

WAYNES

January-February 2008



Artist Profile: Ryan McGrath

**Plus: Diamond Divas Fundraiser 8
Halifax Halfway to Pride Week
Gaystronomie '08**

Wayves

Renaissance of Ryan

By Hugo Dann

Into the pale aquatint of mid-winter Halifax, Ryan MacGrath has injected a blast of warmth and colour with his exhibition of new, abstract paintings (on show in the gallery space at FRED until January 26). Many of the paintings employ vivid reds and bursts of orange and yellow, evoking volcanic fire or primate star bursts. One mid-size canvas suggests shards of stained glass lying on a desert floor, while another flows with a myriad of seemingly simple amoebas or other beings, streaming along in the river of evolution itself. Yet another mammoth piece, with a waving brush line suggesting mountains and another like an underlining slash of freshly bleeding red, is so textured and built up, its colours so vibrant, it seems to be bursting out of its two dimensional confines and into the viewer's three dimensional world. Wayves had a chance to sit down with this multi-faceted talent shortly after the exhibition was unveiled to chat about his background and his process in creating these paintings.

Ryan may be known to music lovers more for his singing and

songwriting abilities than for his artwork. He and his band, the Wooden House, have been featured at Halifax Pride the last couple of years, and Ryan gave a heartfelt solo performance at the May 17 Rally Against Homophobia here in Halifax this past spring and played at Wayves' Punoqun launch at the Seahorse in September. Ryan may have begun singing while he was in his foundation year at NSCAD, but it was art that drew him to study there, and art was the focus of our conversation as we had an afternoon cup of tea in FRED's chic yet welcoming gallery and café.

Ryan was born in Antigonish and spent most of his early life either in Antigonish and Guysborough Counties. When he was a teenager his family settled in Lock Harbour and he began commuting to high school in Sherbrooke. Despite an interest in drawing and music, he excelled in maths and sciences and upon graduation went to Acadia on scholarship to study biology — perhaps these early studies

were the wellspring for some of the organic imagery in Ryan's latest paintings. While at Acadia, he took an art history course with local artist Rose Adams. Knowing she had achieved a successful career as a painter inspired him to prepare his own portfolio and apply to NSCAD, where he was also accepted on scholarship. Somewhat cautious initially, he majored in art history until, in the middle of his degree - feeling strongly that he "had to contribute something" (some might say he "had something to contribute!") he suddenly switched his major to painting.

Ryan has always been interested in exploring non-traditional methods and media for painting - perhaps another legacy of his youthful interest in science. Even while still in high school, he was mixing his acrylic paints with varnish, polyurethane and tar from his father's workshop. "One day I thought it would be a good idea to take a pair of tongs and stick the paintings in the furnace in the

Cont'd to p. 10

Photo Credit for Ryan McGrath art show: Scott Blackwell



Diamond Divas Fundraiser 8

Join the Maritimes best Female Impersonators & Special Guests for one of the most highly anticipated, amazing and entertaining extravaganzas filled with fun, laughter, surprises and good times with all proceeds going to support Moncton's "Ligne Telephonique CARA Helpline Inc."

Tickets are now on sale for you to join the Maritimes' best female impersonators and special guests in a gala evening to support Ligne Telephonique CARA Helpline Inc. "This spectacular event continues to be our biggest fundraiser of the year and helps us to maintain our services. The show is presented entirely by volunteers from our community and their friends at no cost to our agency," states Karen Eustace, Executive Director of the CARA

Helpline.

Executive Producer Wayne Richard and a host of volunteers invite one and all to come and be entertained by the offerings of the regions most outstanding and memorable entertainers and to delight in those who are new to the Diamond Divas Revue all while supporting this great cause.

Producer Steve Laviolette will be returning for his fifth year as the Master of Ceremonies and hopes to open this year's event up to a full house seeing that attendance has been steadily increasing year after year. "It's gone from around 100 people in its first year to over 600-plus persons attending in the past couple of years," advised Steve. The silent auction returns to the lobby of the Capitol Theatre, where you can place your bids early on a great

selection of donated items and finalize them during the intermission.

Returning for its fifth year, as a great precursor to the event is the Amore Passion Gastronomical Supper, held in the early evening before the Diamond Diva Revue. Enjoy a delightful gourmet five-course meal, the likes of which you won't find anywhere else in the country. Your meal includes wine and champagne along with preferred reserved seating at the Capitol Theatre. For further information and to make your reservations early contact Amore Passion directly at romance@amorepassion.com or (506) 854-0220.

Tickets for the 8th Annual Diamond Divas Revue are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door on the night of the performance. Give someone an extra special Christmas present and support a great cause by

getting your Diamond Divas Revue tickets now from the Capitol Theatre Box Office. Call 856-4379 (Toll Free 1-800-567-1922 or visit www.capitol.nb.ca).

All proceeds from the Diamond Divas Revue, the silent auction and the Amore Passion Gastronomical Supper go directly towards assisting the Ligne Telephonique CARA Helpline Inc. in maintaining its important place and operation within our community.

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Northern AIDS Connection Society

The Walk

by Al McNutt

Once again the AIDS Walk for Life was a huge success in northern Nova Scotia, with walks taking place in Truro, New Glasgow and Amherst. This event is not only to raise much needed funding for education and support programs, but also to increase awareness and the visibility of the Northern AIDS Connection Society.

This year's walk celebrated the 11th anniversary for our organization. Every year sees an increase in attendance. When we combine the three walk sites there were approximately 500 people taking part either through walking or volunteering. The sites were at the Truro Welcome Centre and the YM/WCA's in Amherst and New Glasgow.

The total money raised was about \$15,000.00. This amount included some in-kind donations from business owners. These donations ranged from cakes, courtesy vehicles, entertainment, coffee, physical office sites and more. A very unique concept that our organization offers to participating teams is 50% of what they raise to develop capacity to do HIV work at their respective agencies. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all who walked, made a pledge and all business owners who supported in-kind. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Board of Directors and staff, for without them this event certainly would not be possible.

This was the first year that the Northern AIDS Connection Society was involved in an online



registration and fundraising web site (Artez). This is a great way to generate additional pledges and we hope to build on this excellent opportunity in 2008.

We would like to acknowledge Sobeys Atlantic for supporting all the walks in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Sobeys provided certificates to provide hot dogs, buns and drinks. This support is very much appreciated and we would like to commend Sobeys for their support in the fight against this dreaded virus. Thank you for this generous contribution.

In light of the concerns in Truro, especially around the Rainbow and AIDS Awareness Flags, the organization would like to thank all those who supported this event and stood up against issues like discrimination and stigma. The towns we work in are very supportive with the exception of the Mayor of Truro and a few of his followers. This type of reaction often makes the work we do extremely difficult. We will strive forward and we will survive with the support from all of you... remember HIV/AIDS truly does affect us all.

About The Society

by Al McNutt

The Northern AIDS Connection Society is a community based HIV organization working in the northern area of Nova Scotia and based in Truro. The agency works in Colchester, Cumberland, Pictou and East Hants counties. NACS has

Canada seems to be following the United States in taking the moral high ground

never received operational funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, however is presently receiving funding from the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia through an upward amendment. This much-appreciated funding is used to provide one full time staff.

NACS does several fund raising events to raise the needed funds to pay for rent, phone, prevention, harm reduction and support.

It is really unfortunate that all groups working in the HIV/AIDS area feel threatened about funding cuts. Through the larger picture as a member of the Canadian AIDS Society, the reports regarding funding cuts and shortages are increasing all across Canada.

It is also very unfortunate that Canada seems to be following the United States in taking the moral high ground when it pertains to support and services to the most marginalized and vulnerable. All groups working at the community level are dealing with issues of health care, housing, addictions, discrimination and stigma.

AIDS Service Organizations MUST keep providing the services related to prevention education, needle exchange, harm reduction, access to condoms, testing and

more. We cannot do this very valuable work without adequate funding and resources. We need the Government of Canada to step up to the plate and be more proactive. Are we going to wait until Canada is in the position some developing countries are in, with increasing transmission rates? HIV/AIDS is 100% preventable through education and knowledge. HIV/AIDS truly does affect us all.

What is needed is a larger financial commitment from the Public Health Agency of Canada and all government parties.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Feb 1, Mar 7, Apr 4, the first Friday of each month, send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax): Monday Feb 4, Mar 10, Apr 7
Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, location TBA - email us at submissions@wayves.ca. All welcome!

Layout Parties (Halifax): Feb 10, Mar 16, Apr 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,

On The Stands and In The Mail:
Feb 22, Mar 28, Apr 25

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.

Advertising: Jim Bain, Advertising Manager; e-mail at ads@wayves.ca or call 902-889-2229. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

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How to reach us...

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Halfway To Halifax Pride!

Halfway to Pride week will be held January 20-27 2008. Halifax Pride is expanding events into a mini Pride week this year. There are several events sponsored by Halifax Pride and by organizations/businesses within the community. A retro tea-dance, a sleigh ride and Reflections dance party (Saturday, January 26). Also Wayves is sponsoring Gaystronomie 08 (Sunday January 27 - see sidebar this page). Halfway to Pride week schedule will be launched on the website January 7. www.halifaxpride.com.

Gaystronomie '08

Wayves will be hosting a first time ever event featuring a selection of our advertisers called Gaystronomie 08. It will be held at the Dresden Row Market (formerly known as the City Centre Atlantic) 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, 2008. Award winning chef, Wayves food columnist, and co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro will be using the cooking finery of Cucina Moderna to rustle up some fine comfort food during the afternoon complemented by wine pairings courtesy of Premier Wines. The afternoon will finish off with a chocolate dessert demonstration by Rosemary's Chocolates. It's a free event and everyone is welcome to attend what will surely be a great way to brighten up a wintry January afternoon. Sunday, January 27, 2008, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium at the Dresden Row Market. Admission is free.

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

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

Halifax AIDS Vigil

On December 1, the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia held its annual AIDS vigil—an event of remembrance and reflection at FRED's in Halifax. Approximately eighty people attended the poignant ceremony which is now in its 19th year.

The focal points of the vigil was the lighting of the Vigil candle which was used to light every candle being held in the room and the reading of the names of members of the community who have succumbed to HIV/AIDS yet prevail in the hearts and memories of those who were present.

The speakers this year looked at HIV/AIDS and its effects from the perspectives of past, present and future. Mike Sangster ACNS Chair gave the opening talk and we share an excerpt of his reflections below:

"Good evening everyone! I want to thank each and every one of you for attending this year's World AIDS Day Vigil. It has been well over 25 years since the AIDS epidemic began and almost as long since this Vigil has been held each year here in Halifax.

We are here together to not only *We all have different reasons for why we walk through the door.*

to remember but also to honour those friends, family and loved ones who have passed on as a result of HIV/AIDS. Tonight is an opportunity for us to come together as a community to remember, to mourn those we have lost and to acknowledge our courage that together we have made a difference in the lives of those we have lost.

Take this time to reflect on their life; the good times; happy

moments; sad times; how, together you struggled through the pain; and the courage they showed you throughout their life. It is all these things and more that come to our minds as we gather together tonight. At the time of their death did we not promise to never ever forget their precious lives! We promised to remember and take each of their gifts forward with us.

Over the years there have been great medical advances. We who are living with HIV/AIDS can now live longer lives. Yet, the number of Canadians testing positive continues to rise and there remains no cure for AIDS! I would ask that everyone look around to those sitting next to you and notice that we are a community and we have friends and loved ones to help cope with this illness. All of you here tonight and those of you who



The HIV/AIDS Awareness Week Planning Committee for Metro Halifax created a Red Ribbon Display for HIV/AIDS Awareness Week 2007 (from November 24 to December 1) on Citadel Hill at Rainnie Drive in Halifax. Eight thousand flags, symbolizing one for each person who dies every day due to AIDS. The official opening took place on Monday, November 26. Local youth created art work and messages about HIV and AIDS on the white flags.

will be touched by HIV/AIDS in the future, my hope is that we will continue to attend this Vigil to remember the lives of those lost.

I would ask, as I do each year when I walk through the door, that we continue to keep our promise to never ever forget!!"

Halfway to Pride Party and Launch

I was recently in Southwest Nova Scotia and saw rainbow flags on businesses from Digby and Annapolis Royal to Wolfville. These hotels, restaurants and boutiques may not be queer owned, but they're all proclaiming to their communities and to travellers that they support our rights and our culture, and they want our business. Does LGBT-friendly tourism benefit us here at home? You bet it does!! It creates jobs and helps support our entrepreneurs, who in turn can lend their support to groups such

as the ACNS, NSRAP, the Youth Project and, of course, Halifax Pride.

In 2006 HP received a grant from Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture & Heritage to help us promote Halifax Pride Week outside the region. As part of our commitment, we hosted an afternoon gathering at our Host Hotel, the Harbourfront Marriott, of about twenty-five or so industry and government leaders. All of us shared an interest in developing LGBT tourism in

HRM and Nova Scotia. Yet it's fair to say that, along with good intentions, there was some degree of scepticism in the room. How were LGBT travellers different? Would it be worth the effort and expense? Weren't we already doing enough? These were just some of the reservations felt by those from outside our community who gathered at that table. We were lucky to have Bruce MacDonald, of Travel Gay Canada, with us that afternoon to educate us in how other cities around Canada and the USA were aggressively targeting this multi-billion dollar market.

From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow! Well, it may be a little premature to call what's resulted from that meeting an oak tree just yet, but the idea has certainly taken root. Destination Halifax, the organization that exists to promote has since hosted two more such meetings and each time the industry response is warmer and more engaged. As a result of their last conference (again featuring Bruce

MacDonald and HP's own Raymond Taavel), Pride is organizing a bus tour for local tourism providers to show them just what Halifax has to offer LGBT tourists, helping them respond to their guests who want that information.

This leads me to our Halfway to Pride party at Reflections Cabaret (one of our oldest and most important partners!). This has always been our launch party and our first official fundraiser, but this year we're adding some events that we hope will provide winter entertainment for everyone in our community, including those with children, and those who may prefer to socialize outside the clubs. We hope it will be a "Mini-Pride Week" and help develop the idea that Nova Scotia can be a year-round destination for LGBT travellers. As this article goes to press, we're still finalizing details, but check out our website on January 7, 2008 for the full schedule of events. Happy New Year everyone and Happy Pride!

Our Cover:

Scott Blackburn is a first year photography student at NSCC. He has been working in the restaurant industry for the better part of ten years, so it only makes sense that food photography sparked his interest in this art form. His other photographic interests include portraiture, architecture, musicians and other artists. Scott grew up around the Halifax area, and is currently living and working freelance in the city while attending school. He is looking forward to making his career in the photography industry, and he hopes to have a website up in the new year. In the meantime, his work can be viewed on Facebook and at www.flickr.com/photos/scott_m_blackburn/sets/ or email scott_m_blackburn@hotmail.com.

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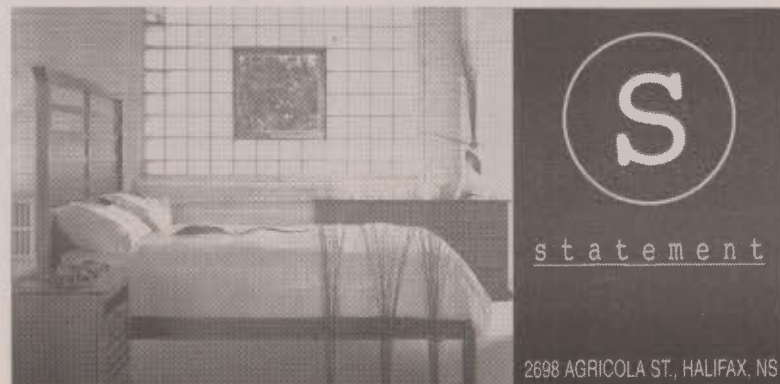
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Gavin Crawford & DalOUT



Gavin Crawford surrounded by the DalOUT Executive

by Jennifer MacDonald and Lisa Buchanan

On Thursday, November 29, DalOUT hosted Gavin Crawford of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" fame as part of the Dalhousie Student Union Speaker Series. An audience of over sixty people gathered to hear Gavin speak about how his sexuality has influenced his career in Canada and the U.S., his experience working on 22 Minutes, and how being gay affects his comedic style.

Gavin, raised in rural Alberta, came out later in life but before he reached fame. When he started to "make it" in show business, he decided it would be easier to "just be out" and so he has been out for the entirety of his career. In Canada, his career has definitely not suffered as a result of being out, which he credits, in part, to Canada's relaxed attitude.

Things seem to be different in the U.S. When working on Hype,

a sketch show filmed in the U.S., the two producers, who were a gay couple called him into their office and asked him, "What are we going to say about the whole gay thing?" Until recently, his U.S. agent wouldn't distribute Gavin's positive Canadian reviews because they all mentioned his sexuality.

Gavin is positive that things are changing, though, as his agent recently told him, "Gay is so hot right now!"

Gavin joined the cast of CBC's This Hour Has 22 Minutes in 2002 during the fervour of the same-sex marriage debate and he found writing jokes about it to be difficult. Separating his own feelings from that issue was hard and he sometimes found himself writing comedy out of anger—and ending up with something that was ultimately not funny.

Now he finds it easy to broach the issues that are sensitive to him through his characters, such

as "teen correspondent" Mark Jackson, whose father is gay. This allows him to get his personal feelings out of the way and address them obliquely. "Comedy allows you to take something to the absolutely most ridiculous limit and that lets you cut through the crap," says Gavin.

punoqun 2008 Call For Submissions

It was hugely successful last year, and it's back for 2008! Reborn and unbound, punoqun is Atlantic Canada's literary annual, written by Atlantic Canadians and published by Wayves.

For punoqun 2008, we want submissions of fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction from writers living in the region for its 2007 edition, to be published and launched in September. Submit your best work, since there are no restrictions on style or substance. Original, unpublished work from all four Atlantic provinces is encouraged.

Fiction and creative non-fiction submissions should be no longer

than 1,500 words; 500 word maximum for poetry. Manuscripts can be e-mailed to punoqun@wayves.ca as attachments or text directly within the e-mail. If submitting by postal mail, manuscripts must be typed double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 paper. If you wish to use a pseudonym on your work, please provide your real name, which will not be used, in addition to the pseudonym.

Deadline for submissions is Saturday, May 31, 2008. If submitting by postal mail, please postmark by this date to Wayves, P.O. Box 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S1.

Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of *Wayves*? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret. We've made some improvements to our website. Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download archival copies. We have 2007 back issues on line now and will be adding 2006 soon.

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITEH

Hey Tom

January being that weird kind of end-of-year-beginning-of-year time I decided to try and take stock of where I am and where I want to be. This can be a dangerous emotional undertaking so I decided some professional help might be a good idea. So I went to a Gypsy fortune teller. Really, she's a Gypsy; she said so. Besides when picking a soothsayer, a mystic masseuse so to speak, you have to rely on intuition. Makes sense, right? She has some sort of unpronounceable Hungarian or Russian name, Madame something.

Speaking of Russians, did I ever tell you I had a Russian great-grandfather? Heavy accent and I remember he smelled faintly of tobacco, kippers and oranges. I would sit on his lap and he'd let me play with the family jewels. Not those family jewels! Real ones: garnet brooches and sapphire rings, even a diamond—a tiny one—all housed in a carved wooden box with a worn velvet interior. I assumed they had belonged to his mother or sister until I found an old photograph of great-gramps dressed as a woman, swathed in scarves with stones glittering on fingers, earlobes and wrist. A blurry old photo but unmistakably him. (So glad I didn't inherit his nose!) I was about eighteen at the time and by then he was extremely old and frail. Surprise made me blunt when I asked if he used to be a drag queen. "NO!" he roared with surprising strength. "I was a drag Tsarina! Drag Empress!" and then broke into laughter. "What was your name?" I asked. "Igor Beaver? Did you sing Samovar over the Rainbow?" We laughed hysterically until he began to cough and I got him his medicine...from the Smirnoff pharmacy. Maybe that's where I get my taste for vodka, and why I can be charmed by any man with an accent.

So, when the Gypsy fortune teller asked me to give her something of personal value to hold, I gave her the amethyst ring which had been a gift from him. Clearly there were strong psychic vibrations since as soon as the stone hit her palm, her fingers closed over it, she gave a gasp and hit her fist against her chest. (Almost like Celine, but I doubt la diva Dion would appear in public wearing a peasant blouse with a borscht stain on the front!) "So many spirits around you!" continued the clairvoyant, then, seeing the startled look on my face, "Is alright! They like you. They are thankful that you think of them so often."

Oh Lord, if she uses the phrase Grateful Dead, I am out of here! I thought, barely restraining a fit of the giggles. Her next words, however, had me riveted to my seat. "I see a man. Tall, very dark man." Please let it be Shemar Moore, I prayed

silently.

"To see more I must use the bowl."

"Bowl? Ah, you mean—ball. Crystal ball?"

"No, I say bowl, not ball." And with that she grabbed a little pottery mixing bowl and began sprinkling powders and leaves into it. She plugged in a tea kettle and when it boiled, poured water into the bowl and began inhaling the steam, making a weird sniffing sound like a kitten sneezing and squinting at me through one eye. "The man who gave you this ring, he says you are like him. You are both same." Well, I thought, talk about skeletons coming out of the closet, but hardly news.

"What about Shemar Moore," I asked.

"Who?"

"Tall, dark stranger—great body—smouldering eyes that make you want to do anything, ANYTHING to make him smile at you."

She shrugged. Oddly it was this complete lack of interest in SM, or as I privately call him S'moores, that made me begin to doubt her as a reliable spiritual guide. My mind began to drift to the other concerns of 2008.

Will there be a black man or a woman as the next president of the US? And if so, what will it mean? Will someone put an end to the foolishness of ENDA and realize that now is the time when we must all stick together, more than ever. Families, true families don't start accepting labels like half-sister or step-brother. We don't cut stripes off the rainbow flag.

And in Canada, will Stephen Harper ever be photographed smiling? Has he got fangs or something he's trying to hide? More importantly, will he ever give us something to smile about?

I also remembered those we lost this past year, like Charles Nelson Reilly, everyone's mad uncle. I don't think he ever officially came out—although there was a rumour he once offered to wrestle Paul Lynde in the nude for the middle position on Hollywood Squares! But, out or not, he was uniquely himself at a time when it wasn't always easy to do so.

Maybe that's what great-gramps was trying to tell me. We, who have more freedom, have more responsibility to those who don't. Every action, every life counts. We are the same.

Thanks Igor!

Crawford

Tightrope: Disbanded

On November 29, The Coast scooped Wayves with a story about the Tightrope group boldly deciding to disband. To check out the interview with Glen DeGeer, search for the story, "The end of their rope." I asked a couple of other members what Tightrope was, exactly. Their answers:



Tightrope's final Board: L to R: Mike, Mike, Laurie, Jim, Paul, Russel, Mike, Dan & Glen. Missing: Tightrope treasurer

It was many things to it members, among them, a leather brotherhood, an organization of gay

an environment where leathermen could comfortably spend time together with other like-minded people in order to experience and explore this part of themselves and each other.

Our members developed a deep trust and friendship with their Tightrope brothers

Sadly at this time it was felt that Tightrope had changed throughout the years so that its mem-

bers wanted to go in different directions. Disbanding is not unique to Tightrope, as leather S/M groups all over North America have gone through similar struggles of existence, especially since so many of the founding members have passed on. One member believes that the ease of connecting with other like-minded people via the internet has reduced the need of connecting leathermen together offered by clubs like Tightrope.

Our members developed a deep trust and friendship with their Tightrope brothers through the activities we participated in—hiking, biking, camping, BBQ's, participating in leather/biker runs, marshalling Pride parades, and other social activities. All our activities were safe (care was taken to prevent physical or psychological injury) sane (mentally in charge of oneself and not under the influence of drugs or alcohol) and consensual (every player had the ability to influence the pace and intensity of play and may end it at will.)

For many of us being a Tightrope member was like coming out of the closet a second time! We felt that we got to develop as gay men to a higher level of experience and understanding that most gay men or straight men for that matter could never be. Tightrope provided

One of the last decisions the group had to make was the disposition of the most significant assets of the society—the Tightrope banner or "Colours" and a small amount of cash in the bank. Out of several options—giving it to a member, auctioning it off for charity, sending it to an international leather archive, the society decided to designate the final members as trustees of the banner, have it framed, and ask Menz Bar / Mollyz owner Doug Melanson for wall space to display it. The cash will be donated to Manna For Health and the AIDS Coalition.

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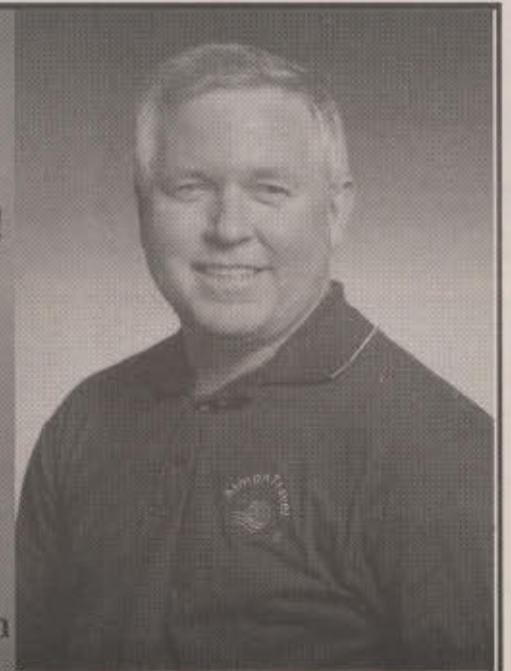
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Dawn's Early Light

Dear Dawn,
I enjoy reading your column every month and I would like to get your opinion on something. I am 63 years old. I've been a big ol' out queen for many, many years. Over the years I've seen wonderful advances in the struggle for our human rights but there is one issue I have a hard time understanding. Last month I attended a town hall meeting run by the Capital Health folks and a few others. They wanted to find out if there is support in the community for a separate health center specifically for the "Rainbow" community. So herein lies my issue: why do we continue to separate and segregate ourselves? Isn't this a way of perpetuating the issue of "us, vs. them"?

Sincerely, a Concerned Queen!

Dear Concerned Queen,
I am of two minds on this issue. First, I think that there is a vast difference between "segregation" and "separation." To me segregation implies the need to get rid of or keep apart as if there is something wrong with us. While I agree segregating our community is not a good thing, I am strongly in favour of providing group specific health services. This ensures the safety of our community members as well as the cultural appropriateness of the services provided, which is a necessity to our health and well being. For example, running addiction treatment programs which include group counselling or residential services may in fact put a member of our community at risk for hate and violence—these may be the very experiences that lead many of our community members to develop an addiction issue to begin with. There are many examples of how group-specific services benefit and are necessary when providing services to such a unique community.

In many ways our health care needs are very specific and our health care services must reflect this (if you would like to find out how our health care needs are different check out www.rainbowhealth.ca) A separate health center provides members of our community a place of belonging, a safe space to access services without the fear of discrimination or ignorance.

In addition to this I feel that those who provide any service to the public at large have an ethical responsibility to ensure the cultural appropriateness of the services they offer. A separate health center or a center of excellence in LGBT health could afford service providers, policy makers, program developers and researchers with the tools and information they need to do this.

Capital District Health Authority has come a long way towards

In many ways our health care needs are very specific and our health care services must reflect this.

ensuring their services are inclusive. The creation of a center for excellence in LGBT health is just one example of their movement towards cultural competency. While I applaud their efforts, we still have a long way to go before the health care needs of our community are addressed appropriately but they are working towards that goal.

To find out more about what is happening in Capital I encourage you to visit prideHealth on the Capital Health website at www.cdha.nshealth.ca.

Kindest Regards
Dawn

Come To The Light!

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



NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: First Friday of the Month

Menz & Mollyz Update

By Randall Perry
When David Landry walked into Mollyz Diner early in the morning of December 17, 2007, he almost felt relieved that he had been served an eviction notice by the building's new landlord. "When David walked in around 5:30 a.m., it was literally raining in the annex," said co-owner Doug Melanson, dryly. "Some water pipe which had either not been repaired or had not been bled out after the fire [back in the summer of 2007, which gutted the upstairs of the building which houses the Mollyz Diner annex] ended up freezing and breaking during the recent cold snap."

The hunt is now over for a new location for Menz Bar. Two previously-considered locations—the

former Taz Records, reported in the previous issue of Wayves, and the former location of Vortex—were both cost-prohibitive and fraught with potential problems.

The new location will be within

...it will be good to be in a new location

the 6,000 square foot second floor of the Halifax Career Development Centre, located at 2182 Gottingen Street. Negotiations are complete and this large, versatile space has been secured.

As for Mollyz Diner, at the end of the year, Doug and David plan to close down and shelve the diner for the time being and focus on

relocating the bar. According to Doug, the main issue now is how to improve the [already excellent] Mollyz dining experience. "The only really negative experience in all this, for me and David, is to have to give out layoff notices to the staff at Christmas."

"Ultimately it will be good to be in a new location, both for Menz and Mollyz."

Doug and David are determined to stay the course over these bumps in the road and uphold their reputation as masters of re-invention. The New Year's Eve bash currently scheduled to be held at the Menz Bar home promises to be bigger and better than ever. The bar's upcoming third anniversary party will be held in its new location.



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Does God really condemn loving homosexual relationships?

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PORT CITY RAINBOW PRIDE

Confronts, with whimsy and hellfire, the clash between religion and homosexuality. - Bilge Ebiri, New York Magazine

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Adoption — Agencies

By Lara-Morris, BA, LLB, CPCC
A 212-year-old boy named James is the joyful result of Terrah and Pattie's application for adoption with the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services. James is now brother to Jesse, Terrah and Pattie's 6-year-old son. Jesse was adopted by Pattie after Terrah gave birth to him in 2001.

Adoption by single people who are gay has been legal for years, but it is only more recently that same-sex couples have gained the legal right to adopt children together. The law was changed in Nova Scotia as a result of a court case decided in the spring of 2001.

The next change came in Newfoundland where the Adoption Act made adoption by same-sex couples legal in 2003. Then in 2004 a case was decided in New Brunswick, making it legal for a same-sex couple to adopt each other's children. Now married same-sex couples in New Brunswick can now also adopt a child not biologically related to them. Further changes are in the works so that unmarried couples can also adopt together.

In Prince Edward Island, a married same-sex couple can adopt children together. This is the result of the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2005. The PEI Adoption Act allows for adoption by a single person or a married couple.

This article is focused on the adoption process where the child is not biologically related to either of the adoptive parents. In Nova Scotia these adoptions are commonly known as "agency adoptions." For private relative adoptions (where one person in a gay male or lesbian couple is a biological parent of the child), see the article "Relative Adoptions: When one person in a same-sex couple is the biological parent of the child" also in this issue.

In Nova Scotia, Terrah and Pattie used the agency adoption process to adopt James. Through an agency adoption, a child may become available as a result of the birth parent(s) placing the child for adoption or because of a child being taken into protective care.

Terrah describes the process her family followed in Halifax, and which is similar in other parts of Atlantic Canada. "We contacted the Department of Community Services who linked us with a social worker. Because of where we live, we were matched with someone who works for the Department." In Halifax, a person's address is used to match them with either the Department or the Children's Aid Society of Halifax as the adoption agency.

The next step was an introductory meeting. "The agency hosts this to give you more information about the adoption process." After attending this meeting, Terrah and Pattie completed their adoption application.

Terrah describes a rigorous application process that involves completing an application form, attending a weekly class for five weeks, and participating in a home study conducted by a social worker. "The simplest thing about the process is that it's free!"

Many people wonder about the home study. The process can vary, depending on the agency, but Terrah and Pattie's experience is pretty representative. "The social worker made six visits to our home for a total of about 24 hours. She met with each of me and Pattie individually one time and then met with us together. She toured our home, asked us about our parenting style and lots of intimate questions about our histories and relationship, including our sexual relationship." Clearly participants must be prepared to provide answers to lots of intimate questions. For more insight on the experience, Terrah recommends talking to other parents who have adopted.

The class put on by Terrah and Pattie's agency was informative. "They had parents who had adopted come in and talk about their experience, the staff talked about issues to consider around agency adoption." Most of the children who are available through this process have been taken into care and first fostered by the agency. The social worker assigned to your file will want to know what you're looking for in a child, and what factors are important to you. "For example, people need to know how they feel about adopting a child with fetal alcohol syndrome or a history of physical abuse or sexual violence."

Once the couple completed their application, home study and the agency classes it was time to wait. It's hard to know how long it will take before child is available. "In our agency, the social workers have weekly meetings where they try to match children with appropriate families," says Terrah. She and Pattie waited for approximately seven months before they heard about James.

If an individual or couple is identified as a possible match, their social worker will present them with information about the child. After getting some initial information, Terrah and Pattie then went to a meeting with their social worker, James's social worker and James's foster mom. This gave them a chance to hear all about James, and it's when things sped up considerably. "By the end of the meeting they wanted to know if we wanted to take him." Terrah and Pattie said yes. That was a Monday.

Next came some visits with James. "The frequency and length of the visits depends on the age of the child," says Terrah. She and Pattie visited with James on the Tuesday after their meeting, and again each day until Sunday when they brought him home with them. Terrah describes how thrilled they were to welcome James into their family, and what a celebration it was with the agency workers. "They brought us a cake, cards and gifts for both boys, it was such an occasion. We were ecstatic!"

Terrah describes the next stage of the process being focused on settling James into his new home and transitional visits with social worker. "She came after he'd been with us for two weeks, two months, and then again at four

months. There were also many calls from our social worker in between visits to check in and see how things were going." After the four month mark, if the child has settled into the home the social worker completes a report with a recommendation for adoption.

The next step is a legal adoption process in which the adopting parents usually hire a lawyer to help them with a court application. The purpose of the application is to get a court order for permanent adoption. The person or couple adopting the child become the child's legal parent(s), after which they can apply to have the child's birth certificate changed so it names them as the child's parent(s).

Coming in the March 2008 issue of Wayves: Adoptions by a relative.

The process Terrah and Pattie followed is similar throughout Atlantic Canada:

- 1) Contact the government department responsible for adoptions;
- 2) have a social worker assigned to you;
- 3) complete an application for adoption;
- 4) attend whatever meetings/classes offered by the agency;
- 5) participate in a home study;
- 6) wait for a child match;
- 7) receive the child into your home;
- 8) once the agency recommends adoption, follow the legal process to get an adoption order to make you the child's legal parent(s).

Here is contact information to get you started in each province:

Nova Scotia

Adoption information: 866.259.7780
Department of Community Services website: www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/adoption.html

New Brunswick

Adoption information: 866.236.7801
Adoption information website: app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca

Newfoundland and Labrador

Adoption Consultant, Ethel Dempsey: 709.729.5134
email healthinfo@gov.nl.ca

Prince Edward Island

Adoption Services: 902.368.6511
Adoption Services website: www.gov.pe.ca/infopei

It is recommended that you seek legal advice regarding the particulars of your case.



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Youth Project Auction

by Gerrit Volkmann

The Youth Project held their 3rd Annual Brunch & Auction this year on December 2 at the Prince George Hotel in Downtown Halifax. The auction is one of the biggest and most important fundraisers for the Youth Project, and turned out to be a very classy and wonderful event.

The almost 200 people were seated at luxurious tables, ideal for mingling and meeting new people, in a big bright open room, with a delicious brunch provided by the Prince George. Over 120 auction items were presented in the hallway, giving everyone the opportunity to pick out their favourite things from the "Christmas Wishlist."

The auctioneer was Lisa Scott, a professional flower in from Toronto just for the event, and with her enthusiasm and great sense of humour she made the event way more than just another charity auction.

Highlights of the auction items included a Cape Breton Getaway, a 26" Flatscreen TV, a 14k diamond ring, a chance to have Darren Porier from Just Dressed Catering as a personal chef for a night, and — one of my favourites — photographs from Youth member Alison Wamboldt.

All in all, the Youth Project raised more than \$16,000, which is an incredible amount of money, compared with around \$5,000 raised last year.

Mike Williams, Chair of the 2007 Auction Committee, was "overwhelmed by the success of the event. I'm very proud of our team for putting this together, for a brighter future for our youth," he said. Next year, they are hoping for even more sponsors and support from businesses.

The money raised will help the organisation to raise its profile to an even higher level. In case you didn't know, the Youth Project is a lot more than a Halifax-based safe space for LGBT youth to come together. The organisation has a full provincial mandate, thereby

providing help for LGBT youth in all Nova Scotia through support, education, resource expansion and community development. Furthermore, aside from the Board of Directors, a Youth Board exists, to ensure a constant flow of information and input between the youth and the directors.

If you didn't make it to the auction, there are many other ways how you can support the Youth Project. You can make an online donation over their website (www.youthproject.ns.ca),

or choose the Youth Project as your designated United Way charity. If you want to get actively involved, the Board of Directors, chaired by Ann Levangie and Layton Dorey, are welcoming any help, especially with regards to newly formed fundraising and media/promotion subcommittees. And if you're a handyman, stop by at the Youth Project house on 2281 Brunswick Street, Halifax, and help keep the house in good shape...

There are so many ways to get involved, and it is so very im-

portant. I'm glad that Nova Scotia has the Youth Project, and I would definitely have benefited from such an organisation when I was young. As youth member Kris Jennings put it, "the

Youth Project was a place where I felt comfortable for the first time in my life." And at the end of the day, isn't that all that matters?



Chef Darren Porier, one of the best selling auction "items"



Youth Project Director Joanne Syms, Auction Chair and Director Mike Williams, Chair Ann Levangie and volunteer Darlene Jamieson

Photos by Gerrit Volkmann

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Cont'd from Ryan p. 1

basement and see what would happen, if the paint would bubble up." He laughs, "It caught on fire! But it looked good - it looked cool." This experimentation continued at NSCAD. When he began applying thick layers of plaster to his canvasses, it was politely suggested that - in a replay of Leonardo Da Vinci's classic put down of Michelangelo - he might feel more at home in the sculpture studios - the sculptors might not mind the mess quite so much. Ryan obliged and found a more tolerant and even supportive environment. This legacy of experimentation can be seen in his current works.

Ryan walked us around the exhibit, discussing each picture in depth. He explained that rather than start with preconceived ideas, his intention was to allow the paintings to reveal themselves. He often flicked gobs of wet sawdust on to a picture, altering the contour and texture, applying more paint or varnish when it dried. Sometimes

he dribbled varnish on to a blank canvass, allowing it to collect in random pools which then provided the ultimate form of the painting. He would build up layers and layers of paint, intensifying colour, and giving the paint itself a three dimensional quality. Taking each picture in turn, exploring them

He laughs, "It caught on fire! But it looked good - it looked cool."

at our leisure, we were able to see that each one, while satisfying in its wholeness, also contained subtleties and details, as rich in themselves as the larger painting itself; small, inner realms that could be glimpsed only on closer inspection - worlds within worlds within worlds.

Not one to sit still, Ryan already has a new series of paintings in mind. We asked him how he was able to balance his two worlds of

painting and music. He acknowledged it was a challenge. "When I was focused on preparing for this exhibit, I felt badly because the band wasn't getting all the attention it might have needed. And it works the other way as well, when we're putting some new songs together, the painting has to take a back seat."

However, despite his own protest, he's also deep in rehearsal with the Wooden House and putting the finishing touches on a new album. Wayves can only wish him continued success in all of his endeavours. Pour vous, gentle reader, we strongly urge all of you who can to "Hie thee to FRED!" to see these beautiful and evocative paintings while you still may. For those of you unable to make the trip to Halifax, keep reading Wayves for more information on Ryan's upcoming CD. You'll be glad you did!

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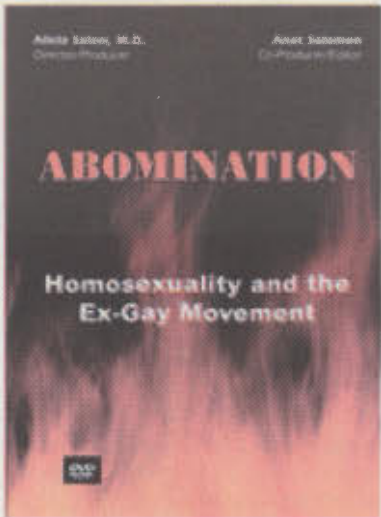
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Reviews

Damn "Abomination"



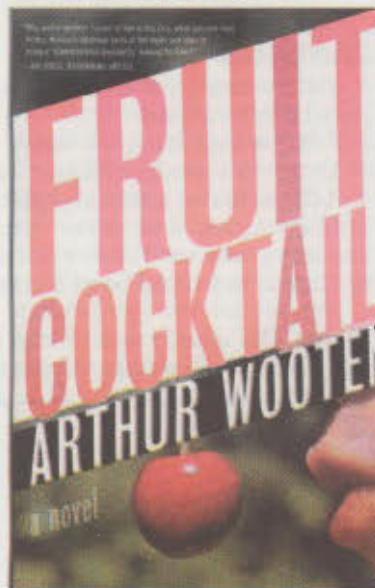
By Calandra Smith
"Abomination: Homosexuality and the Ex-Gay Movement" is a 30-minute documentary directed and produced by a New York psychiatrist, Dr. Alicia Salzer. Undoubtedly intended to be empowering and supportive of the rainbow community, the film (also available on DVD) lets us down in some pretty fundamental (no pun intended) ways. Perhaps most importantly, there is no mention, let alone support, of bi, inter-sex and trans folk—a huge oversight which I can only conclude was part of a deliberate decision to focus on the less controversial elements of our community, in order to make us, collectively, appear as homogene-

ous as possible. I also noted by their absence, a lack of references to non-Christian religious identities, let alone any acknowledgement of systemic issues such as the intersection of various forms of oppression like racism and sexism with heterosexism. The documentary is further weakened by the inclusion of footage from anti-gay activism and right-wing propaganda which could arguably reinforce homophobia, internalized or otherwise, in some viewers. Even the title created some initial confusion in my mind as to which side of the fence the documentary was on.

In a film created by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, I expected both a more enlightened stance and more clarity. Peppered, liberally or otherwise, with sound bites from various American mental health care professionals, the film is also self-promoting. The heart of the film is comprised of extracts of interviews with four individuals, including a mother from Arkansas whose lesbian daughter committed suicide, a lesbian from rural Mississippi, and two gay males. Subjective as they undoubtedly are, these interviews would have been more powerful if not sliced and diced and interspersed with the more "scientific" material presented. Overall, this documentary tries too hard to appeal to a mainstream, presumably straight audience, rendering it pretty useless as an effective tool

for queer or questioning individuals, particularly youth. In the end, I couldn't bring myself to "damn" ("Abomination") with faint praise." Ultimately I just said, "Damn it!"

Fruit Cocktail



By Arthur Wooten
www.Alysonbooks.com
Review by Ralph Higgins
It is in On Picking Fruit, Arthur Wooten's very successful first novel, that we first meet Curtis Jenkins, a rather hapless forty-something, HIV-positive hero who has achieved success in many

areas of his life but whose search for love continually bumps into walls. Curtis's most admirable traits are his relentless pursuit of happiness and his ability to laugh at himself when he fails, over and over again. Aiding and interfering are his best friend, Quinn and his free loving but rather domineering mother, Mrs. J.

His latest novel, Fruit Cocktail, continues the hilarious adventures of Curtis who has now written a book on how to find Mr. Right—all the while hiding the fact that he himself is still single. While publicizing the book, Curtis tries new ways of meeting his soul mate—naked yoga, online meetings and flirting with customers at book signings. His record of success, however, remains the same including one scene where he has to be rescued by his mother from a bondage scenario. His rather worldly mother merely reminds him, "If you're going to get tied up, always make sure it is at their place. That way they have to untie you eventually."

Wooten manages to combine great compassion and humour together. We laugh with Curtis and empathize with his predicament. In fact, some scenes seem so familiar you might suspect the author of snooping through your private diary. Others are outrageously outlandish—Quinn and a truck driver having a very unusual one-handed "race to the finish" on the interstate, an appearance that

turns into a telethon for a live cable program with a personality called Bobbie Vibrato, Curtis's mother's same-sex romance, and Curtis doing the can-can in drag in Provincetown (forgetting he wasn't wearing underwear.)

Fruit Cocktail will make you smile, cheer and laugh out loud.

Naked Boys Singing!



www.TLAreleasing.com
Review by Ralph Higgins
Naked Boys Singing! held its world premiere on March 19, 1998, and the stage play has since been performed all over the globe in different languages and winning rave reviews and festival awards. It is entering its seventh year playing off Broadway in New York. Not bad for a play

Cont'd next page

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Mahogany Manor

Second City's left-leaning offspring GayCo Productions honours the vows in its title, with satirical attacks on the state of the world. From same-sex marriage, to George W. Bush, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, and relationships in general, this spiffy musical revue offers a superb sextet of performers who humorously look at the world from a gay/lesbian perspective.



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Chef's Corner



Now that the Holidays are over and that we are all on our New Year's resolutions to eat healthier and exercise, I offer a favourite salad of mine that I think you will find delightfully refreshing and yummy as well. This one is an adaptation of a recipe I used to make when I worked for The Mousse in Florida. The nice thing about this salad is that it truly is a balanced meal in a bowl. It contains veggies, fruit, dairy, protein, good fat, natural sugars and whole grains. You couldn't ask for more. It makes a great lunch, or even dinner if that happens to be your lighter meal of the day. This salad was served on December 4, 2001 during Chives Bistro's opening night gala and on numerous menus ever since. It has always been a hit. Give this one a try and let me know what you think. Enjoy!!!

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

Chives Opening Night Salad

Ingredients

(for four salads)
 1 lb. of mixed baby organic greens
 1/4 cup smoked almonds
 1 granny Smith apple (julienne)
 4 oz Danish blue cheese (or your favorite)
 1/2 cup whole grain croutons

Orange Shallot Vinaigrette

(makes 1 cup of dressing)
 Juice and chopped zest of 4 oranges (approx. 1/2 cup juice)
 1 shallot (minced)
 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
 1 tsp honey
 2 tbsp chopped chives
 1 tbsp chopped parsley
 1/2 light olive oil
 Fleur de sel and cracked pink peppercorns to taste

Method

1. Place orange juice, zest and shallots in a sauce pan and bring to the boil. Lower heat and reduce the juice by 1/3 volume.
2. Remove from heat, add honey and vinegars.
3. Slowly in a steady stream, whisk in the oil.
4. Add the herbs, season and place in an airtight container until chilled.
5. Place approx. 4 oz of the vinaigrette in the bottom of a large salad mixing bowl, add the salad fixing and toss gently until all is well coated.
6. Place in individual bowl and serve.

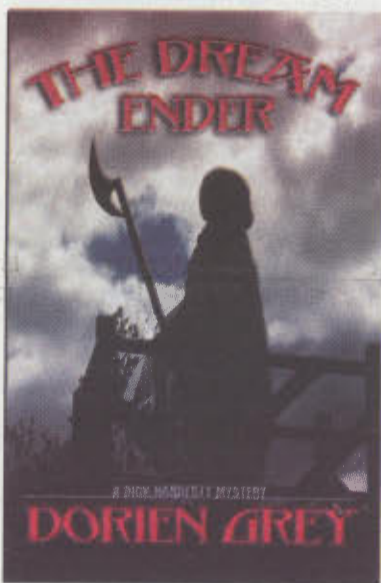
Notes: This salad is to die for as an accompaniment to grilled salmon, arctic char, or sea trout. You can use a little of the vinaigrette as a condiment for the fish like you would a squeeze of lemon.

Cont'd from prev. page **The Dream Ender**

that has no real plot or story line. Naked Boys Singing! is a return to an old form: the revue, a kind of queer Ziegfeld Follies—although with considerable less costuming. There are sixteen songs like "Gratuitous Nudity," "The Bliss of a Bris" (ouch) "Fight the Urge," "Nothin' but the Radio On" and "Members Only." The scenes are performed either as solos or ensemble pieces and each of the ten cast members gets to shine in the revealing spotlight.

I was afraid at first that this might be another "tease" movie, like those drive-in movies from the Sixties that lured with the promise of nudity but somehow never came through. But Naked Boys Singing! is exactly what you get. Naked men of different ethnicities and backgrounds boldly, exuberantly, unashamedly naked and singing at the top of their lungs of the glory, joy, sexuality and beauty of the male body. It is a hilarious, at times silly, romp that makes no pretense to be other than pure entertainment. The tone is celebratory and light, the perfect antidote to the notion that nudity or sexuality (especially of the gay variety) is shameful or harmful to society.

Here the comedy is bawdy, clever and silly, the scenes are fun and the bodies are a visual delight. This is a film you will want to have a second or third look at, and recommend to your friends.



By Dorian Grey
 Published by Zumaya Boundless
 Review by Ralph Higgins

Dick is back! After a hiatus and with a new publisher, the eleventh book in the very popular Dick Hardesty mystery series continues with The Dream Ender, the darkest and most gripping story yet.

After years of banding together to fight those who would harass and threaten them, now the danger to the gay community comes from within itself. No one wants to believe at first that any gay man, even someone as arrogant and sadistic as Cal Hysong, would knowingly, deliberately spread AIDS but the evidence is pretty clear. When Cal is found murdered, Dick Hardesty is not alone in giving a sigh of relief and thinking "good riddance." Until that is, Dick's friend, Jared, is arrested for the crime and the only way to prove his innocence is to find the real killer.

The Dream Ender is an excellent depiction of the panic felt especially in the early years of the AIDS epidemic when death seemed to be everywhere and everyone felt helpless, vulnerable and afraid.

For those of us who have followed the series from the early days, we've watched the character of Dick Hardesty grow with each

book. The carefree detective whose only focus was doing his job and getting laid—and happy when the two coincided—found a deeper emotional expression when he fell in love with Jonathan. Then, Dick and Jonathan became parents and established a strong home life. Until this case, Dick had always had the sense that by mental skill or sheer brute force he could look out for his friends and protect his family.

In The Dream Ender, Dorian Grey demonstrates his ability to not only provide the reader with a mystery to solve but to also show, very movingly, Hardesty's frustration and fear as he confronts the possibility of personal loss. This

case changes Dick irrevocably. He knows that hanging over this search for a murderer, a larger

killer is attacking every day and not even he can stop it.

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PRESENTS

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

Making Halifax A More Gay Friendly Place

On November 27 and 28, 2007, Destination Halifax sponsored a major provincial travel and tourism conference in Halifax which drew approximately 70 businesses from major hotel chains to bed and breakfasts to VIA Rail and sundry others. This conference was designed to specifically address LGBT tourism in Halifax and in Nova Scotia. This conference was the culmination of a promise by Lynn Ledwidge of Destination Halifax to follow through on a commitment made more than a year ago when DH met with several Halifax Pride organizers, Bruce MacDonald of IGLTA/Canadian Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Co-founder and other interested partners to discuss marketing Halifax as a gay friendly destination nationally. There has been a growing movement right across the country lead by cities such as Montreal Vancouver and Toronto to not only market themselves as queer friendly but also much more willing to engage and partner with LGBT owned businesses. It should also be pointed out that Destina-

tion Halifax recently launched rainbowhalifax.com specifically relating to the LGBT market.

Bruce was one of the speakers during the conference and Wayves asked him a few questions regarding the conference:

How many conferences across the country have you attended that have been similar?

Travel Gay Canada (TGC) has presented at the annual meetings of TIAC (Tourism Association of Canada) ATIABC (Association of Tourism Industry Associations of BC) OTMPC (Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation) & TIANS (Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia) we have also presented workshops for Niagara Region, Toronto, and Halifax and host twice-annual Canadian LGBT Tourism Updates by conference call to get updates from across Canada and share what we have been doing and discuss future opportunities.

From the attendees at the TIANS seminar more than 97% want more information and want the topic covered in greater detail at

next years TIANS Conference!

Where would you place Halifax in terms of relating to LGBT tourism to the rest of the country?

Halifax and the Atlantic Region are showing as a destination of interest on the radar of LGBT Travellers in Canada and the US. As for the destination; the DESTINATION Marketing Organization (DMO) - Destination Halifax has approached the market as we recommend. Engage the LGBT community and suppliers to make a plan and provide resources and training so the destination is "market ready"; then invite travellers to experience your destination.

Why do you see this an important opportunity for the tourism industry and the LGBT community here in Halifax?

Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors and brings in dollars from outside your region that enhances your economy. The LGBT market is one of the most lucrative segments of the tourism

market. The LGBT community has an opportunity to benefit from increased LGBT Tourism by having greater attendance at their events and businesses—thus greater financial resources to enhance local events and services in the community.

In your opinion how have things changed in Halifax as it relates to businesses and organizations being more gay friendly or more receptive to catering to the LGBT market?

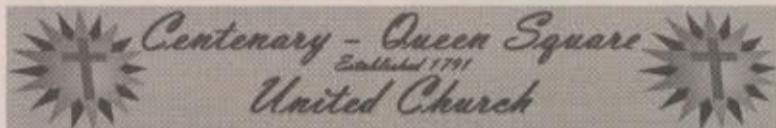
Mainstream businesses have been made aware of the LGBT opportunity and if they want to participate in the market they know they are looking internally and examining if they are "a good place to work" for LGBT employees before reaching out to the market. Businesses are learning how to market to the LGBT community and make them feel welcome.

Plans are in the works for subsequent follow up conferences however the real proof in the pudding

so to speak will be the emerging campaigns and outreach to local businesses within the LGBT community and the follow through that will help to ensure Halifax is indeed seen as a gay friendly destination within the country and abroad.



Bruce MacDonald



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Wayves Calendar 2008

Readers' Month	Content Deadline	Editorial Meeting	Layout	On The Stands (in Halifax)
March	Feb 1	Féb 4	Feb 10	Feb 22
April	May 7	Mar 10	Mar 16	Mar 24
May	Apr 4	Apr 7	Apr 13	Apr 25
June	May 2	May 5	May 11	May 23
July	Jun 6	Jun 9	Jun 15	Jun 27
August	Jul 4	Jul 7	Jul 13	Jul 25
September	Aug 1	Aug 5	Aug 10	Aug 22
October	Sep 5	Sep 8	Sep 14	Sep 26
November	Oct 3	Oct 6	Oct 12	Oct 24
December	Nov 7	Nov 10	Nov 16	Nov 28
Jan-Feb 2009	Dec 5	Dec 8	Dec 14	Dec 29

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Events >>

Amherst

Second Monday

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

First and Third Wednesdays

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

Third Thursday of each month

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

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday

The Annapolis Valley Gay Mens Coffee House meets every Thursday Evening from 7-9pm. Also on the first Saturday of each month host an over 19 gay/lesbian Dance from 9pm-1am. October 6th and October 27th are the next two dances and there is NO dance in November. The 6th is the Thanks giving dance and 27th is the Halloween Costume Dance. Further info contact menembracingmen@hotmail.com or 902-765-2821.

Every Sunday

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

Bridgewater

Third Saturday of each month

Wileville Dance. Smoke free. For more details call 685-3297 or email info@southshorepride.ca or www.southshorepride.ca

Cape Breton

Every 2nd Saturday

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

Charlottetown

... see Prince Edward Island

Fredericton

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

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

Third Sunday of each month

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

website: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity

Fourth Wednesday of each month

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

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

BOOM! NIGHTCLUB

Fredericton NB, 474 Queen St. 463-boom (2666) www.boomnightclub.ca

Thursdays: Three sum Thursday's 8-cl Music: 3 Recent, 3 Retro, 3 Requests Specials: \$3 Shooters, \$3 Beer, \$3 Energy Drinks, \$7 Triples

Cover: None
Fridays: House Heaven 8-cl
Music: Mainstream club tracks and videos to start your weekend off right.

Cover: \$3 after 11, \$4 after 12.

Saturdays: POWER 8-cl

Music: The only genuine big-city club scene in the city.

Cover: \$4 after 11, \$4.50 after 12.

Sunday's double header: Sunday Social 4-7

Music: Laid back inviting social atmosphere

Cover: None

Sunday Open Turntables 10-cl

Music: Live DJ's spinning at crowd level

Specials: \$ 2.25 Select Beer 10-11, \$3 Select Beer, \$3 Shooters, \$5.25 Doubles

Cover: \$2

Halifax

Every Sunday

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: a Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome! 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets at 11 am at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax

Every Sunday

Bedford United Church, 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an Affirming Congregation and welcome everyone. Services at 9 am (Casual & Contemporary) and 11 am (Quieter & More

Reverent in tone) Starting June 24-Sept. 9, one 10 am service. For more info, call 835-8497.

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@yahoo.com. Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers, and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

First and Third Tuesdays

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

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

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

First and Third Sundays

BLT-WOMYN OF HALIFAX DISCUSSION GROUP! This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian,

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

First and Third Wednesdays

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

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

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

Second Wednesday of each month

Spirituality for Lesbians, 7:30-9PM. We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. For info about the place of the next meeting call 459-2649 and leave name and number. Personal mailbox: confidentiality assured.

Jan 3, 17, 31, Feb 14, 28, Mar 13, 27

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

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Transgender Diaries



Dear Diary

I always found this time of year stressful and soul destroying. Some things have changed but while my personal outlook has improved I am still burdened by those I know struggle to find a reason to survive the so called season of joy.

For myself it has been an interesting and productive year while the finish is questionable concerning my health. Each chest infection has the potential to be my last and/or most expensive and so winter is a wait and see time for me. Last year at this time I set myself some goals and despite a crazy kind of a year I was amazed to realize that the key ones had been reached.

Ten years ago I was stressed and thinking life was finally finishing

me off. Since then I have attained age 60, transitioned completely from male to female, obtained official Canadian Female Citizenship, gained two grand-daughters and my youngest daughter is in her second year of college while I completed a 2 year business degree with an 87.76 average. I have been reasonably successful in holding radio shows on CKDU 88.1 fm in Halifax and continued with articles in the Wayves magazine as well as assisting PFLAG Canada in issues of gender identity.

The world can be and is an unfriendly place for transsexuals and despite the new friends and personal successes I have had, people walk or drive up to me at the most unexpected times and act in a most threatening manner. A reminder that I can never let my personal guard down too low. Still, there have been far more encouraging incidents and I am proud to say I

know the people responsible.

The Wayves team accepted me and continue to encourage my meagre efforts at writing while the CKDU management have helped me with encouragement and idea's. College was rough for several personal reasons but students services

In the last ten years I have gone through more changes than shows on the surface and many can never be fully explained in words.

met the challenge in supporting me while perhaps not fully understanding me or some of my issues.

The Capital Health Group struggle to respond to issues that have for too long been ignored and with Jeanne Rokosh and her team the doors slowly slide open for all GLBT people. So many

groups are striving on our behalf and their enthusiasm and patience is so strengthening. The amount of calls from NB, NFLD and PEI have shown a need that before was questionable.

Many people have taught me new things regarding love and acceptance and the people who step up to the plate and meet the challenge is often most surprising. The Myth of Family love always being the strongest is belied

by the amount of GLBT young people who every year are cast out of their home upon discovery of their nonconforming Gender Identity and/or sexual orientation. I have been blessed by my family, yet not without cost. My son who is over 30, left the family and has not communicated for several years

now. In the last ten years I have gone through more changes than shows on the surface and many can never be fully explained in words. I find I have more things to do than I have days, finances or energy to accomplish and so this is my time to set specific goals for the next 12 months.

To all who I met, worked with or simply shared idea's in 2007, I say thank you. It was these experiences that now provide me with the courage to look into 2008 and share the knowledge, love and support that has been shown to me and my family.

I am proud to be able to walk and work with those who are able and for those who are unable.

Denise Holliday
Maritime Transgender Solutions



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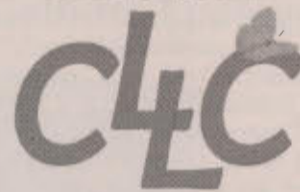
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support

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

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groups

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

Men's Reading Group meets regularly in Halifax. Come meet interesting people and discuss gay literature. Check our webpage at www.menread.50megs.com. Email menread@gay.com or contact 454-9111 for more information.

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2007 Wayves In Review

We are seven years into the 21st Century! As a child I would read science fiction stories about the 21st Century and the wondrous events told in those tales seemed very far off. Life, of course, is not as fantastic as the adventures I read - but infinitely more absorbing and complex.

Wayves Magazine has always been written by our community. The stories on our pages are being told, of the most part, by those who lived, experienced, and made them happen. It's always our hope that our readers will see a bit of their own lives in the magazine. Or, if not, will feel compelled to tell the rest of us what is important to them.

In 2007 we started the year covering major stories on the various events marking World AIDS Day in Dec 2006, including the announcements of Maria MacIntosh as Executive Director of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and Heather Patriarche as Operations Coordinator of the Northern AIDS Connection Society. The Jan-Feb issue also contained a heart-felt letter from Chuck Gillis, AKA Lulu LaRude, thanking people who had helped him through a long illness with a brain tumor. This took on tragic overtones as Chuck died soon after and the March cover story covered the very personal loss our community felt over the beloved entertainer and AIDS activist.



AIDS VIGILS

Our annual celebrations were covered. The April issue covered Moncton's Diamond Divas Show which raised \$5500 for the Crisis and Referral Agency's Helpline. The ninth annual Mister Atlantic Canada Leather - "Pirates of the Chaleur" title match was covered from August through October with Rich Arsenault and Maisie Walker taking the matching male and female titles. Pride celebrations started to take centre stage in the June issue with PEI Pride and lasted right through the October issue ending with Moncton's Parade. Coverage included Prides in St. John's, Cape Breton, Pictou, Saint John, and Halifax. The Eighth Imperial Court elections were covered in our October issue with Boom Boom Lubalicious win-



Goodbye to a blazing star

ning her second term as Empress. Some new events were added to the calendar in 2007 as the December issue reported on the first Antigonish Pride held October 8th-12th to accommodate University students. November brought attention to the National Transgender Remembrance Day on the 19th of that month, and May 17th featured the International Day Against Homophobia. Originally planned as a fun "Kiss-In" Event on Halifax's Grand Parade Square, the IDAH planning took a very serious turn as the bodies of Trevor Paul Brewster and Michael Paul Knott were discovered in cruising areas in Burnside in the HRM and Mill Cove in Lunenburg County. Halifax City Police cautioned men to beware of all cruising areas and the entire community breathed much easier when the accused suspect was caught trying to smuggle himself into Mexico. The now rather somber IDAH Rally was very well attended by the community, Halifax City council members and police force, and politicians of all brands. Two "Town Hall" meetings were also held in Halifax sponsored by the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project and this magazine. The very public push for a Halifax LGBT Community Centre was one of the main results of these meetings as covered in our October issue. The ongoing struggle for equal rights was the subject for a number of stories in the magazine. In April, Al McNutt's long battle for survivor benefits from the Canada Pension Plan was won. In June we covered Transgender Activist and Wayves columnist, Denise Holliday, as she opened new ground by holding information displays in Truro and Stewiacke. We covered the "Pink Shirts" demonstrations



PEI Pride

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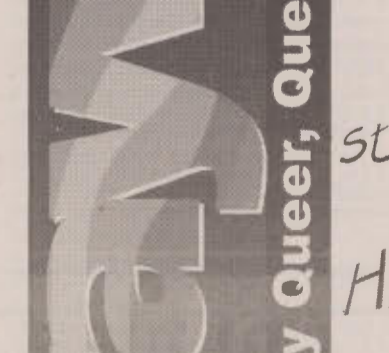
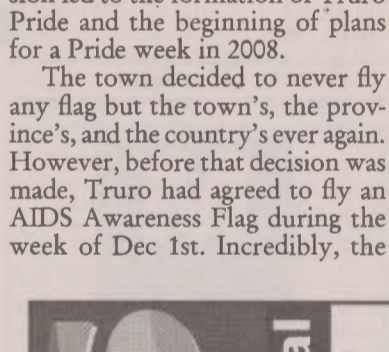
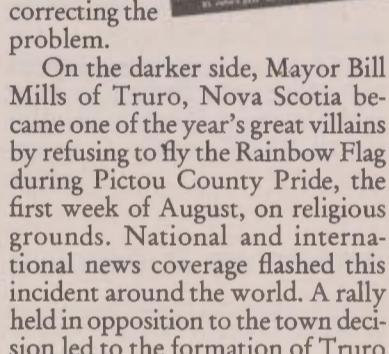
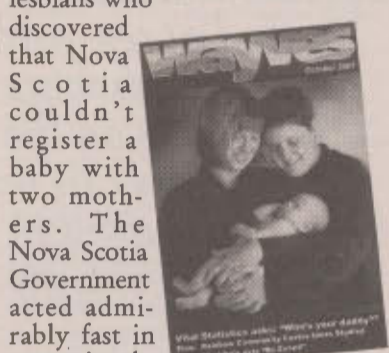
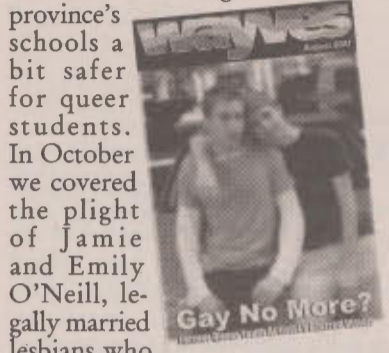
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punoqun



a party at the 2007 Sea-horse Tavern in Halifax, the book's print run made it the largest volume of its kind published in Canada.

In the November and December issues we also reported on the magazine's own problems with censorship by distributors. The censoring and defacing of the magazine, for any reason, is a very serious subject. Wayves will continue to keep our readers aware of such situations.



90 Battered: Cutting out the baby with the bath water?

With a possible federal election, a provincial election in Nova Scotia, and municipal elections all over the place, 2008 is already shaping up to be an exciting year. The offer stands, as always, for members of the community in any of the Atlantic Provinces to become involved. Articles and pictures are the most obvious way to become part of the Wayves Collective. But we value any opinion you may have on how we cover our lives. Even recommending a business as a new advertiser or distribution point is a great help. Visit our website at wayves.ca for all the details.

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13,056 column inches of news & information!

Have a Happy New Year! There will be even more in

2008!

Getting the Word Out

By Eldon Hay

How can we forward our movement? How achieve a world where all GLBT people will be fully accepted? One of the biggest challenges is to get the good news out there.

One of the cheapest ways, given some energy and persistence, is to use the media—especially radio and newspapers, local and regional.

Take letters to the editor. I've written hundreds. Of course, only some were published. Here's what I've found helpful. First, letters need to be timely. When New Brunswick-born gay rights leader Brent Hawkes was named a member of the Order of Canada, his name appeared in the *Globe and Mail* but not in the two New Brunswick papers I skim, even though the Order of Canada was in the headlines. That was an opportunity, so I sent off a letter to a number of newspapers in New Brunswick and addressed the stories in the press that mentioned the Order.

Second, letters need to be lo-

cally-relevant. None of the local newspapers mentioned Brent because he lives in Toronto. In the letters I sent, I highlighted Brent's New Brunswick birthplace, that that he went to Mount Allison, a New Brunswick university, where he earned a couple of degrees, was student union president, and a student board member. Some of those letters were published.

In my experience, it is not normally effective to write a letter "out of the blue." It has to be hooked into something already in the press. As a letter writer I refer to the coverage already there. There may have been other "out of the blue" times when I could have written about Brent Hawkes and likely nothing would have been published.

Letters can piggy-back. If an article about summer events in Moncton says nothing is about Gay Pride, a letter can thank the paper for the article, then mention Pride and give dates and a few details.

Letters can be subversive. Dobson's Focus on the Family

published an article about the importance of parents setting a good example for their children. My response agreed, and then went on to say that parents can be open and accepting of GLBT persons—and children will likely follow their example. Dobson's point was used in a different way from what he intended.

Appreciate opponents. Bishop Henry, Roseanne Skoke, Elsie Wayne, others. Anti-gay statements are great opportunities for letters. I always try to say something positive about the person before giving my sharp disagreement. "I appreciate Bishop Henry's bold statement," or "I like Elsie Wayne's clarity." This is hard to do, but it can be effective. Some weeks ago, Laurie Aaron, formerly head of Canadians for Equal Marriage and well-schooled in dealing with homophobic opponents, gave an address. From my notes, it went something like this: "Do your best to speak kindly of those who oppose you, try to understand them and to respect their views, no matter how difficult that may be."

Bigotry, Prejudice & Discriminate

By Rene Murphy

What do these words mean to you?

According to the World Book Dictionary, bigotry means bigoted conduct or attitude, intolerance prejudice.

Prejudice means an opinion formed without taking time and care to judge fairly.

Discriminate means to show a difference in treatment.

These problems are everywhere.

Back in the sixties a television show came out which reflected the times in which we lived in. It is kind of odd that we are still dealing with a lot of those issues. I was reminded of that when I saw a show where one of the main actors was being roasted and several of the episodes were being shown. I am talking about Star Trek.

They dealt with such serious issues like black and whites mixing, or horrors of horrors, kissing! Worlds being destored because of germ warfare. Arms races. And were two races of people wiping each other out because their faces were different.

Here we are, what forty years later and we as a people are not much different. Canada stuck in the middle of two waring nations. Countries are still tearing themselves apart because of religion.

And bigotry. Bigotry

But what I find the most hurtful is when people who deal with bigotry them selves, and know how much it hurts them, don't mind dishing it out to others.

It should not matter what we look like, or what the colour of our skin is, or who our god is, or who our life partner is. It seems like there is always someone out there who does not like something and wants to make sure everyone else thinks like they do. So, off with

their head!

Not all men like blonds. Not all girls like dark hair. Just because a guy works in a beauty salon does not make him gay. Just because a girl wears short hair and sensible shoes, does not make her gay. Just because a person goes into, a gay bar does not make them gay. Being a friend of someone who is gay will not "turn you gay"

Being gay is not something you can catch. Anymore that being with black people or Chinese people or Arabic people will turn you into them. And I don't care what anyone tells you, drinking chocolate milk will not make you brown.

No one can truly understand what another person goes through. Just because you have lost your job, does not mean that you know what someone else feels. Just because someone has lost a loved one does not mean that they can understand what you are going through. No one can truly understand what each of us go through in life, because of each of us handles things differently and have been delt different kind of cards. Yet, because we have all be delt different kind of cards does not mean that we do not know about emphy. Yes having lost a job gives us knowledge of the fears that are going on inside about how the bills are to be paid and how to put food on the table. The knowledge of anger and guilt and great sadness over loosing the loved one.

And being a straight white person does not mean that we don't understand what it feels like to be an out cast. Not being part of the "in crowd." Not living on the 'right side of town', Not having money. Not having been born in the town you live in. Having glasses at a early age can put a person on the outside, or being overweight, or having ears that stick out or any other number of reasons.

So, please, please for the sake of

us all, be kind to everyone you meet and deal with. The person next to you might be the one to help out a loved one in trouble because you took the time to say hello with a smile.

I Am Me

Dear Wayves Readers:

I Am Me... The Diaries of a Father who is Gay!

If you will notice in my title I choose to state very clearly that I am a father who is gay vs a gay father. In case anyone would like to know why, read further and maybe then you will appreciate where I am coming from.

Let me first introduce myself. My name is Ed and I am a long-time reader of Wayves. I truly appreciate and commend the effort the volunteers put into getting this important, vital educational tool out into the community and region.

I have battled with doing this article for way too long and after more prompting and support from my "partner-to-be," Ben, I decided to put my fingers to work and put my thoughts on paper.

So here goes....

I am a human male—yes, you knew that already—and I am a father. I am gay, queer, homosexual—and you also knew that—so where am I going with this? Oh, I also forget to tell you, I am also a Newfie, from the "the rock"! Now I know I have you really confused!

I have noticed in all the ads, and in all the information, support groups, events and classified section in Wayves, there is very little, if any information, thoughts, ideas and support for a person who is a father and gay. And I am wondering why? We do exist, don't we? Don't tell me I am the only person who is a father and gay in the Atlantic provinces! I know I'm not.

Where are we, then? Why are we not talking, sharing, commu-

Develop a thick skin. There are bound to be letters critical of the gay-positive letter writer. I do not respond to people who are harsh or critical towards me. I'm very prepared to take unkind and cruel comments.

Some people say, "I won't write letters. Our local newspaper is a mess. I won't send anything to that rag." It may be a mess, but people read it and opinions are formed.

Other people say, "I'm not going to answer that nonsense—nobody believes that anyway." I started writing letters years ago, when I once said that about an anti-Semitic statement. A colleague explained, "If no one answers that nonsensical statement, there are those who believe it is true. Eldon, you must respond." I did.

Still other say, "I've written and my letter wasn't published." That happens. Don't give up. Everyone knows the parable about a man going out to sow seeds, and some fell on thorny ground, some

on rocky ground, and so forth. Only a few seeds took root in the fertile ground. Nine letters in the waste basket, and one makes it into print.

Does it matter? Are there any effects? I believe it does matter. My experience convinces me that letters make a difference. I hear from people. They phone or email, or come up to me and mention a letter or a radio program. Years ago one person got in touch with me after I had first used the word "transgender" in a letter. Young people may read or hear a gay-positive conviction, and that may well counteract a homophobic home or school environment.

Of course, not all of us are letter-writers, or respondents to television or radio programs. Many of us have things to say. Try saying them in public. It could make a real difference.

That's my experience.

nicating, and making ourselves known? Why not have a section in Wayves written by and for fathers who are gay? Can someone out there please let me know?

Fathers who are gay... I know you are out there.

Are you also interested in re-starting the Gay Fathers' Group? Write to Wayves - submissions@wayves.ca!

Ouellet's Apology

By Gerard Veldhoven

An apology from Marc Cardinal Ouellet is an absurd attempt to minimize the abuse of power by the Roman Catholic Church involving gays and lesbians, women, First Nations and the list goes on. The absurdity is compounded by the fact the apology is only directed to those abused before 1960. This begs the question: does the Roman Catholic Church feel it is within its right to discriminate the years following 1960?

The cardinal refers to the abuses as "mistakes." So, apparently the discrimination, in his mind, no longer takes place, as one tends to learn from mistakes made in the past. His apology

does absolutely nothing to rectify today's situation where the Church is continuing to legally discriminate at will. The gay and lesbian community remains under severe criticism by the Church. The Pope has made it quite clear what the Church's position is and he does not plan to rescind any thoughts on this issue. Cardinal Ouellet's request for forgiveness for past wrongs is without much meaning, unless the Church's position changes.

If one is sincere in trying to convey a serious message, such as asking forgiveness for abuse committed by the Roman Catholic Church, one must be prepared to go beyond 1960. The Cardinal, if he is troubled by past abuses by the Church, must apologize for all the years thereafter. An abuse of power, toward any group or individual, must be eliminated. The queer community will not be impressed with this attempt at healing a wrong committed by the Roman Catholic Church. This is a shallow apology indeed.



Last month's question:

In the last Wayves we asked, "Do you plan on making any New Years Resolutions?" We had thirteen people say "no" including "make them every year and never keep them. In 2008, no resolutions means I might actually get something useful done." On the yes side, three people said they were going to make resolutions, with two comments: "More real people, emotion, and love in my life, and fewer personality-disordered pseudo-lesbians!" "Eat more vegetables. Exercise like I was 15 years old. Drink more champagne. Laugh more frequently."

This month's question: Do you still feel the effects of homophobia? How and when? You Tell Us at wayves.ca!

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