

Waynes

Free!

September 2009



**Nova Scotia Premier
Rides with Pride!**

WAWVES

Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) is seeking nominations for the 2009 Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award.

NSRAP created this award in 2008 as a means of recognizing those who have made significant contributions to the Rainbow Community in Nova Scotia. It is named for the late Reverend Darlene Young, a former NSRAP board member and pastor of the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church. Darlene's commitment to equality and sense of service have had a lasting impact on the community, and serve as an inspiration to us. We hope to keep that recognize that same spirit in others through this award, and in doing so, honour Darlene's memory.

Anyone can submit a nomination by emailing nsrap@nsrap.ca. A nomination should be accompanied

by a statement of the nominee's contributions to the Rainbow Community in Nova Scotia. The winner will be chosen by NSRAP's Board of Directors. Nomination from previous years may be carried over into the next year at the discretion of the Board.

The award will be presented as part of NSRAP's annual gala fundraiser, taking place on October 3, 2009. This year's gala theme is "Beyond our Borders," and the keynote speaker is John Fisher, Co-Director of ARC International and former executive director of EGALE Canada. John and ARC International are at the centre of the worldwide effort to further equality on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Tickets for the gala event can be purchased at a cost of \$100/ticket (\$1000 for a table of ten) by contacting nsrap@nsrap.ca.



Halifax and Moncton Prides to Hold AGMs

Liz McQuaid and Ed Savage, CoChairs, Halifax Pride: Halifax Pride once again hosted a very successful festival and we hope everyone involved had fun and is proud of what was accomplished. This year's festival introduced many new great additions, like Queer Acts Theatre. Pride is a year-long job of planning and fundraising, culminating in a great festival of culture and celebration. The annual general meeting will be held September 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Venus Envy on Barrington St. in Halifax, where the new board for 2010 will be elected.

Paul H LeBlanc, Media Relations,

River of Pride: As we embark into a new decade of pride festivities, we would like to harness the proud feelings and desires out there to volunteer for River Of Pride. I am available to meet with you to discuss same and encourage all to attend our annual general meeting on Sunday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. at La Teraz (www.lateraz.com), to become involved in the new board of directors.

These Pride committees always look for new people with fresh ideas and the ability to help make 2010 a success. The respective 2009 boards thank everyone who made Moncton and Halifax Prides a huge success.

Regular Columns

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Deadline: the first Friday of every month!

Three Weddings...

and an Anniversary



Patrick Daigle & Shawn Wood entered C100's Wedding contest in the spring of 2009. They were one of three finalist couples (and the only gay couple) vying for an all expense paid wedding at Hatfield Farms outside of Halifax. After making their written submission and tallying the votes for each of the couples, C100 announced that they were the lucky winners. Patrick and Shawn were married Saturday June 27 2009. Photo: Terri Wentzell

Sean Foreman and Andre Bernard had their big gay wedding Saturday July 18 2009 at St. Andrew's United Church Halifax. Rev. Linda Yates and Martha Martin officiated. Photo: Maria Erman of Maria Erman Photography

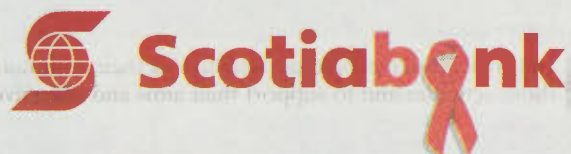
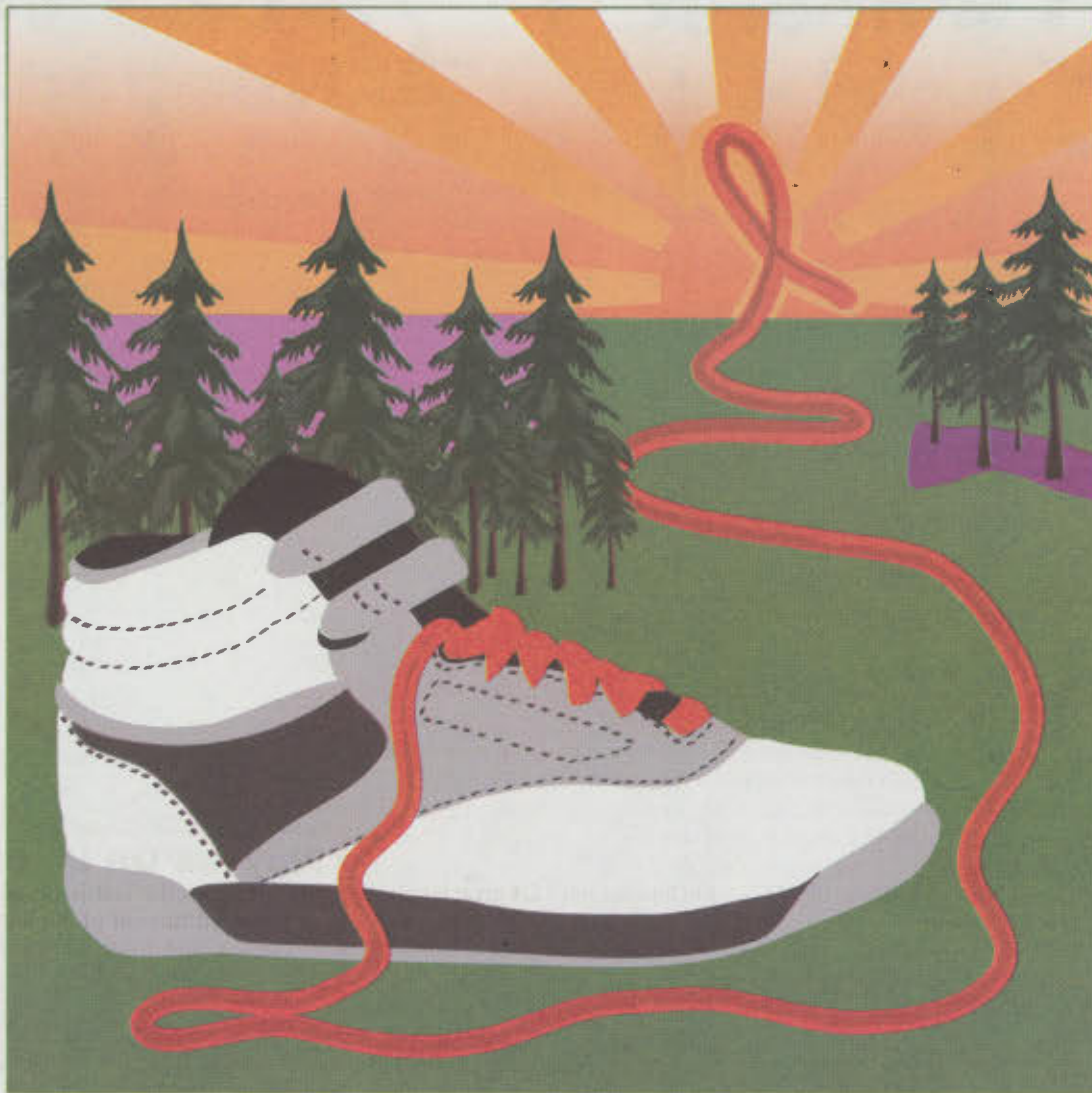


Cat Pothier and Nicky Bourque recently exchanged their wedding vows at the home of Cat's parents in Tusket Nova Scotia along with their family and friends.

Cindy Miller photographed their wedding and the one of Cat and Nicky, above. If interested in Cindy taking your wedding photos, please email her novascotia019@hotmail.com.



Cindy Miller & Judy MacDonald celebrated their first wedding anniversary on August 2nd, 2009. They were married at Northumberland Links Golf Course near Pugwash, Nova Scotia, near their family cottage on the Gulf Shore. They are just one of many couples in the Lesbian/Gay community in Nova Scotia that are happy to be able to marry their Same Sex partners!



AIDS WALK FOR LIFE
The Walk will do us good.



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MARCHE ACTION SIDA



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There is no cure and no vaccine.

Until then, the Walk will do us good.

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Du **12 au 20 septembre 2009**,
participez à la Marche action sida Banque Scotia.

Il n'y a ni remède, ni vaccin.

D'ici là, la Marche nous fera du bien.

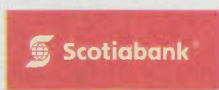
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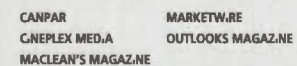
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BRONZE



PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS/PARTENAIRES PROMOTIONNELS



ALL SCOTIABANK AIDS WALK FOR LIFE PROCEEDS SUPPORT DIRECT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AND AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY. 2009 IMAGE BY ACCLAIMED CANADIAN HIV-POSITIVE ARTIST DON SHORT.
TOUS LES PROFITS DE LA MARCHE ACTION SIDA BANQUE SCOTIA SERVENT À SOUTENIR DES SERVICES DIRECTS POUR LES PERSONNES DE VOTRE COMMUNAUTÉ VIVANT AVEC LE VIH/SIDA OU QUI EN SONT AFFECTÉES.
L'ILLUSTRATION DE 2009 EST L'ŒUVRE DE L'ARTISTE SÉROPOSITIF CANADIEN RENOMMÉ, DON SHORT.

I Am What I Amherst



By: Gerard Veldhoven
Pride Week Huge Success Despite Flag Vandalism

The Pride Flag incident in Amherst during Pride Week did not dampen the enthusiasm of those attending the scheduled events. On the contrary, this act of vandalism reinforced our determination to make this year's Pride Week truly a time of pride. Dan McIntosh, of CTV News, wondered if the flag would fly again, as only four more days remained in Pride Week, and was assured the flag would fly again before day's end. The Amherst Fire Department was called to restring the rope on the pole, and the repaired flag went up again after only a few hours.

The flag raising ceremony was attended by about a hundred people, an amazing number considering the size of Amherst. We were told

by Amherst Town officials that last year's ceremony attracted the largest number ever at a flag ceremony... at 54 people. Thanks to Paul LeBlanc for bringing a us carload of River of attendees from Moncton.

Guest speakers included Amherst Mayor Robert Small, MLA Brian Skabar and Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce President Dave McNairn. Among the invited guests were Springhill Mayor Allen Dill, Cumberland County Warden Keith Hunter, Rev. Vernon Driscoll of Holy Family Parish (a huge surprise!) and Constable Francis Smith, Liason Officer with the Amherst Police Department. Other invites to representatives from Oxford, Parrsboro, Pugwash and others were ignored (not a surprise). A huge Pride cake was served along with the refreshments.

Next on the agenda was the GLBTTQ Parenting Workshop, a well-attended and interesting event facilitated by Chris Veldhoven, Queer Parenting Program Coordinator at Toronto's 519 Community Centre. "With regards to raising a family, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual and queer community in Toronto face the same challenges as the GLBTTQ community here in Amherst," he indicated. He also talked about how "queer-parented families" challenge the conventional nuclear family model. Chris explained that such families are not to be feared, but instead should be embraced. A three-day workshop on this topic will be organized at a later date.

A Pride dinner and dance took place at the Old Warehouse Café in Amherst and the large crowd consisted of members of the Cumberland Pride Society, their families and friends. Summer goodies were on the dinner menu and the dance lasted till 1:00 a.m.

After dinner the Cumberland Pride Society presented two people with honorary memberships: Rita Davison and Eldon Hay. Rita is a

long time community supporter, and among her children she has one lesbian daughter who lives in Ontario and a gay son in Rochester, New York. She strongly believes in equal treatment and in her support of the queer community she takes part in the lives of her children. Rita is a prime example of parental acceptance and unconditional love, illustrated by her community involvement.

Eldon Hay is no stranger to our community and remains a strong and committed ally. Having been inducted into the Order of Canada in 2003, Eldon has fought diligently for equal rights for many years. This wise counsellor and friend has captured our admiration and that of others who support equality for all.

On Sunday, July 12, a great number of us made our way to Northport Provincial Park, about a 20 minute drive from Amherst. Many made use of the beach, and others simply socialized; that is, until the rain started to fall, but by then it was time to go back to our homes. The barbecue was relaxing and the kids also had a whale of a time.

This year's Pride was a tremendous success, overall. The entire week brought us unity and enjoyment, as well as the opportunity to meet those who never attended Pride celebrations in Amherst before. The next involvement for Cumberland Pride is the Pride Parade in Moncton on August 22. This will be the third year for our group to have an entry.

Many thanks to the Pride Committee, who has once again done a wonderful job of making certain all activities were successful. The Silent Auction brought in some much-needed funds and also presented another opportunity to be exposed as a community group in Amherst and Cumberland County.

Again, the emphasis is on the positive. The vandalized flag was a single

Cont'd to Amherst, Page 8



Amherst Mayor Rob Small



Flag raising at Amherst Town Hall



NS MLA Brian Skabar

ACNS Volunteers Needed

ACNS Front Desk Reception

The front desk receptionist is an ambassador of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. As you are the first person people come into contact with, we rely on you to make a good impression so politeness, courtesy, and patience are desirable. Your responsibilities include (but are not limited to) answering and transferring calls, greeting people, assisting staff with clerical duties and providing contact information of other organizations. Training is provided and no experience is necessary. Both morning and afternoon shifts are available. Shifts run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. If you're interested, please contact Ned MacInnis at (902) 425-4882, ext 224, or email ps@acns.ns.ca.

Gay Men's Health Team

The Gay Men's Health Project of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is currently looking for gay and bisexual men 19 and over to do bar and/or community event healthy sexuality outreach for this fall. The average commitment (per event) would be between 2-4 hours and you don't need to be a "sexpert," as any training needed is provided. Contact Chris Aucoin, Gay Men's Health Coordinator, by e-mail at gmmc@acns.ns.ca or call (902) 425-4882. Whether you're pozz or neg, come have some fun, meet some good people and make a difference in your community.

Cont'd to Tour Tech, Page 8

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6; that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings

(Halifax): **Mondays:** Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 9. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 15. Help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

We are on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month.

Our Cover:

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter becomes the first premier to participate in a Pride Parade in Canada. Photo by Rob Isbister, design by Cam MacLeod.

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Want to tell your friends where to get their own copy of Wayves? Your first stop should be to www.wayves.ca; you can download the current issue, a back issue, and also get the complete list of our

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

Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have 2007 back issues on line now and will be adding 2006 soon. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at submissions@wayves.ca!

Wayves

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

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

Advertising: Jim Bain, Advertising Manager, email 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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Wayves

P.O. Box 34090, Scotia Square
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3S1
submissions@wayves.ca
www.wayves.ca

Syphilis Outbreak in HRM

By Angus Campbell
Syphilis is serious stuff! If left untreated, it can irreparably damage your heart, eyes, joints, nerves, and brain. There is an outbreak happening right now in Halifax Regional Municipality among gay, bisexual and queer males. Awareness and knowledge are the first step to prevention and protection, especially as outbreaks normally last for months. In the last few years a number of outbreaks have happened across the country, and often within the GBQ community.

The most common ways of contracting syphilis are giving or getting oral, anal (including rimming), or vaginal sex. The bacterium, *Treponema pallidum*, also makes it easier for HIV to be passed on. Syphilis is perilous

for HIV-positive people because it usually requires more medication and a longer treatment period, but especially dangerous as it can quickly develop into neurosyphilis, a form that causes brain damage.

Initial symptoms are not always obvious and may show up from 10 to 90 days, although the average time is about three weeks. Often a painless ulcer or "chancre" appears on external genitals like the penis, anus, scrotum, or inside the mouth, throat or rectum, which is infectious and transmittable to others. These sores can also occur on the lips.

If not treated immediately, secondary syphilis occurs when the ulcer heals and flu-like symptoms come about. A highly infectious, non-itchy rash may appear on the palms of

the hands, soles of the feet or the entire body. Wart-like bumps may also emerge in the mouth or around the genitals or anus. Symptoms will disappear without treatment, but the individual remains infected and infectious.

The third and final stage can last for years and the disease can subsequently damage internal organs. Signs of late stage syphilis include difficulty coordinating muscle movements, paralysis, numbness, gradual blindness, and dementia.

Antibiotics can cure syphilis however using a condom correctly and consistently helps reduce the risk of it and other sexually transmitted infections. Some medical professionals believe that HIV safer sex messaging doesn't associate oral sex with high-risk behaviour, so some people don't realize that oral sex is high risk for STI's such as syphilis.

The only way to know if you have syphilis is to have a blood test. If

you do test positive, Public Health will inform your sexual contacts on your behalf without revealing your name. Additionally, if you haven't received your free vaccination for hepatitis A and B, ask your medical professional.

The only way to know if you have syphilis is to have a blood test.

! NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: First Friday of the Month

Gay Men's Health



Moncton Pink Party for Run for the Cure

By Paul H LeBlanc, River Of Pride CIBC's Run for the Cure (Moncton) benefited from River of Pride Inc.'s very successful Pink Pre-Pride Party, held on August 1 at Triangles. A pink decor overwhelmed the Moncton Run for the Cure Team of volunteers as they arrived to set up their information booth. A 50/50 draw allowed them to add even more funds for the

cause in addition to the donation offered by the ROP events committee. The arrival of "The PINK Lady," special guest and a notable reminder of Pride 9, wowed the outside crowd from the minute she stepped out of her car, and certainly got the party going inside as she stepped on the dance floor for a few twirls at its centre.

During the week leading up to

the event, Chairman Roger Poirier and Treasurer Greg LeBlanc made cheque presentations to SIDA AIDS Moncton, Crossroads, Safe Spaces and Canadian Cancer Society's Prostate Cancer division, all beneficiaries of the very successful 2009 Colour Party outreach program. River of Pride Inc. was presented a generous cheque from Downtown Moncton-Centre Ville Inc. at the Pride X press conference, held on July 15 at the Moncton Press Club.

River of Pride Inc. - Riviere de fierte inc. would like to offer appreciation and thanks to all its sponsors and community supporters for a very successful Pride X. Their logos and links will remain on our website (www.fiertemonctonpride.ca) and everyone is encouraged to support them in return.

A committee meeting was held shortly after Pride X wrapped, to



PINK LADY electrified the pink party

discuss what worked, what didn't and bring forward new ideas for Pride XI, as work has already begun for next year's celebrations.

September 20: Walk For Life

The 19th annual AIDS Walk for Life is quickly approaching. Once again thousands of Canadians will show their support for HIV/AIDS research and we would like you to be part of the action. This year, the St. John's Walk will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2009, at the Marquee, Quidi Vidi Lake.

Registration begins 12:30 p.m. and the walk starts at 2:00 p.m. There will be a barbecue, refreshments and live entertainment.

For information on other walk locations in the province or on how to be part of this event please call

ACNL at (709) 579-8656, toll-free at 1 (800) 563-1575 or by email at info@acnl.net.

Please feel free to pick up your pledge sheet at our main office, located at the Tommy Sexton Centre, 47 Janeway Place, St. John's. Your participation and passionate support are valued!

Mea Culpa

We had several mixups in the August issue. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience.

The Nancy Martinez article on Page 1 was written by Stef. Her web page is www.nancymartinez.ca.

Also, *We've Come a Long Way Baby* on Page 8 was written by: Susan Rose not Sarah Rose Werner should be Susan Rose.

In case you haven't noticed, Wayves needs proof readers! Please join our team. You don't have to come to meetings, it can be done online. Contact us at submissions@wayves.ca

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Contact Michelle Malette

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Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden

By Bethana Sullivan

A whole year has been lived since I wrote my first column. I am not much good at looking back—I don't remember the details or even much about the momentous life moments much less what has been written in the columns. I do recognize the pattern of the whole, however; the way words meander like a stream, finding shady nooks where thoughts and ideas are restless in their attempted expression at illumination yet mysterious and confusing; then, suddenly emerging into a rushing current of sunlight and understanding. In this moment life seems lived, an aah, I have it sensation. And I am so proud at my own creation! September is the time of year for me that signifies beginnings and endings; the harvest

in full swing, school starting, night coolness coming early, putting up jams and produce as bulwarks against the coming lean season are just a few of the signifiers of this turning of the wheel. The first year of our married life has passed in light and dark moments; we grow apart, we come together in a rhythm that is as natural to us as that of the seasons. So too is the rhythm of our community, the coming together of old friends and new, to celebrate our anniversary; while in the shadows lurks the memories of friends lost, moments missed, falls taken. I am looking for that illumination moment, trying to understand the meaning, significance or importance of the past year of columns and married life, yet some things are just mysterious. Things like

the diversity and eccentricity of the Eastern Shore where we live in gay connubial openness, wondering if danger lurks around the corner; or how is it that people are so kind and generous to each other yet a friendship is lost in the blink of an eye. Sometimes I just don't know! Mary Oliver, in her poem "At Blackwater Pond" writes: To live in this world you must be able to do three things: To love what is mortal; To hold it against your bones knowing Your own life depends on it And when the time comes to let it go, to let it go. And isn't this a sunlit moment yet mysterious too. How do we hold close and let go...sometimes think it is the letting go that is so difficult but this is because I am holding on for dear life as if the letting go will never happen.

Then again comes the thought don't hold on so tight because the letting go time will come. I cannot understand or deconstruct each line individually because each holds the truth of the other; I can only hear the wholeness of the poem, the wholeness of the year, the wholeness of life in its diversity and eccentricity, in its simplicity and its complexity. September does this to me as it draws me towards the beginning of a new year. It reminds me of the darkness and the light, the lean and the fat, to be afraid yet fearless and most of all it reminds me of faith. I often forget faith, preferring hope and love because faith lives in the corners, in the deep, in those places of the heart and life we may find difficult to embrace.



New Bylaws for Moncton Pride

Incorporated earlier this year, and now with new adopted bylaws, River of Pride Inc. will elect a new Board of Directors at its AGM, scheduled at La Teraz on Sunday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m.

The new bylaws encompass everything from membership, organization structure, offices of executive and board, standing committees, meeting procedures, voting procedures, and financial matters.

There will be two classes of members of the Association: "regular" and "associate."

A regular member is any individual resident of the counties of Kent, Westmorland or Albert, in the province of New Brunswick, who self-identifies as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, two spirit, intersex or transgender person, and who meets other

membership criteria as determined by resolution of the board of directors. Regular members are the life-blood of the Association and have ultimate authority to ratify all decisions made by the board of directors. Regular members have, among other rights, the right to notice of and to vote at all general, special or extraordinary meetings of the Association, to elect members of the board of directors, to appoint auditors of the Association and to approve reports and financial statements presented by the board of directors at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

An associate member is any individual, Association or corporation resident or having its office or place of business in the counties of Kent, Westmorland or Albert, in the province of New Brunswick, sympathetic

to the objects of the Association, who applies for associate membership and is approved as such by resolution of the board of directors. Associate members have no right to vote at any meeting of the Association but they have the right to attend all general, special or extraordinary meetings of the Association, to ask questions at such meetings and to provide feedback and support to the Association.

It is of the opinion of the current committee that these bylaws were required for the Association's future growth. Many thanks to lawyer John Trahan and current Treasurer Greg LeBlanc for the many hours of footwork to get the bylaws written, as well as other members of current executive who spent several hours tweaking them.

Under the new structure and bylaw guidance, the amount of time spent at meetings—a common complaint of volunteers—will be greatly reduced. With that in mind now is the time for YOU to come out to the AGM, become a member and let your name stand for election. Executive positions open for election will be a Chair, two Vice-Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary, Volunteer/Membership Coordinator, and Media Coordinator. Four Standing Committee Chairs—Fundraising/Sponsorship, Parade, Education/Outreach and Events—will also be elected.

For further information or any clarifications on these positions and



River of Pride delegation at Amberst flag raising

or the AGM, please contact us at riverofpride@hotmail.com.

Paul H LeBlanc Media Relations Coordinator www.fiertemoncton-pride.ca

ISCANS Starts the "Back 9"

By Nathan Boudreau

The time has come for your monthly shot... that is, your dose of upcoming events and happenings in the ISCANS world. Let's get the most important update out there: let me

confirm that Empress Boom Boom was, in fact, DUNKED at the after Pride parade celebrations. Oddly enough, there was no camera to be found for the dunking. The Empress and her Imperial Crown Prince were

also on the road in August, traveling to Hamilton, ON and Edmonton, AB for their annual Coronation Ball.

But as the title of this article suggests, we have made it halfway through our year and now we start the back side of it. September bring us a rather special show. Our monthly show that held at Menz Bar will be put on by our very our College of Monarchs. Our past Emperors and Empress will be out to entertain all of you, and I am sure some of your favourites will be out as well. Cover will be \$5.00 and the show is scheduled to start at 10:00 p.m.

ISCANS is also selling tickets for a chance to win a package to our annual Coronation weekend in February, 2010. The big prize consists of two nights in our host hotel (Atlantica) on the executive floor, two tickets to State Dinner, Coronation and Victory Brunch. The winner also gets free admission to the Out of Town Show that week. If you are interested, please see anyone on the Executive for tickets. They are only \$5.00 each.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, feel free to drop an email to our events office at events@imperialcourtns.com.

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"There comes a time when Autumn asks 'What have you been doing all summer?'"

Anonymous

Community Office
989 Young Avenue Phone: 444-3238
preyra@eastlink.ca, www.preyra.ca

White Party

Saturday, Sept. 5th
9 PM - 2 AM with DJ Bear

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom,

I've been feeling quite nostalgic of late; a number of occasions have taken me back in memory. Of course, our images of the past are always cast with a bit of a rosy glow, aren't they?

A friend and I came into HRM for Pride. It was his first Pride Parade so I kind of looked at everything through his eyes. And I couldn't help comparing this event of 70,000 people to the first, much smaller, marches that I took part in, before legal protection against discrimination for sexual orientation, before same-sex marriage, before Will & Grace, before we queers became chic and socially desirable. In the early days, I told him—trying desperately not to sound like a queer Grandpa Walton—there were no politicians except the NDP (Goddess bless Alexa McDonough who was there from the very beginning), no banks, no car dealerships, no corporate sponsors and the police participation consisted of providing security and controlling traffic. Nowadays, everyone wants to jump on the rainbow bandwagon. This year a most attractive young (aren't they all now!) police officer approached me and said, "You can probably help me. Do you know the route of the Pride Parade? I'm supposed to be on point duty but I haven't been given a map." He treated me with the kind of respect and humanity that once seemed like only a pipe dream. It's true that there are still many advances to be made but on Pride Day I kept thinking of the old Virginia Slims ad: We've come a long way, baby. I handed him an extra copy of the Pride Guide (with my phone number scribbled inside) and he thanked me and wandered off to do his duty. (And no, he hasn't called... yet.)

Then I ran into an old friend, the leader of the provincial Liberal party. Stephen McNeil and I met many years ago—before he became a politician and before I became an international celebrity. We exchanged pleasantries, enquired after each other's family and both had big smiles as the intoxicating atmosphere of Queer Pride entered our bloodstreams like cheap champagne. Political participation was big that day, Tom. For the first time an elected premier of Nova Scotia took part in the parade, newly elected Darrel Dexter of the NDP, along with HRM mayor, Peter Kelly, who as recently as a few years ago was criticized for not showing up at Pride events due to "previous engagements." There were, however, as far as I know, no representatives of the Conservative Party, and gosh we sure missed them! LOL

And the weather! When we set out in the morning from the Valley the previous day's weather front of driving rain and gusting wind seemed still to be in full vigour. By the time of the Parade's start time of 2:00 p.m. ("1:30 p.m. sharp," the guide said... but, really, in gay time 2:00 p.m. was early!) there was nary a

cloud in the sky! A note to politicians and lawmakers everywhere: Never, ever underestimate the power of thousands of homosexual men and women gathered together in common cause. We may not (yet) move mountains but we sure as hell can move threatening cloudbanks.

This week I heard one of the tracks of the new Whitney Houston CD. There was a time when I thought we had lost Ms. Houston's spirit for good. Remember those horrific public images of her, skeletally-thin and ill-looking? Well, now she has returned from the brink of hell and the voice is intact. I got quite a lump in my throat, Tommo. I know it is considered more sophisticated to be cynical, but to hear again that thrilling voice that I thought was lost to us forever seems like Amazing Grace! She sounded at times—and I've only heard one track—just the teensiest bit tentative, her confidence a bit shaky yet perhaps, but there are other moments when I wanted to raise my hand to heaven as if I had been raised in a Southern Baptist church.

Here's another bit of history that you may remember, Tom. Back in the glory days of the... well, I don't remember which decade... 70's? 80's?... there was a BBC series called Brideshead Revisited, based on the book by Evelyn Waugh, written some 40 years earlier about an eccentric, wealthy family of aristocrats. It was beautifully filmed and there was a definite, although somewhat diffuse, atmosphere of homoeroticism throughout the entire series. Well, now, there is a new book that shows that the family, upon whom the book was loosely based, were indulging in all kinds of illicit sexual behaviour, especially of the man-on-man kind. The earl of something or other, the father of the friend of the author of the book, used to "interview" prospective footmen and other men servants by running his hands over their buttocks and murmuring, "Yes, he'll do fine." Funny how even sexual impropriety seems tasteful when done by the Brits.

Love ya!

P.S. I'm off to Mexico in a few days so I'm busy translating the phrase, "Is that a mariachi band in your pants or do you just like gringos?"

Crawford

The Last Drag

By Rachel Boehm

Capital Health's Addiction Prevention and Treatment Services (APTS) and the IWK Health Centre have teamed up with OUT! Alive to offer tobacco-free programs in a safe zone this fall.

Anyone concerned about their tobacco use can come out for The Last Drag, a one-hour session that helps individuals make informed decisions about their smoking. They will also learn about the kind of support that is available to them through the APTS Tobacco Intervention Program.

Patrick Daigle, a clinical therapist with APTS and a member of the Rainbow community, leads The Last Drag sessions

and has seen the difference the program can make in people's lives. He urges individuals to come out and give The Last Drag a try. No prior commitment is required. "The Last Drag is geared to members of the LGBT community and their allies. In this safe zone, individuals in the Rainbow community can speak openly about the challenges they face when smoking. They are supported by others who may be facing similar challenges and cravings."

"In past Last Drag sessions, group members really enjoyed the supportive atmosphere," says Patrick. "They felt free to speak about personal situations that affect them around smoking, free from fear of judgment because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. They also very much enjoyed the acupuncture that is offered at the end of each group."

OUT!
Alive

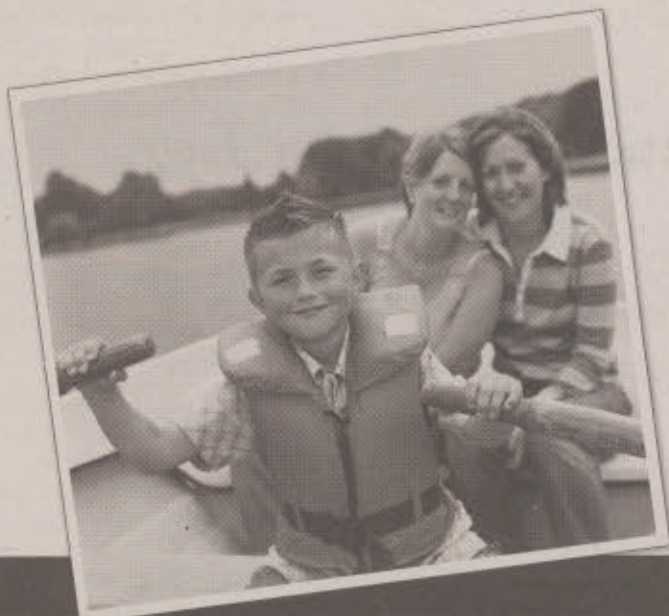
Acupuncture, which is offered by APTS throughout Capital Health district, has been shown to reduce stress and promote relaxation — factors that can contribute to success in maintaining lifestyle changes related to tobacco or substance use.

"To ensure that programming is offered in a zone that feels safe for members of the community, Last Drag sessions are offered at the Youth Project, a space known for its inclusive and welcoming atmosphere," says Patrick.

After attending a Last Drag session, participants may decide to take the next step and register for a four-week "Keeping it Going" group support program. They may also choose to use the nicotine patch or gum, provided free as part of this program.

The next Last Drag session will be offered on September 10 at 7 pm at the Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick Street. No registration required; just come on out and bring a friend!

To learn more about The Last Drag, please contact APTS' Tobacco Intervention Program at 424-2025 or visit us online at www.cdha.nshealth.ca/services/addictionprevention and select the menu option "Tobacco Intervention Program."



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Let's Make Cancer History

CCS Reaches Out to Queer Smokers

By Angus Campbell

The prevalence of smoking in the Canadian queer community has not been well documented, although data from other countries indicate that queers are more likely to smoke than the general population. The findings from a survey conducted by the Rainbow Tobacco Intervention Project in Toronto's LGBTIQ community show that 36% of participants smoked compared to 17% of non-queers. Smoking rates were reported for nine different sexual orientation and gender identity groups, including the first known data reporting on gender queer people.

The Canadian Cancer Society

(CCS) has launched online support for tobacco users to quit and stay tobacco-free. "Tobacco has been cited as the largest, preventable cause of lung cancer. We see www.smokershelpline.ca as a vital part of our organization's work towards cancer prevention and a healthier province overall," said Maureen Summers, Executive Director, CCS, Nova Scotia Division.

Additionally the CCS has published "Facts about Tobacco for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People: Reasons and Resources for Quitting Smoking". This pamphlet is being distributed to various queer and queer-friendly locations across Nova

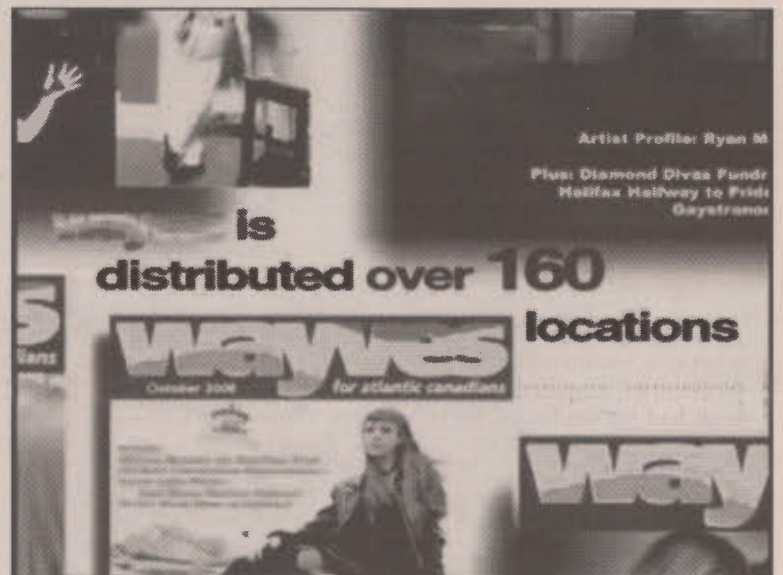
Scotia. It is also available online at www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/admin/news/files/LGB_Tobacco.pdf.

The pamphlet offers some insight as to why there are more smokers, especially young smokers, in our community. Potential reasons include homophobia and discrimination, accessing good healthcare and smoking cessation support, and the targeted marketing by tobacco companies.

If you're thinking of quitting, "Support is just a click or call away." Visit smokershelpline.ca or call 1-877-543-5333. In Newfoundland and Labrador the program is being offered by the Canadian Lung Association.

Wayves on OutTV

As part of a trade-ad deal with Outtv Wayves has launched a 30 second ad spot now airing on Outtv for the next 12 months. Wayves' managing editor Raymond Taavel acted as executive producer for the project in close collaboration with several people to get it from the drawing board to air. Wayves acknowledges Cam MacLeod (cover designs), Katey Day, singer, songwriter and local radio personality (script, voiceovers) and Michael MacDonald of Roadhouse Film Production (soundtrack) for graciously volunteering their time and considerable professional expertise. Check out Outtv or preview it on Facebook: Wayves magazine.



Maureen MacDonald

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Camp Out! Success

Camp Out! would like to thank all the volunteers, participants, presenters, musicians, and sponsors who helped make the event a wonderful success. Camp Out! took place July 17 – 19, 2009 at The Mermaid and the Cow campground in Pictou County, NS. Attracting over 30 participants from all over the region, ranging in ages between 7 and 70 and representing diverse backgrounds, the event celebrated and explored LGBTQ activism in the Maritimes.



Morning introductions and discussion around the campfire.

We began with a Friday evening camp fire where participants shared stories and introductions. Saturday morning began with a presentation on the history of the campground by Jane Morrigan, as well as a presentation of a Masters thesis, "Out Back

Home: An Exploration of Queer Identity & Community in Rural Nova Scotia," by Kelly Baker. Everyone headed down to the West Branch Community Hall for a burrito lunch, followed by a large group discussion sharing personal perspectives and brainstorming a long list of important LGBTQ discussion topics including prevalence of addictions in queer communities, immigrant queer experience, support for queer parents and families and sexism within queer communities. The large group then broke into smaller group discussions addressing issues such as trans-inclusion within the LGBTQ community, the continued significance of coming out stories, cultural diversity in the queer community, and internalized homophobia. Discussions lasted all afternoon but most groups wished they could have gone on much longer and that there was more time to spend on all the topics listed!

After an evening barbeque, Robin Metcalfe presented a very informative and inspiring slide show on Halifax's queer activist history up to the 1990's, including stories about the first gay rights demonstration in Halifax, radical feminist organizing in the 1970's and local activist response to the AIDS epidemic. For many of the younger members of the audience it

was the first time hearing these stories and for older audience members it was a chance to reminisce about shared experiences and join in the presentation with a cheer or a comment. We were also joined by River John resident Katherine Hughes, who

presented a clip of her 1989 audio art piece, "Blowing Up a Storm for Lesbian Liberation." Organizers and participants agreed there was some magic in the air when two celebrated Canadian authors showed up unexpectedly from the "Read by the Sea" event in Pictou. Wayson Choy and Shani Mootoo graciously spoke about their lives and work as out queer immigrant authors and Shani also read a moving excerpt from her new book, "Valmiki's Daughter." The evening



Small group discussions at the West Branch Community Hall

ended with performances by three talented singer/song-writers – Nova Scotia-born Sarah Mangle, PEI-born Tanya Davis, and Calgary-born Rae Spoon.

By all accounts Camp Out! met and exceeded expectations as an effort to bring diverse members of Maritime LGBTQ communities together. We saw the power of face-to-face interactions in establishing real dialogue, and to bridge gaps created by age, race, gender and urban versus

rural living.

The project was organized by a small group of enthusiastic volunteers, not affiliated with any specific organization. In the tradition of grass-roots organizing, we have received much support from our friends and community, including financial support from the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) and the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), along with generous in-kind donations from the Menz Bar, Wayves, CKDU, the Mermaid and the Cow and the West Branch Community Hall. Anyone interested in finding out more about the project can contact camp.out.2009@gmail.com and watch for the CampOut! zine launch, show and tell evening in late September.

First Person Queer Discussion Group

By Daniel Payne
The "First Person Queer" Discussion Group will be an inviting and safe place for bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered and otherwise queer

folk and their straight allies to discuss their personal journeys on integrating their sexuality into everyday life and spiritual community, as well as glean insight from and discuss-

ing the various essays in the book, *First Person Queer: Who We Are (So Far)*. The group is open to the general community. When: 7:00- 9:00 p.m. every other Wednesday evening

beginning October 7th Free. Where: The Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, 5500 Inglis Street. Registration and more information: rainbowfaith@disciples.com

ACNS Needs You

By Maria Mac Intosh, Executive Director AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

This year we need your support more than ever. Last year we did not reach our goal and we are setting out this year in hopes of not just reaching our goal but to exceed it. Your support ensures the continued success of the ACNS and assists us in offering high quality programs and services across

Nova Scotia.

In this past year we have risen to the challenge of supporting our members where we have been overwhelmed by a 43% increase in access to 'one on one' support sessions, increases in Health Fund requests and record numbers of new people walking through our door for help.

Our Health Fund, which is not supported by any government agency

or funding body, has an annual cost that exceeds \$44,000.00. By joining the Walk or supporting a walker you are helping us help others.

If you are not able to join as a walker to raise funds yourself, please consider supporting another walker on-line, its easy and your information will be safe.

For more about the walk: aids-walkforlife.ca/Halifax.htm

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Cont'd from Page 3

Tour Tech Post-Xmas Party Help

ACNS also needs numerous and diverse volunteers for next January's Tour Tech party. This annual invitation-only fundraiser features live performances of music industry leaders and benefits our support services for person's living with HIV/AIDS. From coat-check to clean up, and lots in between, we need lots of people for this very special night. For more info and to sign up contact Ned MacInnis at (902) 425-4882, ext 224, or email ps@acns.ns.ca.

Cont'd from Amherst, Page 3

moment in time, and is easily forgotten. We look forward to the rest of the year and so far, as we look ahead, there are lots of plans in the making. The Cumberland Pride Society is ready, and so is Amherst and area.

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QUEER ACTS Finds Room on the Halifax Stage

By Chad Smith

The QUEER ACTS Theatre Festival was a first for Halifax Pride, a brand new theatre festival celebrating queer theatre alongside the annual Pride festivities. With a line-up of shows from the queer theatre community, the project expanded Halifax Pride's cultural component and gave Halifaxians the opportunity to enjoy a variety of theatrical works.

The festival was not only a first for Halifax Pride, but was also the city's



Ian Mullan takes on the role of Hedwig, in the glam rock musical Hedwig and the Angry Inch

first ever queer theatre festival. Says festival coordinator Adam Reid, "For me queer culture and theatre have always gone hand in hand. Gay themes are often suppressed in popular culture, while the theatre offers queer artists an opportunity to make their voices heard." With sold out shows and full houses, it was clear that attendees were eager to hear those voices and the response was overwhelming. "From the earliest stages, all the performers were extremely enthusiastic about participating and got behind the project right away, so to see the community come out and really enjoy the plays and respond so favourably to every piece was truly gratifying."

The schedule included five productions with surprisingly diverse

themes and styles. Opening with Zuppa Theatre's Atlantic premier of "Very Secret Ceremony," the festival got off to a humorous and poignant start. The short new work from Zuppa Theatre saw three former school-mates convinced that their worlds were coming to an end and joining together to pave the way for whatever new world was to come. Susan Leblanc-Crawford, Ben Stone and Stewart Legere starred in the production, which director Alex McLean hopes to expand and develop.

One of two productions from Toronto, "Obaberima" starring Tawiah M'Carthy was a beautiful and affecting one-man show. Dealing with the struggle to maintain and define one's identity in a hetero-normative world, the piece's simple staging and design focused the audience's attention on the power of Tawiah's words and his skillfully precise movement.

Bringing her highly successful show back to Halifax was Mary Ellen McLean in "Frankie." A hit right across the country, this show set in Nova Scotia follows Frankie to her high school reunion, letting us meet her lively friends and family along the way. Mary Ellen McLean is nothing short of a treasure and her superb show deftly highlights her skill as both a writer and a performer.

The second production from Toronto, "I Was Barbie," starred transsexual celebrity Nina Arsenault. The hysterical and fascinating show was a first person account of her experience appearing as Barbie at a Toronto Fashion Week celebration of Barbie's 50th birthday. The performance clearly demonstrated that not only is Nina a beautiful woman but she has a sharp wit and a great deal of heart as well.

While the first four shows took place at the Bus Stop Theatre, the festival ended with a bang at the Paragon Theatre. For one night only the glam rock musical "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," starring Ian Mullan, tore up the stage. TRRASH's inaugural show was a rousing hit and made for a night of theatre that no one in attendance will

soon forget.

When asked about next year's QUEER ACTS festival Adam is hesitant to get into specific details about plans for the event but he is very enthusiastic about its continuation. "Queer Acts succeeded in drawing a lot of new people to Halifax Pride, and for that alone I feel the event is worthy of a repeat. We're trying to give the community every outlet possible to celebrate their pride. I think the fantastic work being created by artists in

and around the Halifax theatre community is one way to do that. This first year has been such an amazing success and learning experience that I know I'm not alone when I say that I can't wait for next year's event."

"We're trying to give the community every outlet possible to celebrate their pride"

Dr. Christine Marie Dishlin

May 19, 1964- August 20, 2009.

Last week, the LGBTQ community unexpectedly lost a dear friend. Dr. Christine Dishlin was born on May 19, 1964 in Halifax, NS to Bill & Marie Dishlin. She passed away last week due to MS related complications. She was a pharmacist. She was a strong supporter of LGBTQ causes both in Halifax and throughout Canada. During the 1990's, she was the creator and moderator of the SATles (or Lesbians over 30) group. SATles was created at a time when LGBTQ social organizations rarely existed. She helped a lot of women who were coming out later in life. Several of the women from her group met their future partners through their participation in SATles; many of whom are now married and have started families together. During her time with SATles, she met many lesbians who were still coming out of



the closet, many of whom needed a support system. Some were starting their lives over again, and many were afraid, alone, and struggling. She even saved a few lives from depression and suicide, due to her calm, gentle and reassuring manner. She is a testament to those who struggle or who have struggled with sexuality. She was living proof that you can be out and proud, while still being able to lead a rich and colourful life. She was also my best friend and an extraordinary person. I miss you dearly Christine. Until we meet again on the other side, I will honour your memory here on earth, forever. Rest in peace my dear friend.

Our last reader survey showed that nearly half of Wayves' readers are women. But only ONE woman helps steer the magazine on our Board! Get involved at: submissions@wayves.ca

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Halifax Pride 2009 in Pictures

Photo Collage by Anita Martinez.

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Blast From The Past



A beach trip during The Third Annual Wild Women Don't Get the Blues, 1985. We climbed down a steep cliff behind a church to a private beach on the North Shore just past Toney River, we picked some mussels, then steamed them on this beach. We had body paint and that a light plane found us somewhat interesting and passed by a few times.

Pride PEI

By ARCPEI

Pride 2009 was held this year from July 3 to 11. This year's theme was "We Are Family" and as such the majority of the community events were very much appropriate for the entire family.

This year we are pleased to say we had the largest pride parade in P.E.I. history. Many came out across the Maritimes celebrate Pride with us in true Island style. ARC PEI would like to extend a hearty thank-you to all who participated and for those who took the time to travel to our great Island to celebrate with us.

This year's events were all well-attended, with the highlight being the

Power Party held at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. Our great music and state of the art light show was surely the crown jewel of events for the week of celebration. Each year we build on what we have done in years before—after all, it is Pride and we should celebrate!

ARC PEI would like to thank all of the volunteers who have assisted with not only our regular dance parties but for Pride 2009. Without our volunteers, community events would not be possible.

For up-to-date information on our events and dance parties for the fall please check our website at www.arcopei.com.



PEI parade day photos taken by Mike Walsh and Peter Iveson

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Dante's Cove S2



DL Chronicles



Visit OUTtv.ca for show times.

Chef's Corner



Growing up in New Brunswick has influenced many aspects of my life. The rich Acadian culture inherited from my grand parents Cormier seems to come through in a lot of my cooking. Much of my interest in cooking steamed from watching and then helping my grandmother Telorise cook. In my formative years, memere still cooked many of the traditional regional Acadian dishes. There were always lots of hearty soups and stews, boiled dinners and fresh baked breads. My grand father, Leo, who grew up on a farm in Memramcook, worked most of his adult life for the CNR, yet always

managed to tend to a garden of some size no matter if it was only a patch next to the back door. The strong Acadian tradition of farming stayed alive and well right up to peperc's last days. The soup that I offer you in this recipe was always a family summer time favourite and truly lives up to its name. If you translate it word for word it means, "big soup from the little garden."

Chef Darren is Chef/Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, 1537 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S. Voted "Establishment of the Year 2008" by the Nova Scotia Association of Chefs and Cooks; awarded two out of three stars "Where to Eat in Canada 2009"; new member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs International." Reservations (902) 420-9626.

"Grosse Soupe du Petit Jardin" (Hearty Garden Patch Soup)

- 12 cups Ox tail or beef shank broth
- 2 yellow cooking onions (small dice)
- 3 Tbsp reserved pan drippings (or butter)
- 1 shallot (minced)
- 2 stalks celery (small dice)
- 2 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1Tbsp salted herbs (cured chives & parsley)
- 2 carrots (small dice)
- 2 parsnips (small dice)
- 1 cup turnip (small dice)
- 2 cups shredded cabbage
- 1 cup sweet peas
- 1 cup string beans (cut in 1/2 inch sections)
- 1 cup corn off the cob
- 2 cups chopped garden greens (beet tops, chard, spinach)

Method

1. Heat a large stockpot on med-high heat, add the fat, onions, shallots, garlic, celery, carrots, parsnips, turnip and cabbage. Sauté these ingredients until the onions and cabbage are translucent.
2. Add the salted herbs, beans, peas and corn as well as the beef broth. Bring the soup to the boil, then simmer for 1 hour.
3. At this time add the chopped greens, bring back to the boil long enough to cook the greens.

Serving suggestions

This soup was always served in big earthenware bowls with a dollop of salted herbs on top and fresh homemade crusty bread. Enjoy!

Lay Chaplaincy Services

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Ian's Advice

By Ian Mullin

Dear Ian: I am a 33 year old gay man who recently begun dating a 23 year old guy. We have been on three dates so far, and things are going great. He tells me that I'm really sweet and that he really likes me. I feel the same way about him. My problem though is that I have been in this situation with different guys (almost always considerably younger than I am by the way) tons of times over the years. Things never work out for more than a couple months. I can't help but assume that things will end up the same

way. this time, even though I'm very happy now. How do I deal with being old and jaded while he is young and optimistic. Signed Optimistic, Lonely and Dandy.

Dear Optimism: Your age difference is reasonable. More than a decade and you're pushing it, under five years and I don't think you should consider it worthy of mention. But people are probably going to notice right? You're going to naturally look more haggard than him and, when

it comes down to it, you were raised in different realities. For you coming out in high school was just not done - 1993? He may have been out since high school. Happily out in High School if I believe my siblings who seem to have out gay friends and are still juveniles. You mention that you've been in the same situation "tons of times" over the years but they never work out for more than a couple months. The common factor in that story is you. Is he meeting you in the middle and being more mature for your sake, or are you acting like a 23 year old and that's why you keep dating younger men? Could you see yourself with a 43 year old man? Because in order for this to last he needs to see himself with one - you in ten years. A relationship with an age difference is still a relationship. If you focus on the age difference as an issue then it will be an issue. If when you mention dating younger men you mean they are always ten years younger, then fine eventually a ten year difference will work out. But if this a trend--as in at twenty-five you dated twenty-three at twenty-nine you dated twenty-three at thirty-one you dated twenty-three. Then eventually you're going to need to mature past twenty-three, or start shelling out cash for some hos. Even if you don't think you're doing it, you might not looking for a younger model but looking for a fresh start. Did you come out at around 20-23? Are you focused on that age because of it? Maybe. Just sayin'. Of course this leaves the guy out of it, ignores my straight readership and is waaay too cynical. Just return the favour, when he expresses his love express it back. Take the days at face value, and double check--are you with younger guys because that's your taste, or is it fate that brought you together and one happens to be younger? Keep stock that I'm 8 years younger than my boyfriend and I think he's the bees knees...age difference is only the problem if you think it is.

Got a problem you might be looking for advice on? Email Ian at ian@trrrash.com

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Sex Work 101: Understanding and Supporting Sex Workers

by Bill McKinnon

It's hard to measure exact GLBT involvement in sex work but a significant number have a connection with the sex trade in Atlantic Canada directly or indirectly: lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.

Sex work has its ups and downs, and ins and outs, so to speak. On the plus side, it pays better than many jobs and much more than social assistance. It's a trade which allows independence, especially for street-based sex workers and flexibility not available in most employment. Inside workers may be restricted and controlled by others but street workers are usually their own boss, set their own hours and work or not work as they choose.

There is, however, a downside. Sex workers may suffer (unreported) violence, especially from clients under 35. It is largely a myth that sex workers are abused by pimps for most don't

have them, but they may be assaulted, raped and even murdered by "johns". Sex work is not illegal but one can be arrested for soliciting, living off the avails of prostitution, etc. In Halifax, sex workers may be harassed by the police and their movements restricted

by a ridiculous and draconian method of control called "boundaries" which keeps them from going where they may need to go. Police action against johns is also a threat as the good ones stay away but the bad johns, who harm workers, remain. Sex workers may also be stigmatized, treated as a non-person and deprived of basic human rights by the police, the courts, the media, pressure groups

and a society which often views sex workers as disposable. There are also sexually transmitted infections to guard against.

Another factor is governmental and societal hypocrisy. Firstly, laws condemning sex work discriminate against poor people and favour the rich. Secondly, it's criminal unless it's done under the cover of a massage parlour or escort service.

Stepping Stone, a "people-first" not-for-profit association which helps sex workers in a non-judgmental manner, held a day-long workshop called Sex Work 101 at St. Mary's University, in Halifax on June 26. The excellent program and speak-

ers provided the approximately 80 people in attendance with very valuable information. Many of us came away with myths and misconceptions dispelled and an enhanced respect, understanding and concern for the world's oldest profession.

What needs to be done? Sex workers agree that the restrictive boundaries measures must stop immediately. They also insist that the abuse, stigmatization and dehumanization of sex workers by the police, the courts and the media cease, and we must work towards better public awareness of the truth and towards all offences related to prostitution being removed from the criminal code. New Zealand's approach to sex work is excellent; let's follow it.

How can you and I help? Find out more about Stepping Stone at www.steppingstonens.ca and give them your support. Read the hard-hitting

book, "Sex Workers in the Maritimes Talk Back," by Leslie Ann Jeffrey and Gayle MacDonald (UBC Press, 2006). Read \$PREAD Magazine (www.spreadmagazine.org), become an ally to sex workers. And write to elected officials such as city councillors, mayors, provincial MLA's MPP's or MHA's, federal MP's, and to the media.

Finally, to quote Stepping Stone, "Stepping Stone believes that all individuals have the right to self determination; that sex workers have the basic right to safety and access to services regardless of their occupation...." And, as one worker wrote, "My worst time, when I was down and out, Stepping Stone was a safe haven for me."

The excellent program and speakers provided the approximately 80 people in attendance with very valuable information

Coming Out To My Parents

By Tre James Lamkin

On July 19, 2008 I decided come out. It was my birthday. I was sick of not being me. I never seemed to enjoy life. I knew who I was and was sick and tired of everyone telling me I was someone different.

To my father I was going to be the next star football player. To my mother I was already God's gift to her.

I told my mother I was gay one day when I was with grandmother. My grandmother already knew—for some reason it was easier to tell her first, instead of my mother and father. One day my grandmother and I went

to the country and before we did I wrote a letter to my mother. I told her how much I loved her and how much she meant to me, and at the end I let her know I was gay, that I was still her child. That I was still the

"There's plenty of fish in the ocean, babe, and you're young."

same Tre.

After that I felt like everything was fine, and the world was now mine to discover. After the trip with my grandmother I walked into the house and went right up into my room. My mother was standing in the hallway, putting in her earrings to go to a party. She slowly turned, walked in my room and said, "So it was that much trouble to say you were gay?" And then she

laughed.

I didn't know what to think. My mother came over, hugged me and said "Tre, I love you and nothing will change that. Besides, I've known forever anyway." Now, I don't know if all mothers would just say that just to make themselves seem all-knowing (which they act like they do) or if my mother really did mean what she said.

Later I was sitting around with on my laptop computer, and my father came up the stairs. Man-to-man conversations with my father were always hard and I felt what was coming might be unbearable. I stood up and snuck downstairs to avoid him. As I stood there in the living room by the television, my father came down after me and asked, "Do you hate me?" I pretended like nothing was wrong, smiling and laughing, and asked him, no, why? My father looked at me and said "Bro, your mother just told me everything up stairs, and do you think I give a shit? Anyone has a problem tell them to come see me and I'll tell them yes, my son is gay. You got a problem?"

I was shocked... but in a good way. He looked at me and said, "I love ya, man," and gave me the biggest handshake.

After all this I could not believe how well it all turned out. It was like I was a free person. I felt great, like nothing could hold me back and I could do anything.

A few weeks later I joined a gay youth group where I met my first boyfriend. After we dated for a few weeks I told my folks. They were happy for me and they wanted to meet him, but since he didn't live in Halifax it was hard for us to see each other, usually only a few times every two or three weeks. One day, after about five weeks, I was talking with my mother, discussing if my boyfriend might come over for the night. I went online to see if he was on. I signed into Facebook and saw I had a message. In a few short words I was devastated: "Tre, it's over." When

I read it I started to cry. Thankfully, though, my mom was right there by my side, holding me while I cried. "There's plenty of fish in the ocean, babe, and you're young," she said.

"You know what, Mom? I answered. "You're right. Why am I the one here all upset? It's his loss."

Review

Coming Out, Coming In: Nurturing the Well-Being and Inclusion of Gay Youth in Mainstream Society By Linda Goldman Published by Routledge (www.routledgehealth.com) ISBN # 0-415-95824-5

Review by Ralph Higgins

Every queer man and woman knows the pain of coming out. No matter how enlightened our parents, how supportive our friends, coming out remains a difficult process and one that has a great impact on our self-esteem and how we view our place in the world. It is a common misapprehension that in these times of same-sex marriage and legal protections that the process has become easier for young people, that it is no longer a big deal. Yet there are reports almost daily of harassment at school and rejection by family and friends. And queer bashing and suicide because of sexual orientation or gender identity continue to be real threats. All these issues can create a feeling of despair and helplessness, not only for queer youth but for those of us who would like to help but don't know how. Coming Out, Coming In: Nurturing the Well-Being and Inclusion of Gay Youth in Mainstream Society provides the necessary knowledge and strategies for making the lives of queer youth happier and more

I always said after all the little relationships I would go through I would not look for love anymore, that love would come in time. And I was right. In June of this year I started dating a wonderful and amazing guy, and in August it will be two months together.

fulfilled along with guidelines that we, queer and straight members of society, can and must do to protect and nurture these most vulnerable young men and women.

Author Linda Goldman is a grief counsellor, teacher, therapist and the parent of a queer young person so she knows her territory. In clear language, devoid of academic jargon, she tackles the myths of homosexuality, the obstacles and support for queer youth, parenting, relationships and all the many and varied issues that confront queer people on a daily basis. The book is filled with the personal accounts of queer boys and girls, giving us a firsthand account of the joys and sorrows met with on the road to self-acceptance. There are unforgettable stories here, from the suicide note of a bullied seventeen year old left for his parents that said, "I love you. I can't take it anymore," to the coming out journey of another young man who remarked finally, "This was absolutely the most emotional thing I had ever done. I was relieved and happy and filled with joy."

Goldman never preaches, instead letting us hear the actual voices of the young men and women who deal not only with sexuality but also with race, body image, religion, gender stereotypes, economic and ethnic background. Although written from an American perspective, the themes are universal and there is information here for teens, parents, educators, family, friends and therapists. Coming Out, Coming In is essential reading for everyone who cares about queer youth and about our future as a society.





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WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

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

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces.

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

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

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

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

Healing Our Nations: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: director@accesswave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Healing Our Nations staff meet once on a weekly basis. Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

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

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays: Email list-serv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca

ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

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

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

Spectrum: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unbf.ca/clubs/spectrum, meets on Friday during the school year (See webpage for location.)

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

Moncton

AIDS Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

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

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

River Of Pride: Organizes, promotes and produces Moncton's Pride events!. email: monctonriverofpride2008@gmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca (every second Sunday evening, to discuss upcoming events and activities, everyone is welcome to attend. check out time / location posted on website) at Triangles bar 234 St. George St. Moncton NB

Safe Spaces Moncton Region: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049

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

Mount Allison University, Sackville

Catalyst: Catalyst, Mt. A's Queer-Straight Alliance, provides support & information for all Mt. A students, staff, and faculty through meetings, seminars, and social events. Everyone is welcome. email: catalyst@mta.ca web: www.mta.ca/clubs/catalyst/ (Catalyst meets approximately every week from Sept-Dec and Jan-April. For meeting info contact the president at catalyst@mta.ca or the Students' Administrative Council at sac@mta.ca.)

Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG): A bilingual volunteer association serving gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of northern New Brunswick. email: info@gngnb.ca web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG

club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBTQ2IQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

Saint John

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

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

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com, meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St

PFLAG: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (506)648-9700 or 648-9227 email: saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn, meets 1st Friday (1st Friday of each month September - June from 7:00-9:00 p.m. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

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

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

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

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

Woodstock

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Informa-

tion or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gemmahickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's

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

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

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

St. John's Pride: St. John's Official Pride Organization. 709-746-6564

Nova Scotia (902)

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

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

Hepatitis Outreach Society: Since 1999 the Hepatitis Outreach Society has been providing support, education and prevention information for those infected and affected by hepatitis in the province of Nova Scotia. 420-1767 in HRM or 1-800-521-0572 email: info@HepatitisOutreach.com web: www.HepatitisOutreach.com at Our office is located at 2973 Oxford Street, between Liverpool and Cork streets. Please call to make an appointment or email Program@HepatitisOutreach.com.

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

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society:

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

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

Amherst & Area

The Cumberland Pride Society: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Sunday (2-4pm)

Sexual Health Centre Cumberland County: Open and inclusive services: information, education, workshops, free condoms. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.alianzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.cfsh.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive. Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms.

Antigonish

X-Pride: social & support group at X. 867-

5007 web: www.stfx.ca/people/xpride

Bridgewater

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.LunCo.cfsh.info (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead.) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

South Shore Pride Social Club: for 19 & older. 530-5986 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca, meets 3rd Saturday (--- dances --- 9:00PM to 1:00AM) at Call or email for location.

Halifax

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

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)425-4882 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

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

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: affirmingcongregation@bedfordunited.com web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. Call to confirm worship times as occasionally we have a 10 am combined service. Summer service at 10 am from June 21 - Sept. 6 inclusive) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

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

Bluenose Bears (BnB): BnB is a private men's membership based social group for Bears and their admirers. Membership Fees are \$5 for a year. Event Fees are \$1 for Members and \$2 for Guests. Email for more info!. email: BluenoseBears2008@yahoo.ca (Social Gatherings are generally held once a month, on a Tuesday evening.) at Menz Bar (often) but venues vary. Sorry, no 'drop ins'. Members and their Guests only!!

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

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

Park Street.

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

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

Hal-Gal Mailing List: Low-traffic Yahoo group providing events and information for queer women in the Halifax area. email: hal-gal@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal/ (Join the list to keep in touch or post your events.)

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 455-9656 web: www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca

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

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Call or email Pastor Elaine for more information. 876-8771 email: koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca (bi-weekly at 12:30pm) at Halifax Feast, Maritime Centre

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

Mount Pride: GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@yahoogroups.com, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 12 noon) at The Diversity Center in Roseria on campus, and online (see email) 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.

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

Outlaw: GLBTQ & Allies Law Students

Association at Dalhousie Law School. email: chad.skinner@dal.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2416842853 (Meetings vary. Please email for further information or check out our Facebook group.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (902-431-8500) at Halifax Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St

Play Group for Queer Families: 422-8780 (3-5pm) at Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week.

Pride Week: Producers of Atlantic Canada's largest LGBTQ cultural festival. 431-1194 email: info@halifaxpride.ca web: www.halifaxpride.ca (July 19 - 26, 2009)

Quakers: Quakerism emphasizes that we all manifest the Divine. 429-2904 web: halifax.quaker.ca, meets every Sunday at Library at Atlantic School of Theology, Franklyn St. All very welcome.

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

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

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

Spirituality For Lesbians: We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. 459-2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

Team Halifax: All GLBT over 18, athletes and performance artists, as well as anyone willing to help out. 422-9510 web: www.teamhalifax.com (No fixed schedule

at this time, look on website for further details.)

The Youth Project: Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (6-9pm) at 2281 Brunswick Street. 25 and under. Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events. 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,

Trans Family Nova Scotia: We are the Parents, Partners, Family, Friends & Allies of Trans-Identified Individuals. supporting one another. 902-431-8500 email: transfamily@eastlink.ca, meets 3rd Monday (6:30 to 8:30 pm) at The Youth Project (2281 Brunswick St., Halifax)

Universalist Unitarian Church: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500 email: uuchurch@eastlink.ca web: UUCH.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30; see website for special events) at 5500 Inglis St

Kentville

Red Door, The: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 web: thered-door.ca (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 150 Park Street

Kingston

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

Lunenburg

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

en's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

Middleton

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

New Glasgow

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: 695-3366 email: youth.access@ns.sympatico.ca

Pride of Pictou County: All GLBT in Pictou County. web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

New Minas / Annapolis Valley

Valley Youth Project: Sexual Orientation. Gender Identity. Allies. Youth. email: valleyyouthproject@gmail.com (6-8:30 most Wednesdays through May) at New Minas Civic Center, 9209 Commercial St. Ages 25 & under. Free bus tickets available. Free food. Fun activities. Join us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995>

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT2IQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-list-e.asp?RegionNo=6&ProvAbbr=NB, meets 2nd monday (Phone or e-mail for meeting location and details.) at Sackville: 112 Main Street or Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

Sydney

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@accb.ns.ca, christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

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

Group Harrison Society: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. (902)371-8752 web: groupharrison-societydancespi.piczo.com, meets every Saturday (of every month Admission \$6.50 -\$5.50 for members- Restricted 19 yrs and over) at 780 Upper Prince Street Horizon Achievement Centre (Kinsmen), Sydney PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneys@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month at 7:30pm. No meetings for July and August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

Pride Cape Breton Society: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: info@pridecapebreton.com web: pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

Tatamagouche

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

Truro

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre: Provides support and information to anyone (GBLTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive

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

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 662.3774

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

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment): Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 893-6300 email: lyoung@nsac.ns.ca (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

Truro Pride: A group supporting GLBT individuals in the Colchester County. 895-0931 email: truropride@hotmail.com, meets every Wednesday (6:30 p.m.) at FairTrade Cafe on Prince Street, between Commercial and Dominion Streets.

Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGBT2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiu.ca web: euler.acadiu.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

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

Prince Edward Island (902)

AIDS PEI: AIDS PEI creates a supportive environment for PHA's to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 144 Prince Street Charlottetown, PE C1A 2R6

ARC -- Abegweit Rainbow Collective: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.com, meets 2nd Tuesday (7:30 PM) at 144 Prince Street

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

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

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pflagpei@eastlink.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca, meets 3rd Tuesday at Ferry Road Centre, 24 Ferry Road, Cornwall, PE or Stratford City Hall check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.

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September Happenings!

NEW BRUNSWICK

Fredericton

Boom! Nightclub, 474 Queen, Fredericton. 506-463-BOOM (2666).

THU: dance karaoke. FRI: CIRCUS = house trax, go-go dancers. SAT: POWER = mainstream dance. SUN: live bands & DJs. Latest info: boomnightclub.ca.

Moncton

Every Thursday

LGBT AND FRIENDS VOLLEY BALL! École carrefour de l'acadie gym. No experience required. Info: Rodge at 204-4704 and Oscar at 955-9217 \$5.00 / player includes refreshments.

Tous les jeudis

VOLLEY BALL POUR LGBT et AMI-E-S. École carrefour de l'acadie. Aucune expérience requise. Infos: Roger 204-4704 ou Oscar 955-9217. \$5.00 / joueur (rafraîchissements inclus)

Third Monday of each month

PFLAG Moncton has monthly support meeting from 7:30-9:30 in room 302 of the Adrien-J.-Cormier bldg at U de M campus. Everyone is welcome at our meetings.

Last Saturday

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

TRIANGLES, 234 St George Street, Moncton NB E1C 5B1, (506)857-8779 Wednesday - Free pool with happy hour all night. Learn to line dance FREE with Jean-Marc - starts at 8:30, followed by Karaoke at 11:00. The Wednesday card club still meets at 8:30 also. Thursday - House Party with DJ's Sonny D and Just Jack at 11:00. \$4.00 cover. Student's get staff prices all night with student card. Friday - it's request night. Dance to all your favourite tunes all night long. Cover \$5.00 Saturday - Best dance music in town with DJ daBoss. No cover till 10:00. Happy hour till 11:00. Admission \$6.00. Sunday - Free pool and happy hour all night. Monday & Tuesday - Closed. Check out our monthly event page at www.trianglesbar.com and keep up to the Pride events - www.fiertemonctonpride.ca

Saint John

Element Dance Bar

August Pride Events - 112 Prince William Street, 506-657-5730 - www.elementdancebar.ca

NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax

Sep 11, 2009

8:00pm I'm Coming! A Guide to Women's Orgasm cost: \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) audience: everyone. Details at www.venusenvy.ca

Sep 15, 2009

7:00pm Going Down: A Guide to Fellatio cost: \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) audience: everyone. Details at www.venusenvy.ca

Sep 29, 2009

7:00pm Erotic Talk - Talking Dirty for Women cost: \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) audience: women. Details at www.venusenvy.ca

September 27

Mark your calendars. The 2009 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life. Get started with the fundraising early. Call Laura at 425-4882 x 228 or email walk@acns.ns.ca to register. Help us help others with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

MENZ BAR, 2182 Gottingen St, Level II, www.MenzBar.ca (902) 446-6969

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Mondayz "NEW" Trivia Night with Ross - Sponsored by Moosehead Breweries from 7:30 till 10pm 2 for \$6 Night (Two 20oz Draught or Two Domestic Beer or any Two Well Shots)! & All SHOOTERS \$2.50 - TOONIE Tuesdayz Buy any Beer, Draught, Well Shot or Liquor at the regular price and get a 2nd for only \$2.75 & All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Tuesdayz - "NEW" Monthly DQ Bingo 3rd Tuesday of every month! (6pm-8pm) hosted by Mz Vickie in support of MANA for Health Food Bank, "FULL CARD" starting at 50 numbers" GRAND PRIZE Private Party for 20 on a Friday of your choice, prize includes FREE PARTY ROOM, ONE FREE ROUND OF DRINKS, HORS D'OEUVRES AND FREE ADMISSION! Value \$450.00 & 50/50 draw

Wednesdayz Karaoke with DJ Bear from 9:30pm till 1:30am. Door Prizes, Drink Specials, Week End Bar Passes, Toonie Tune JACK POT min. \$200 & GROWING! Mystery Song is \$300, 1st Prize \$25, 2nd Prize \$50 & All SHOOTERS \$2.50.

- Thursdayz POOR BOY Night - 60oz Pitcher of Draught ONLY \$13.50, TEQUILA SHOTS ONLY \$3.75, All SHOOTERS \$2.50 & FREE HOT DOGS with Drink

Purchase all night long!

- Fridayz Dance Party with house DJ Bear or DJ JOEY. FREE Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

- Saturdayz Dance Party with house DJ Bear or DJ JOEY. FREE Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

- Sundayz "NEW" The DEBBIE DOES MENZ Drag Show, Sponsored by HARD LINE & OUTLOOK, 9pm till 11pm (1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of every month) \$4 Cover, Door Prizes, Bar Specials, and FREE \$20 HARDLINE CALLING CARD with purchase of 60oz pitcher of Draught!

- Sundayz ISCANS Drag Show, 9pm till 11pm, (last Sunday of every month) \$5 Cover, Door Prizes, Bar Specials, and FREE \$20 HARDLINE CALLING CARD with purchase of 60oz pitcher of Draught!

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

Friday September 4 - Retro Remix Party (80's & 90's) with "DJ BEAR" Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Saturday September 5 - White Party with DJ BEAR (Dress Code Encouraged - \$100 participation PRIZE with Mz Rouge Fatal - aka Mz Menz Bar)

Sunday September 6 - The "DEBBIE DOES MENZ" Drag Show, Sponsored by HARD LINE & OUTLOOK, 9pm till 11pm \$4 Cover, Door Prizes, Bar Specials, and FREE \$20 HARDLINE CALLING CARD with purchase of 60oz pitcher of Draught! Followed by TOP 40 DANCE PARTY with DEBBIE till CLOSE!

Monday September 7 - "NEW" Trivia Night with Ross - Sponsored by Moosehead Breweries from 7:30 till 10pm, 2 for \$6 Night (Two 20oz Draught or Two Domestic Beer or any Two Well Shots)! & All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Monday September 7 - Featuring "Double Duty DJ BLAKE" - 10pm till 10pm All Requests, All Night Long... (Just a LOONIE per Request!) NO COVER plus... 2 for \$6 Night, Sponsored by MOOSEHEAD Breweries

Friday September 11 - Dance Party with house DJ JOEY J. FREE Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Saturday September 12 - Dance Party with house DJ JOEY J. FREE Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Sunday September 13 - The DEBBIE DOES MENZ Drag Show, Sponsored by HARD LINE & OUTLOOK, 9pm till 11pm \$4 Cover, Door Prizes, Bar Specials, and FREE \$20 HARDLINE CALLING CARD with purchase of 60oz pitcher of Draught!

Thursday September 17 - An evening with Song master "BO", 8pm till 11pm, \$5 Cover, 60oz Moose Draught only \$13.50, Tequila Shots \$3.75, Shooters \$2.50 & Free Hot Dogs all night long!

Friday September 18 - Dance Party with house DJ JOEY. FREE Cover

before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Saturday September 19 - Dance Party with house DJ BEAR. FREE Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Sunday September 20 - DQ Bingo (6pm-8pm) hosted by Mz Vickie in support of MANA for Health Food Bank, "FULL CARD" starting at 50 numbers" GRAND PRIZE Private Party for 20 on a Friday of your choice, prize includes FREE PARTY ROOM, ONE FREE ROUND OF DRINKS, HORS D'OEUVRES AND FREE ADMISSION! Value \$450.00 & 50/50 draw

Sunday September 20 - The DEBBIE DOES MENZ Drag Show, Sponsored by HARD LINE & OUTLOOK, 9pm till 11pm \$4 Bar, Door Prizes, Bar Specials, and FREE \$20 HARDLINE CALLING CARD with purchase of 60oz pitcher of Draught!

Thursday September 24 - DaPoPo Cafe back in September with refreshed theatre-y goodness for our usual last Thursday of the

month. Show time 7pm till 11pm. info: dapopo@dapopo.org or 420-1395 <http://cafedapopo.blogspot.com/2009/07/july-2309.html>

Friday September 25 - Dance Party with house DJ BEAR. FREE Cover before 10pm (\$5 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Saturday September 26 - Dance Party with award winning DJ "SONNY D". FREE Cover before 10pm (\$7 after 10pm). Happy Hour from 3pm till 10pm! All SHOOTERS \$2.50

Sunday September 27 - Halifax Pride 2010 Monthly "ALL U CAN EAT" Pancake & Sausage Brunch Fundraiser, (11am till 2:30pm) suggested donation \$10 or what you can spare!

Sunday September 27 - ISCANS Drag Show, 9pm till 11pm, (last Sunday of every month) \$5 Cover, Door Prizes, Bar Specials, and FREE \$20 HARDLINE CALLING CARD with purchase of 60oz pitcher of Draught!

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The Last Word

The Three F's

By Randall Perry

If you go by the Staples ads on television, apparently this is the most wonderful time of the year. At this point, sitting at my writing desk, it's the beginning of August and summer is only half over... but in the marketing world, it's Back to School season already. I shouldn't be surprised. The publishing world also works on an accelerated timeline: for many writers it's almost already too late to submit pieces about Christmas!

But I digress. September is here and summer is all but over and the Pride gew-gaws have been packed away for another season. A new school year is beginning and now it's back to the three R's. And for many kids growing up gay, it's also the beginning of bullying season, where lessons in the three F's are generously handed out.

"The three F's?" you ask. Indeed. Three of the most effective words in the bully's arsenal: faggot, fruit, fairy.

I was a victim of bullying through-

out my school years. It started in elementary school shortly after my family moved back from Toronto and I was enrolled in grade 3. I was a "come-from-away": a new kid, complete with lisp. I was ripe for teasing, and teasing is what I got. Problem is, it didn't stop with simple teasing. Each year, the tormenting ramped up in frequency and intensity, and from the beginning of grade 7 to the day I graduated from high school not a day went by when I wasn't verbally harassed or physically assaulted. It didn't matter where it happened or whether or not it was in front of a teacher. It happened. Every. Single. Fucking. Day.

And there was nothing I could do about it. This was the era of clichéd platitudes: "Well, when they're teasing you they're leaving someone else alone." "Just ignore them and they'll go away." "Maybe they're just jealous because you've got good marks." And my favourite (this one from a teacher!): "Maybe if you didn't act like such a sissy, you wouldn't get

picked on."

I relate this little bit of my life history not as a sympathy ploy, but as a reminder that school bullying is not a recent phenomenon, something tidily solved by wearing pink shirts and 6-year-olds holding hands to a chorus of "Kumbaya." The trend I've noticed over the past few years is that the issue burns hot in the media for the month of September and sometimes into October, then the stories inevitably die when sufficient air time and printer's ink is used up for problem presentation, talking-head analysis, and the inevitable conclusion that "something must be done."

Where am I going with this little rant? Honestly, I don't know. School bullying is a difficult topic for me to approach objectively. I'm not a psychologist or an educator; I'm not a politician and I'm certainly not in any position to effect direct change on any school system anywhere. What I am, really, is a survivor of one of the most destructive kinds of behaviour identified (and studied to death), tut-

tuted over and, in the end, abjectly tolerated in our society.

Others are not so lucky. These are the kids who fall through the cracks. Many just shut themselves down and try their best to remain invisible. Many fail to reach their full potential. It takes a lot of energy to cope.

Many attempt suicide. And more often than not, they succeed.

More studies are needed, I hear. There's nothing that can be done, some say. We need to raise awareness, it's concluded. And I get pissed that year after year it's the same old, same old.

It's time to call bullying out for what it is: it's a crime against our children. It's a crime against humanity. Bullying is not an innate behaviour. Children are taught to hate. They absorb everything they observe and experience and at a young age they lack the capacity to process the consequences of careless actions.

Teachers need to have the freedom to address the root causes of bullying openly and academically in

the classroom: homophobia, sexism, racism, classism, religiosity. They need to be able to call out the words—faggot, queer, nigger, kike, dyke, towel-head. They need to be given the ability stand up to the words and the behaviours. Parents need to be right up there with them, not fighting them with excuses, "Oh, not MY precious Johnny." "My darling Jenny would NEVER say that."

For when children de-value their classmates, they soon begin to de-value everyone else around them. It's not just wrong. It's heart-breaking.

On a completely different—and somewhat personal—note, a few issues ago I trumpeted that I was marrying my partner. Well, that's not happening. The wedding plans and partner are now history. Long story, and those in the know... they know. So I'm sticking around for awhile, and I'm back on the market. Perhaps we can make 2010 a "find Randall a decent candidate for a husband" year?

Letters

Rally Against Homophobia and Trans-phobia held May 15, 2009) I have been attending Safe Harbour for almost two years now. This is a reflection I shared with the congregation the Sunday following the rally.

As I stood in the drizzling rain at the poorly attended rally against homophobia and trans-phobia, I wondered what I would say if someone came up to me with a mi-

crophone and asked me to speak. Standing there as the crowd looked at me, I would have said, "My name is JoAnn Noakes. I'm a happily married heterosexual woman. That is who I am. I am normal."

As I look out on this gathering, as I do here today) I do not see a collection of gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans-gendered people. I see individuals who are as normal as I am. In the

simple fact of being "out" you have accepted who you are. That is your normal.

It is from this premise that we must challenge homophobia and

trans-phobia, and dare I say heterophobia—who amongst you have not at least once thought, "He's not like me, how can he know my pain?"

God said, "I have created you, and

YOU TELL US

Last month Wayves asked you:

"What makes a city more LGBT-friendly?"

It must be summer vacation time as we only received four responses. One person summed it up in one word, "Respect." Another replied, "A city where the leaders are not homophobic." A third would like to see "Diverse cultures and an economically stratified society that can be supportive of arts and culture, higher education, and a larger population (not descriptors of the Atlantic Region!)" The final response stated, "A hot shop where news spreads of events and mixers – like Bikurious in Montreal." [Note: Although they don't sell bikes, Venus Envy in Halifax is considered by many to be a hot community location. Additionally, Wayves' Happenings section receives great feedback and will soon be updated in realtime.]

This month's question: What is your favourite memory of summer 2009?

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you are precious in my eyes." This is the place where we must come from when relating to others. We must look for that preciousness in the other person, whoever they may be, while believing in our own inherent preciousness too. You don't have to silence the voices of those who are homophobic and trans-phobic. You need to educate them as to how their own preciousness in God's eyes does not take away from that of other. It is this preciousness, which is a relational response to God, that we live out our own normality.

In my 20-plus years in working with the dying, there is the one thing I learned. You can't qualify death. Whose death is "worse" than the other? We all get upset at the death of a child. When an elderly person dies we tend to think, "At least he lived a full life." Try telling that to a mother whose toddler has died, who is sitting next to a mother whose child was lost in childbirth, or the grown child of that elderly person, who cannot imagine life without her beloved parent. It is not the age or the life of that person that mattered, but the relationship that was there. What was important was how precious that relationship was.

It is no different when it comes to homophobia and trans-phobia. Today it is your preciousness that matters. Only you can do something to displace homophobia and trans-phobia by believing in your normalcy and seeing others in the same light. The only way to do that is one person at a time.

I have always said, "I come here for the hugs!" As we leave here today, let us start living in our own preciousness, one hug at a time.

Sincerely
JoAnn Noakes

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