs.

I share this look into a very personal window of my life because I want all people to know that as a grandmother; as a lesbian, as a parent, and as a person wanting to place my heart beat into the life I could not provide for him, I have not been disappointed. In fact, I am proud of my decision-making in the adoption of my grandson. He has integrated well with his parent's lifestyle. After all, it is no different than any other. He and I have many visits. I still smell his hair, only now

he giggles when I do it, as opposed to trying to push himself into me. I no longer think of each visit as our last and my grandson no longer clings to me as if I am his life raft. He shows no signs of confusion over any of our places in his life. In his eyes we are all there to love and protect him and to guide him in his journey toward adulthood, and rightly so. The journey into adulthood is long and often arduous. He has the right to expect nothing less from us.

I also share these thoughts and

most personal emotions as a matter of reassurance to any who need to know that I was not in any way careless or thoughtless in my decision making, and to let you know that having two mothers has not changed my grandson's course in any way other than in the positive sense. And, a part of me also hopes that my words will also find their way into the straight community.

My thinking is that so many people would be of the opinion that
 Cont'd to p. 15

Classifieds

for rent

3bdrm cottage - Green Bay, South Shore, close to Lunenburg and Mahone Bay - water views, deck, patio \$800/wk (\$1200/2wks). 902-688-1678

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

OUT AND ABOUT WOMYN is a social group for lesbians in greater-Halifax. Visit their website at www.geocities.com/outandaboutwomyn for detailed information, or email oaaw@hfx.eastlink.ca

Men's Reading Group meets regularly in Halifax. Come meet interesting people and discuss gay literature. Check our webpage at www.menread.50megs.com. Email menread@gay.com or contact 423-5314 for more information.

personals

Male leather enthusiast with motorcycle seeks same. Quality intriguing leathers and leather masks, etc. Must be university graduate, intellectual, nutrition-health focused, sensitive with a keen and creative interest in leather for occasional encounters and friendship. LLEATHER_2@hotmail.com (Apologies for error in e-mail Address for June issue).jul05

SF, 24, enjoys traveling and living life. Looking to chat with single females, 20-32, who are interested in a relationship and not head games. Email me: ss_nb24@hotmail.com

Single female from New Brunswick seeking single females between 19-35 to chat with (and maybe find Ms. Right). I like to travel and hang with friends. Email me at ss.nb24@hotmail.com

Tennis Player wanted. GM in Halifax early 40's intermediate level player seeking friends to play tennis with. Email at skjeimai@eastlink.ca

Very young looking GWM, 40, 5'10", 178 lb. Versatile, disease free, uncut. Workout occasionally, introvert, employed. Seeking a feminine male lover - students welcome. Disease free, sexy, tall, lean, uncut, versatile, bubble bum, introvert - for long term friendship, possible marriage, 18-30, photo welcome. 7071 Bayers Road, PO Box 22086, Halifax, NS, B3L 4T7.

Support

GAY FATHERS OF HALIFAX Is a peer support group for gay and bisexual men. We meet the 1st Wednesday of each month. We also get together for a monthly Pot Luck social. For more info contact Gorden @ 446-7793 or Gilles at 448-3565 or Email GayFathersHalifax@hotmail.com or visit our website at http://groups.msn.com/GayFathersOfHalifax

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, nspirig@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.

YOUTH PRIDE GROUP Bridgewater. Contact through Second Story Women's Centre, at 543-1315 or secstory@auracom.com

services



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Alan Stewart, Justice of the Peace. Weddings solemnized. 902-461-4528

wanted

GAY MAGS WANTED: Wanted used gay porn mags. Doug @ 430-3214

HOW TO PLACE ADS

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