

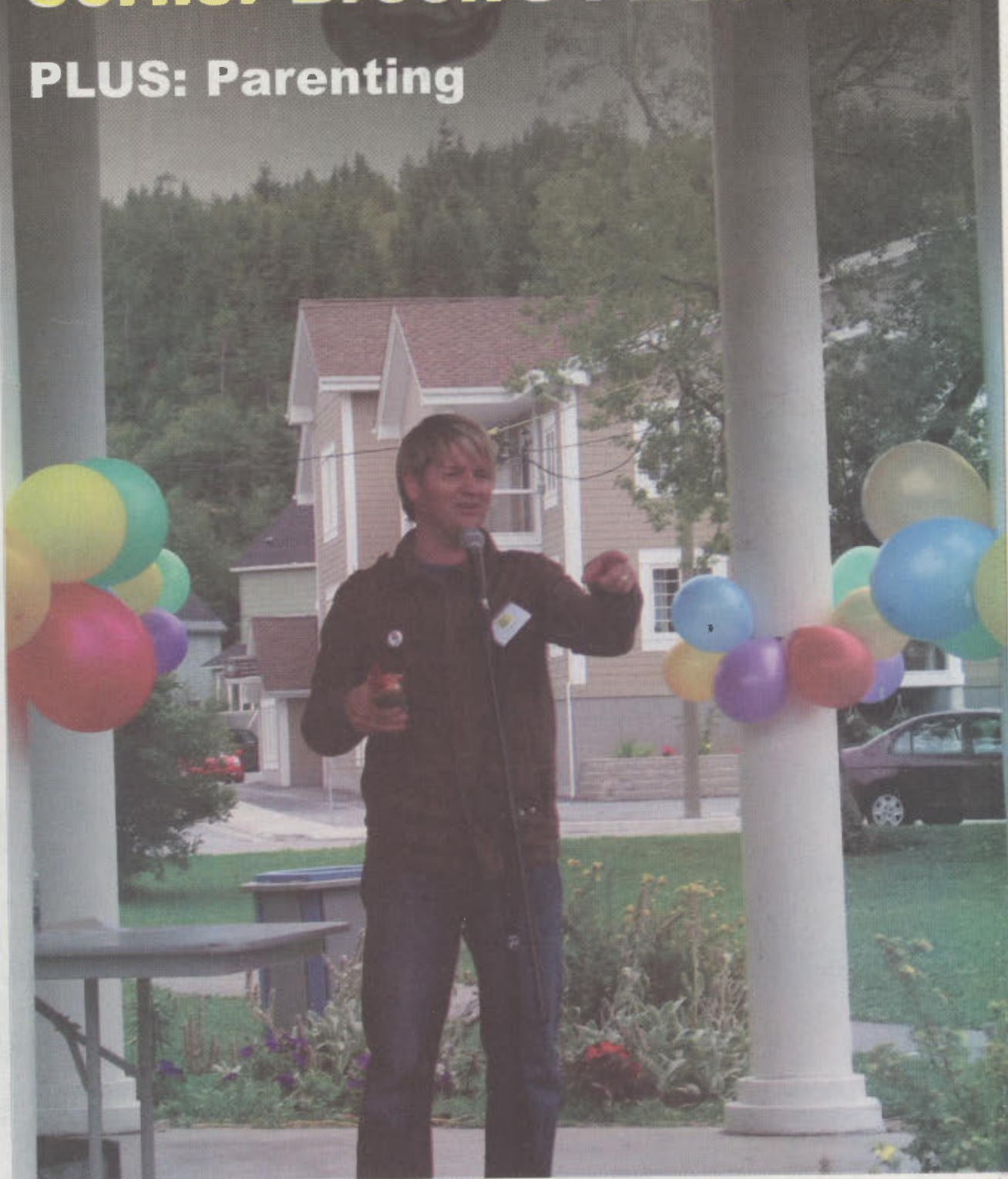
# waywes

Free!

October 2010

## Corner Brook's First Pride!

PLUS: Parenting





# WAYVES

## Monkman Exhibit in Halifax

By Daniel MacKay

When I first browsed through the catalogue for the upcoming Kent Monkman exhibit at Saint Mary's Art Gallery I could not believe they were for real. Amid the Group of Seven-styled giant paintings was a drag queen, a naked cowboy with a hard-on, a beautifully muscled native with a flimsy loincloth which entirely failed to conceal a Tom of Finland-size three-piece set. After reading back and forth a few times, I discovered that the character represented by most of the native images, was Miss Chief Eagle Testickle.

His injection of some Cher-like glamour into the traditional cowboys-and-Indians imagery is like throwing a Versace wedge into an auto-repair shop—in fact, Louis Vuitton and Versace appear in the most unlikely places in this collection. In this exhibition you'll find pathos, satire, eroticism mixed in with a whole lot of humour. Monkman doesn't hesitate to concoct a mixture of numerous artistic styles to create pieces of art that make you laugh and think and salivate.

"I'm delighted that the Monkman exhibit is coming to Halifax," said journalism student Justin Mahoney. "I saw it at the Fine Arts Museum in Montreal and at the Winnipeg Art Gallery and I will be going to



The artist photographed with his cat in his Toronto studio, in front of "The Triumph of Mischief", the title piece from the show. Photo courtesy of Monkman and the National Museum of the American Indian.

the exhibit here, too. His ability to fuse subjective colonial history with today's popular culture references is astounding and revealing."

The artist remarks, "When I was a kid I was always painting, drawing. It was a real joy for me. There was never any question in my mind that

that's what I would be doing. When it came to that point in my life of what to do, I knew I was going to pursue my life as an artist."

Kent Monkman is a filmmaker, illustrator, and visual artist who began his exploration of the arts as a painter. A member of the Fisher River Band in northern Manitoba, he is of Swampy Cree and English/Irish descent, raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Since his first solo exhibition, *Polarities*, at Monte Clark Gallery in Vancouver in 1993, Monkman has exhibited at the Royal Ontario Museum and with various galleries in Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa. His most recent solo exhibition was *The Prayer Language* at The Indian Art Centre in Ottawa. Since 1991 he has also participated in many group exhibitions across North America. He also participates regularly in the annual First Nations Art exhibition organized by the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford.

The catalogue for this exhibit is absolutely luxurious. Gold-embossed velvet hardcover, 110 pages of colour plates including most of the works, and details from many of the larger pieces. The exhibit will take over the entire Saint Mary's University Art Gallery.

Particulars on the exhibit in Halifax can be found in the ad on Page 2.

## The Pregnant Lesbian

By Valerie Windsor

Do you want to have a baby? Do you want to carry a baby, foster or adopt? Some women dream of it for years and change their minds many times. Others have no desire to parent. It's a huge responsibility and doesn't just happen, accidentally or on purpose, for lesbians. Perhaps you are looking at friends with babies and romanticize about holding your own baby in your arms. Wouldn't it be fun! Yes, it would be wonderful, but there are a few considerations before you get all weepy-eyed and start redecorating the spare room.

Women create loving homes by fostering and adopting children, as well as bringing children from former relationships with men. There are a lot of emotional, physical and legal issues to be considered before you decide to start a family. If you want to carry a baby, you have to go out of your way to find sperm and decide how to have the sperm mate with your eggs.

This summer I had the privilege of meeting a family with two moms traveling the east coast with four of their six children. Three children were conceived by donor insemina-

tion and three were from a previous marriage. What a wonderful blended family! They seem to have very balanced but busy lives; everyone was happy and respectful to one another. They prove once again that same-sex couples raise smart and well-adjusted children.

At a party recently I met a beautiful young woman about six months pregnant. Because things were different when I had my children 25 years ago, I wanted to find out more. How does a young lesbian couple decide to have a baby and how do they make it happen?

Jane and Mary (not real names) have been together for 10 years and married for one year. Jane always wanted the experience of pregnancy and childbirth. Mary didn't and couldn't for medical reasons, so that decision was easy.

They chose insemination by a known donor rather than fostering or adopting. The donor is a friend of the family and a gay man in a long-term committed relationship. This couple took time to research their options, including screening donor sperm, checking for STIs, as well as getting a genetic and medical history of the donor.

They had to consider what relationship the donor would have with the child, if any. Then there are the legalities of guardianship. Does the non-bearing parent have to adopt the child after birth? Co-parent adoptions

*Wouldn't it be fun!  
Yes...but there are  
a few considerations  
before you get all  
weepy-eyed and  
start redecorating  
the spare room.*

enhance the legitimacy of parenting for co-mothers and increase the likelihood of shared custody should the relationship end. This couple did some serious soul searching, exploring their values, the expectations of parenting, the possible hiccups along the way and the probable homophobia they will experience.

Having a really great relationship with the donor made the process a little easier. In this case, the couple

Pregnant cont'd page 9

## Finland Museum Acquires Corner Brook's Corbet Art

By Wayves Staff

The Canadian Portrait Academy is pleased to announce that the world eminent Tampere Art Museum in Finland has acquired from the CPA Special Collections six sculptures created by the celebrated Canadian artist Christian Corbet, PPCPA, CGAM, BAMS, FIDEM, FA, FRSA.

The unique six abstracted medallions, each hand-carved by the artist, is the largest number of sculptures of Corbet's to be collected by one institution.

Christian Corbet, a prominent gay resident in the city of Corner Brook and founder of the Academy, is the first Canadian artist to be collected

and represented by Tampere Art Museum, rendering Newfoundland and Labrador as the first province in direct association with representing Canada in this fine achievement.

This accomplishment comes at a fine time considering it is currently Corner Brook Pride in Western Newfoundland and Labrador the first registered non-profit Pride organization that Corbet founded earlier this year.

For more information on the career of Christian Corbet please visit [www.christiancorbet.com](http://www.christiancorbet.com).

To arrange an interview with the CPA or Mr. Corbet please e-mail [contact@canadianportraitacademy.com](mailto:contact@canadianportraitacademy.com).

## Regular Columns

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November Deadline: Friday, Oct. 1 (first Friday of every month!) [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca).

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## KENT MONKMAN: TRIUMPH OF MISCHIEF

16 October - 28 November 2010

Opening Reception: Friday, 15 October, 8pm

Please join us for NOCTURNE  
Saturday, 16 October, 6pm - midnight  
and watch for event updates

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY 5865 Gorsebrook Avenue, Halifax  
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11 - 5 Tuesday-Friday

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FREE ADMISSION

Image from *Dance to the Berdashe*, 2008, 5-channel video installation, 12 minutes



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# Events Around Atlantic Canada

## Lesbian Thriller Romance

Halifax LGBTQ writer Nadine LaPierre has signed on with major American lesbian-fiction publishing house, Bella Books, for her thriller-romance series set in Halifax. Bella Books ([www.bellabooks.com](http://www.bellabooks.com)) provides "romance, mystery, thrills and passion, for lesbians, about the women we love."

"It's so rewarding to know that women from all over the world will be reading my work," says the long-time Halifax resident. "I've written many queer-themed mystery novels, but I had never written a novel before. I still have to pinch myself sometimes, that my very first novel not only got published right off the bat, but has spawned a series, and that iconic lesbian author Katherine V. Forrest is my editor."

"Little did I know so many years ago when I was first coming out and reading 'Curious Wine,' that this author would end up becoming my editor one day. Little did I know that I'd even be writing novels!"

"The Slayer," the first book in the series, introduces lesbian RCMP Constable Danielle Renaud, and her close friend Lilly Marsh, a lesbian crown prosecutor who is also Mi'kmaq. Both live, love, and work in Halifax.

"It's a mystery, it's a touching romance, it's a thriller, it's a serious drama, and it's got its hilarious moments too," says the author. "One thing I strived to create with this book was a gripping page-turner. I'll only know when it comes out in print if I really succeeded, but if the response to my manuscript is any indication, I'm hopeful so far that I have."

Nadine LaPierre has a sample of her writing, a short story entitled "How Sweet It Is," available for free download on her website, [www.nadelapierre.com](http://www.nadelapierre.com).

"I also have extremely exciting news to come that I can't quite announce yet, but if you're a fan of music, especially singer-songwriters who are lesbian, you may want to keep an ear out," says Nadine. Keep reading her website Nadine's Keep reading her Facebook fan page (look for the RCMP uniform) for future announcements.

"The Slayer" will be released in 2011. Wayves will run the announcement of the book launch and signing at that time.

## CLGA First Person Narrative Essays

By Jennifer Coffey

Our 2008 first person narrative essay contest was a great success, but more stories are waiting and needing to be told, and without your renewed help, and because this world is such

a fast-paced, high-tech jumble, much of what is sent and read gets lost in the morass. Perhaps it is also because I spend so much of my time writing that I feel a special passion for this project, but I hope and imagine that you feel this way, too.

Anne Fleming, author and creative writing teacher, and CBC radio host and critically acclaimed writer, Bill Richardson, will judge the 2010 first person narrative essay contest. Once again we are asking novice and veteran writers—and everyone in between—to submit 2,000 – 2,500 words on the theme, "Where I Come From." Submissions are due no later than November 1, 2010 and, in addition to four cash prizes, including a prize for Best Under Nineteen, all entries will be considered for publication in Keeping Our Stories Alive, Volume I, A Journal of the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives. Entries can be non-fiction, memoir or creative non-fiction. Additional information (rules and regulations, for example) can be found at [www.clga.ca](http://www.clga.ca), and winners will be announced December 10, 2010.

## Halifax Pride AGM

Halifax Pride will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cunard room of the Atlantica Hotel.

## NSRAP Gala

Remember to mark your calendars for this year's Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) Annual Gala, being held Saturday, October 23, at the Marriott Halifax Harbourfront. Celebrity emcee Candy Palmater returns to the mic for this year's festivities. Come out to experience guest speaker Michelle Douglas and find out the recipient of this year's Community Hero Award.

Head down for cocktails at 6:00 p.m. The Gala begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$100 apiece, or \$1,000 for a table of 10. Visit [www.nsrp.ca](http://www.nsrp.ca) to purchase tickets, call (902) 444-3206 or e-mail [nsrap@nsrap.ca](mailto:nsrap@nsrap.ca). See you there!

## Moncton Pride AGM

Moncton River of Pride Board of Directors will be elected for 2010/11 at our Annual General Meeting scheduled for October 14 at 7:00 p.m. at La Teraz, 154 Church St., Moncton, NB.

See page 8-9 for Moncton Pride 2010 photos!

## Halifax Art At Night

Nocturne: Art at Night is a fall festival that brings art and energy to the streets of Halifax between 6 p.m.

midnight. This year's event will take place on October 16. The completely free, third annual event showcases and celebrates the visual arts scene in Halifax. Nocturne, designed and planned by volunteers, is an opportunity for everyone to experience the art of Halifax in a whole new light. The Nocturne Program Guide provides details about exhibitions in galleries and public spaces throughout the city. <http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/en/nocturne/default.aspx>. See facing page ad for information on visiting queer artist Kent Monkman's piece in Nocturne.

## New Trans Group

"The Masculine Spectrum" is a new support group for all transgender, transsexual and trans men, FtMs, female assigned at birth genderqueers, two-spirited, intersexed, and questioning people, 18 years of age or older, of all sexual orientations. No significant others, friends, family, or allies please. We meet every second Sunday of the month at Just Us Cafe on 5896 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. Our first meeting was on Sunday, September 12.

For further information, check out our Yahoo! Group at [ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/genderspectrum](http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/genderspectrum).

## Our Cover:

Chairman Christian Carbet gives a speech before reading congratulatory letters from Hon. Bill Graham, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Siobahn Coady MP, Lorraine Michaels MHA and Premier Danny Williams!

## Important WAYVES Dates!

### Issue Content Deadlines:

**Fridays:** Oct 1 Nov 5, Dec 3: 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](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) any time!

### Production Meetings (Halifax):

**Mondays:** Oct 4, Nov 8, Dec 6: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

### Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Oct 10 Nov 14, Dec 12: 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.**



[yahoo.com/group/genderspectrum](http://yahoo.com/group/genderspectrum).

## Greg Malone to Read in Halifax

By Bill McKinnon

If you watched CODCO on CBC television, you will remember actor, impressionist, AIDS activist and environmentalist Greg Malone. If you are from Newfoundland or if you've been involved with St. John's Pride, you will also know that Greg is a staunch LGBT supporter. Greg was co-founder of CODCO with the late

Tommy Sexton. He has numerous stage, film and TV credits and awards and is famous for his impersonations of Barbara Frum, Jean Chretien and Queen Elizabeth II.

Greg will be in Halifax to read from his memoir about growing up in St. John's, "You Better Watch Out," at the Keshen Goodman Library, 330 Lacewood Drive, on Friday, October 15 at 2:30 p.m. Take the 52 (Bayers Lake) bus if you're not driving. The stories of Greg's childhood are said to be both hilarious and touching. I had the chance to chat with him a few years ago in St. John's and am looking forward to seeing this delightful man again and reading his memoir. It's available at the Halifax Public Library, but I suggest you buy it from the Bookmark, one of our few remaining independent (and queer-friendly) bookstores.

For more about Greg, check out his entry on Wikipedia at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greg\\_Malone\\_\(actor\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greg_Malone_(actor)).

Cont'd next page

## Mea Culpa

Last month we ran a Thank You letter on Page 14 from Moncton Pride. It was the wrong letter. We apologize for the error.

## 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](mailto:ads@wayves.ca) or call 902-889-2229. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

Circulation: use the email address below. Subscriptions, per year, are in Canadian dollars: \$20 13% HST = \$22.60 in Canada, \$30 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Send cheque or money order to the postal address below.

### Wayves

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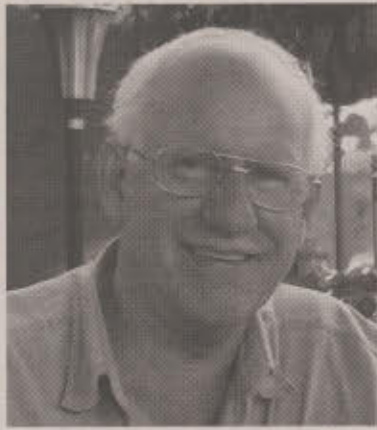
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Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) and tell us where we should be!





## I Am What I Amherst Still Not There Yet

season. However, aside from our regular monthly meetings, bowling night and plans to adopt a positive educational program, the executive is not quite ready for any major announcements.

Ten members from Cumberland Pride took part in the River of Pride Parade in Moncton on August 22. We decided that we take part each year and this was the fourth year we had entries. Two members, Danny and Sandy carried our banner, followed by our huge Pride flag carried by Chris, Carrie, Chrystal and me. This was followed by a sports car driven by Debbie and containing our favourite drag queen, Miss Roxy Dior. Sheila carried one of our mascots, Fred, as his mom was busy doing other things.

The previous Monday I attended the flag raising ceremony at Moncton City Hall, followed by a delicious

lunch. After lunch we heard from guest speaker Helen Kennedy, the Executive Director of Egale Canada. A fiery presenter and extremely knowledgeable, she brought home the agonizing truths that exist, not only in many parts of the world, but in Canada, as unequal treatment and utter discrimination are rampant. Homophobia is alive and well in our own backyards. Turn on the radio, watch TV newscasts and read your favourite newspaper and you will experience dreadful happenings on a daily basis. It is great to have official equal rights in all their forms, but the queer community has plenty to worry about, here and abroad.

I think we tend to sit idly by in our individual communities and so become a bit relaxed about everyday wrongs committed by those that just choose to conveniently forget that

equal rights and treatment are indeed ours to have. We hear of Stephen Harper and his cronies constantly nibbling at the edges of equality by deleting items such as the flap over the recent changes to the immigration booklet. We all remember the elimination of funds for the Toronto Pride Parade. The fact millions of dollars are spent each year benefiting the local economy has no bearing on the Harper agenda. The Conservative government has a lot to answer for and we shall never experience an apology for their actions. Also remember women's groups have lost support from the Harper government. So, even as we contemplate the reactions from some homophobes right here in Amherst, Truro, Halifax, Moncton, Charlottetown or anywhere else, we must consider the whole picture and speak out against

the unjust treatment afforded many in the queer communities around us.

On a more upbeat note, I made a presentation to the Senior LGBT Group in Toronto on July 19. This event made me more aware of the differences in various areas of our country. One such difference is the availability of support groups that places such as Toronto have to offer. The LGBTTQ and queer community in Toronto faces the same challenges as in other smaller places.

This is it from Amherst for now. There's always more to come from this queer community. Just keep in mind these words from the intolerant Pope Benedict XVI: "Gay marriage is one of the most insidious and dangerous challenges to society."

Most will surely admit that the summer activities were great, but similarly it is time for a bit of a break. In this part of Nova Scotia we tend to fall apart a bit until we pull up our bootstraps again and go for the next round. Memories of successful Pride celebrations linger in our minds and will remain there for some time. The queer folk at Cumberland Pride are already making plans for activities for the fall and the December holiday

## Lesbian Soap Box Diaries

# Coming Out Again, and Again, and Again

By L. Connors

On October 11 I'll likely be coming out again. Not because it's National Coming Out Day. It's because I, like many of you reading this, am forced to come out on a regular basis. Not that I'm hiding in the closet. If you were to Google me, you would not see photos of me with my children, or at work, or anything else that would give the impression that I am a heterosexual woman. You would however find articles about my involvement with several different queer organizations. I could not be any further from the closet unless I tattooed "I love pussy" on my forehead. Quite honestly, sometimes I wish I had the guts to do just that.

You see, as far as we have come with queer rights and acceptance, society still generally assumes that I am heterosexual, and that this is the norm. This puts me in a position on a regular basis of having to come out again, and again, and again. No matter how many times my picture is in

the paper under the headline, "Local lesbian speaks out," when I meet new people I am inevitably asked at some point in the conversation, "What does your husband do?" I then have to decide if I want to take the time to "Come Out, AGAIN!" Sometimes it's just not appropriate, such as with clients at work. Sometimes, I just don't have the time or energy, such as when making small talk in the grocery store line up.

Often I just don't want to deal with some guy redoubling his effort to now not only pick me up, but to also convert me, which is what always happens when I reply, "Buddy you don't have a hope in Hell, but if you have a hot sister, please send her my way." It is quite honestly easier to just say "My husband? He is an RCMP officer, but really what else could a big, strong, 6'4", overprotective guy do for a living? Do you want to meet him? He should be making his rounds and checking up on me any minute now."

My resentment at such statements is much deeper than the assumption that everyone is straight until proven otherwise. It's as though some individuals are afraid to insult a heterosexual person by implying that they are gay. I'll give you a prime example. My partner is in the ER on a gurney. Now if you have ever seen a gurney, it's about half the size of a twin mattress. Yet somehow, I manage to crawl in behind her to comfort her. Even with the side rails up to hold us both in, we are forced into a spooning position. A highly educated specialist walks in and asks, "Who are you, her sister?"

"Yeah, we're a REALLY close family," I reply. The message is all too often very clear, you may be gay, but heaven forbid (literally) that I insult you in the unlikely event that you are straight.

Times have changed, ever so slightly. Homophobia and transphobia have changed with it. It's not always about what is said anymore.

It quite often is more about a look, a subtle undertone, a tone of voice. It's harder to plead your case to the HR department at your workplace for example, but still leaves you with a gross feeling inside. I honestly have more respect for the Mayor Millses of the world who have the guts to come right out and say how they feel than the individuals that laugh or roll their eyes behind your back when you're making wedding plans.

This is why I say I'm a feminist only when it pays me to be. Being an activist 24/7 would not only be exhausting, but in many circumstances has very real ramifications. If I were to come out to all my clients at work, I would likely lose my licence to practice for violating professional boundaries. On the other hand, it is also the same reason why I don't believe living "label-free" is possible in this day and age. For as long as society continues to assume that I am straight, I feel the need to identify as a big fat flaming dyke. Not doing

so, when appropriate, is for me the equivalent of "don't ask, don't tell."

As far as I am concerned statements that assume that I am heterosexual are homophobic statements. They are the fundamental basis for internalized homophobia, forcing me to acknowledge that I am deviation from the norm. And for as long as there is an assumption that being a lesbian, I am Different, I will continue to celebrate just that. I'll keep coming out. Occasionally I'll use humour and sarcasm with statements such as, "Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't know you were straight. Not that it matters to me. I have lots of friends that are heterosexual. But do you mind if I ask how you knew you were straight?" I'll proudly display my rainbow paraphernalia. I'll continue to attend rallies, marches, IDAHT and Pride events. And maybe even, if only in henna, I'll tattoo "I love pussy" on my forehead in celebration of National Coming Out Day!

## Events, Cont'd

There's more about Codco at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CODCO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CODCO).

### New SMU Group

New GLBT support and social group is starting up at the St. Mary's University campus. If you are interested or want more information, contact James Courchene by e-mail at [smuglbt@hotmail.com](mailto:smuglbt@hotmail.com). You can also search Facebook for "St Mary's University GLBT Society" or check its Twitter feed at [twitter.com/smuglbt](http://twitter.com/smuglbt).

### Front Runners in St. John's

St. John's will now be joining eight other Canadian cities in having a GLBT running club.

International Front Runners is an affiliation of GLBT running/walking clubs that have organized in many of larger cities around the world. Inspired by Patricia Nell Warren's

novel, "The Front Runner," the first FR club began in San Francisco in 1974 and other clubs quickly began forming in the United States then in Canada and abroad.

There are currently about a hundred Front Runner clubs around the world and they are as diverse as where they are situated. Some of the clubs have hundreds of members, some start-ups only a few. Many include walkers, not just runners, and at least one club has many more walkers than runners. Some of the clubs elect officers, have bylaws and a membership dues structure, many don't. Most have regular weekly runs/walks and many also get together at local restaurants after their runs. And the fact that there are three different spellings of the name—FrontRunners, Front Runners and Frontrunners—is just a further example of the clubs' diversity.

Weekly runs are being held in St.

John's at the moment but the organizers hope to do outreach runs across Newfoundland and Labrador to promote the sport and social aspects of running in the GLBT community. Run times are flexible and will be set to accommodate the schedules of as many as possible.

For more information contact Tony Brathwaite at (709) 722-5791, e-mail [slowrunner1@hotmail.com](mailto:slowrunner1@hotmail.com); or Jennifer McCreath at (709) 753-9529, e-mail [jennifer.mccreath@yahoo.ca](mailto:jennifer.mccreath@yahoo.ca).

### LGBT Elders Potluck

HALIFAX – Following on previous successful gatherings, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) invites lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Elders to an afternoon tea "Potluck Social" on Sunday, October 17.

"What is an LGBT Elder," you

ask? Well, we won't be checking ID at the door, but we do think of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in their late forties, or older, as Elders of our community. Any of us who were born before 1960 can remember growing up in a society where homosexual acts were still criminal; many of us came out before we had achieved even basic human rights protection. NSRAP values that living experience of our history: whether you have lived it yourself, or you value those who have, you will find a welcome here.

LGBT potlucks are famous for delicious food, and attendees are asked to bring finger-food refreshments—sandwiches, sweets, or snacks. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please note that this is an alcohol-free event. This month's event will take place on Sunday, October 17, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, at Spencer House Senior Centre, 5596 Morris Street, Halifax.

We are delighted that lawyer Tuma Young will address the group on the topic of wills and estates. For more information contact NSRAP at 444-3206 or e-mail us at [nsrap@nsrap.ca](mailto:nsrap@nsrap.ca).

### Call For Plays

HALIFAX – The QUEER ACTS Theatre Festival, a Halifax Pride Production, announces a call for submissions for its 2011 edition. QUEER ACTS is a week-long festival that highlights theatrical work of relevance and interest to the LGBT community and its supporters. QUEER ACTS will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia during Halifax Pride Week, July 2011.

Interested individuals and groups are encouraged to submit a proposal including the following items:

- A short summary of the project and its relevance to the queer

Cont'd next page



# Hometown Glory

## It's true. You really can't go home again.

By Shannon Webb-Campbell

Certainly you can't go there if you don't even know where that is. Some define home as where you were born, others say it's where you've grown up, where your family comes from. Home is about roots, soil and belonging. It's who you are; it's the road that got you from there to here. Home is a direction, a place to return to once you've grown tired of the living, the collecting and experiencing. If I stick to these parameters of home, I could be a red-necked Albertan, a blue-collared Ontario suburbanite, or a displaced drunken Newfie. As a by-product of two displaced Newfoundlanders, naturally I was born in Calgary and raised in Oshawa.

As Canadians we define ourselves by our geography. This massive country some call the Great White North perplexes many. Newfoundlanders are infamous for their love of the island, just like Yukoners and Quebecois. There is a sense of pride in a place so rich in our bones there are separate dictionaries, languages and dialects to define it.

On my last night in Halifax Dad called to wish me well. He's a man of few words. He said, "Shann, tomorrow you are going to Heaven." In the same breath he also grumbled about the lack of work and hardships of Newfoundland, saying he'd take up the drink again if he ever moved back. My father's not much of a religious man, but I got the gist. You may need to bring your rubbers and a rain jacket to withstand these pearly gates, but it's true: Newfoundland is other-worldly, majestic. It is as near to heaven by sea.

The mythology of Newfoundland has followed me throughout my life. I have a love and devotion for the place unlike no other. When you are from

Newfoundland you belong to Newfoundland, you are of Newfoundland. You're not just a Canadian, you are a Newfoundland. You are made of its soil, its rugged beauty, its hardships and endurance. You are made of rock, you are an island.

As a little kid I was fascinated with the fairies—the little people—and

*As a queer person, I have another home, a chosen home. I have a geography in which I belong to, a landscape strong enough to hold me. There are no blacks and whites; the place is made of grey.*

wanted to meet them, share some bread from my pocket even. As a tortured teenager, the need for a fake ID, a city of bars, booze and music rang deep within me. I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my mom and two Aunts who once paraded down George Street, dated rock stars and kissed sailors. As an early twenty-something, it was my Nan's old way of life, her stories and bread-making while wearing Poppy's underwear on head as a hairnet (not unusual on Bell Island) that lured me back in.

Now it's all of these reasons combined and then some. It's a deep need to know my history, to learn the terrain of my ancestors and bridge the gap between the past and the present. It's to hear my grandmother's stories before they are lost, when there are no hands to hold the deck of cards, or smoke-blown stories drifting from the tips of cigarettes and from her lips.

If you've ever met a Newfoundlander you know how deeply they love the place, it's primal. All of my life I've watched both of my father

and mother pine for Newfoundland. Since they separated, I and this gigantic rugged rock flung out in the North Atlantic are what held them together. Dad's a bayman from the West Coast, a small little place called Flat Bay, while Mom is a townie, a snub-nosed girl from Mount Pearl. Newfoundland's politics divide by region, religion and Confederation. You are either from the bay or town. You are Catholic or Anglican. You are either for or against Joey Smallwood. It is a place of black and whites. From the start Nan knew

Mom and Dad wouldn't work, logistically it just couldn't. She's a townie, he's a bayman. They are light years apart. They met in Alberta, a place that abides by no such rules.

People who visit—CFA's (Come From Aways)—often want to stay. Some even foolishly shell out good money to wear a sou'wester, eat a slab of Newfoundland steak (fried bologna), repeat an old sea shanty and kiss a frozen cod in order to become an honorary islander—a Newfoundlander.

For years I longed for this place—this new, found, land. I fell in love with the island, like most do. The chimerical people, adorable jelly bean coloured houses, the lyrical way people almost sing to one another. For awhile I wanted to be everyone's ducky, darling, little trout and love.

As a queer person, I have another home, a chosen home. I have a geography in which I belong, a landscape strong enough to hold me. There are no blacks and whites; the place is made of grey. There is no language here, just a knowing. There is a kin-

ship that travels beyond the contingency of time, gender, race, creed, flesh and blood. It is the homelands of desire—the palace of truth, mercy and love.

Nova Scotia is my queer home, Halifax the city that helped me come to be me. I never realized how much life transpired until I left it all behind. These days I feel invisible; the crinoline, feathers and fancy dresses I once threw on as ordinary everyday attire hang limp in my closet. I feel like a queen who has given up drag. I briefly contemplated shaving half of my head, getting a nose-ring, or at the very least a bad-ass tattoo. Something


to be a visual marker, a sign to the others that I'm here, I'm queer. As a femme there is a veil: I'm not quite as obvious to the world as say, a butch or a baby dyke.

I've been looking around for my tribe. I've seen a lesbian couple holding hands and a well-tailored gay man crossing the street. Part of me wanted to run over, introduce myself and beg them to be my friend. I'm no different than a homesick islander stranded up in the oil fields of Alberta, or dwelling in money pockets of Ontario. I may be in Newfoundland, but I've yet to feel at home.



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## Events, Cont'd

- community
- A bio of the company or those involved
- Excerpts or a completed script
- General technical requirements
- Anticipated run time
- Any other pertinent information you wish to provide

Halifax Pride in consultation with the QUEER ACTS organizing committee will assess proposals. Remuneration will be decided upon with the selected participants, all of whom will be asked to provide the festival with a complete production. Along with a performance space and marketing for all the productions, QUEER ACTS will provide some staff including a technical director and front of house manager.

Proposals must be sent on or before October 15, 2010 to queeracts@gmail.com.

### Take Back the Night

Presented by the Dalhousie Women's Centre, the annual march through downtown to the MicMac Native Friendship Centre begins at 9:00 p.m.

in Victoria Park at the intersection of Spring Garden Rd. and South Park St., Halifax.

"Take Back the Night" is an evening where women from diverse communities and struggles come together in collective resistance against sexual violence. It is a time for honouring the strength and resilience of women who have experienced violence and to speak out against the social and political systems that perpetuate violence against women. Ultimately, we reclaim the streets as a space where all should be able to walk free from a fear of violence.

Allies (non-woman identified people) are welcome to attend TBTN under the leadership of women. For more information about TBTN, folk can call or e-mail the Dalhousie Women's Centre.

### DaPoPo Returns to Menz

DaPoPo's talented guerilla theatre baristas will be back at Menz Bar on Monday, September 27, to serve up their unique blend of high- and low-brow fun right at your table:

songz, sonnetz, scenez, soliloquiez, rantz, lecturez, bed-time storiez... you name it!

Look out for DaQueer Specialz, as the popular Halifax troupe sings and acts their way into your hearts at Café DaPoPo.

DaPoPo is featured on the last Monday of the month from September to November, 7:30 – 11:00 p.m. Cover charge is \$5.00, includes two for \$7.00 drinks specialz, Big Ensemble Numberz and a complimentary performance at your table. Performances are individually priced at Café DaPoPo, determined by your table order. We hope to see you there!

Can you do an article to fit a weird shape like this? Prove it to us and maybe you'll get to see your name in print! submissions@wayves.ca

# WEEKLY LINEUP

MON: 2 Drinks for \$7\*

TUE: Drinks - BOGO for \$3\*

WED: KARAOKE - Win up to \$500 w DJ Bear\*

THU: No Cover & DJ Legacy\*

FRI: BOGO for \$3 (till midnight)\*

FRI & SAT: Dance w DJs ...

... Nick Nonsense, BEAR 777 or Sonny D

SUN: Happy Hour 3-9 PM, Drag Show 9-11 PM\*

\* Check the events calendar on our web site for details



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## Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITEH

Hey Tom,  
I've rediscovered the joys of breakfast in bed. Funny, I'd always thought of breakfast in bed ("bib") as a "couples" kind of thing. You know, the sort of thing that happened for birthdays or anniversaries or to make up for slight indiscretions with a flight attendant on a business trip. I hadn't really thought of it as something one could do for one's self. Bib always seemed like something that was done for me, not by me. Of course, if I had servants it would be different. Well, I do have James, my imaginary butler—so useful for explaining unreturned phone messages or missed appointments with a tantric yoga instructor who tends to bully—but James is rather "old school" if you know what I mean. James is the type of family retainer who moves at a snail's pace and rather disapproves of anything which might seem to be self-indulgent. Bib, as prepared by James, would consist of dry, cold toast, tepid coffee and eggs just this side of being done. And there would certainly be no raspberries sprinkled on my Cheerios.

No, the only way to enjoy a proper bib on a Sunday morning would be to prepare it myself. It was a kind of revelation. Really, it takes only ten minutes to grind the Italian Roast coffee beans, pop the bread in the toaster and heat up my new ceramic coated non-stick fry pan for free range eggs. Only minutes later I was snuggled up once again in my bed (new soft pillows and what a difference they make!) feeling rather special and loved. I may have to get one of those trays with the legs so when I have a sudden need to scratch my balls the marmalade won't spill on the freshly-laundered duvet cover, but all in all bib felt rather lovely. It was like one of those scenes from a 1930's Joan Crawford movie where she is surrounded by satin pillows, chatting on an enormous French phone while she makes plans to meet her best friend's husband for dinner. Very romantic, except I was in colour, not black and white.

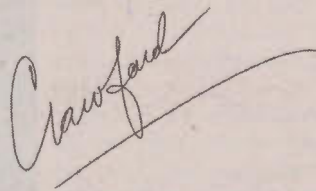
Breakfast in bed alone also meant I didn't have to worry about dashing to the bathroom to brush my teeth before my companion woke or spend ten minutes smoothing out my bed head hairdo. On the other hand bib à deux often has meant that my companion of the evening before became my breakfast, which is another kind of pleasure—low fat, less filling but very satisfying. And, having recently seen Julie and Julia, I think Madame Child would approve! Maybe I should advertise for the position? Whaddaya think, Tom? The pay rate is low but the fringe benefits are exceptional! Continuing the sybaritic food theme, B and Milosh

came by recently and took me to our annual lobster lunch at Hall's Harbour. In spite of a week which had been intermittently rainy and/or windy, the day of the luncheon was picture perfect. Honest to Christ, we could have posed for a post card. Brilliant sun, just the occasional refreshing zephyr, low tide with fisher-folk doing typical fisher-folk-ish things to boats—I want to say scraping barnacles and flushing bilges but I'm not sure what either of those things means—and gulls leisurely swooping down to swallow unsavoury items from off the wharf. Idyllic really.

I don't know if you remember from your time here but when you go to the lobster restaurant (is that the right word?) you get to pick out your lobster who is picked writhing and green and very much alive, and who then gets taken along to another spot where a very hot bath is waiting for him. Some time later—just enough to get the first glass of chardonnay into you and sufficient time to figure out how to fasten the plastic bib (a real bib, not bib as in Breakfast in Bed) there he is, plopped onto your table, bright red, succulent and accompanied by melted butter, a white roll and several implements that allow you to crack him open and savour his tender flesh. One of the things I love about eating lobster is that there is no way to do it delicately. You need a bib for Gawd's sake. A small metal fork enables you to push or prod or pick all the meaty, delicious bits from within the hard shell. Bits of shell go flying, butter gets splashed; there is an atavistic delight of enjoying food in its most basic form. Eating lobster, at the sea shore, surrounded by boats and wheeling birds is a pleasure not to be missed.

I started out this letter talking about breakfast in bed, but why not other meals? Lunch in bed. Brunch in bed. Dinner in bed. Let us not be restricted... especially with the right dinner companions. I'm thinking now of inviting some friends over for an early evening repast—clothing optional. Maybe bruschetta or smoked oysters to start. And for the main dish: Crawford alla puttanesca seems appropriate! No one minds if a bit of sauce gets spilled. And a box of wine to aid the digestion.

Love ya!



## The Queer Parent Experience

By Gerard Veldhoven

I was recently invited to speak to the LGBT Seniors Group in Toronto. This event took place on July 19 at the 519 Church Street Community Centre and gave me the opportunity to not only address the group but also placed me in the envious position of being joined on a panel by my son, Chris. He is the Queer Parenting Program Coordinator at the 519. This was the first time we had the opportunity to be on a panel together about family, queer politics, our work and activism. This father and son team made an impact at this event for various reasons. Firstly, this was perhaps the first time a team consisting of a gay parent and his gay child were placed together to address a group of LGBT members. Secondly, this presentation emphasized the views from both angles.

The theme was queer parenting and grand-parenting, which presented a perfect opportunity to express how difficult but yet rewarding this experience can be as time goes by. For many

in this group of seniors the subject has long been in the closet and perhaps will always remain in a dormant stage. Of course, time has not been kind to us and when these folks were at the age of what is considered a normal age to become a parent one had to be totally in the proverbial closet. Many of us married because it was expected and our parents were constantly nagging how wonderful it would be to have grandchildren. Many of us listened and conformed to their ideas.

Chris made his presentation first and related how as a gay child life was difficult for him and he did not come out to his mother until he went to university. My sons were awarded custody to their mother when the separation took place in 1974. At this point Chris was seven and Mark four years of age. He went on to say that he didn't want to hurt his mother the way his father had during those

Cont'd on page 11

## ISCANS News Celebrations



By Nathan Boudreau

Recently we at ISCANS celebrated our awesome past Emperors and Empresses in our annual College of Monarch show, held at Menz Bar in September. A huge thank you to David, Doug and staff for hosting us, as always.

ISCANS members were in recently in London, Ontario to celebrate in the Court of London's elevation to full Imperial Court status. We also travel our own region, planning to hit Prince Edward Island on Oct 1 for a night of entertainment at the Alibi Lounge where we will raise money for Reign 10 charities as well as a local Suicide Prevention Program.

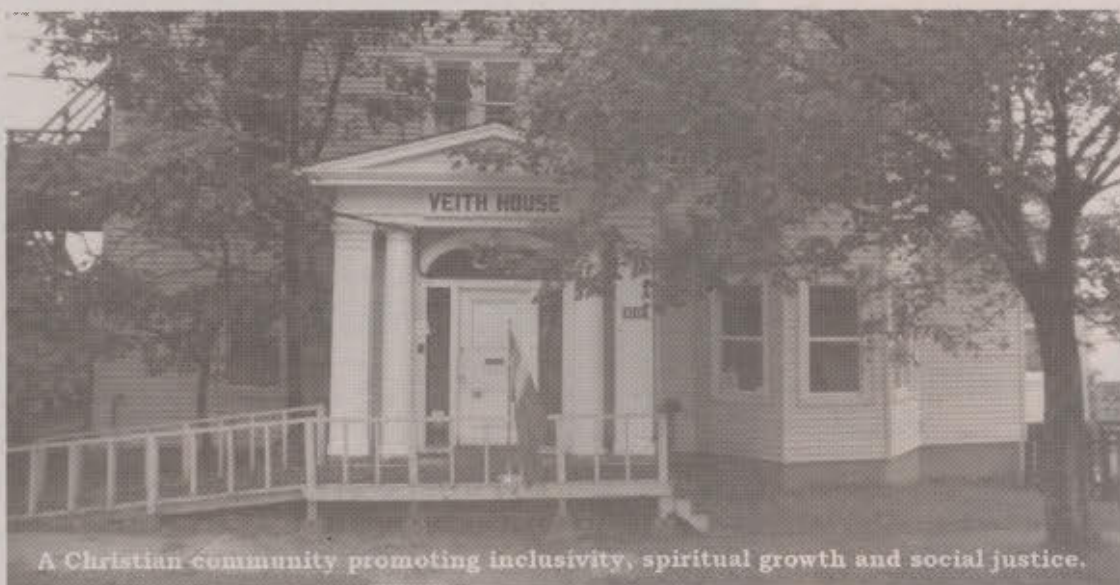
With All Hallows' Eve coming, ISCANS is getting set for our monthly event at Menz Bar. In October come out and join ISCANS as we bring back theme parties, starting with

Hallowe'en. Join us on Oct 31 as we get our scare on.

Back by popular demand we are once again selling raffle tickets for a weekend package to Coronation 11, taking place February 4-6, 2011. The winner gets two nights at the Hotel Atlantica, a pair of tickets for Out of Town Show, State Dinner, Coronation and Victory Brunch. Tickets are only \$5.00 each and can be bought from any of our executive members. See any of them when you're out and about.

Got comments, concerns or ideas for ISCANS? Drop by our website at [www.imperialcourtns.com](http://www.imperialcourtns.com) and check out the contact page. Drop someone on the Executive a line and let us know your thoughts. Have a great month and welcome the students back to town.

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# Nagging Issues Slowing Down the Pace of Change?

By Catherine Watson (Boyne Clarke)  
During the last ten years Canadians have watched as the rights of same-sex couples have emerged and spread across our nation. Amongst the rights gained was the right to marry and with that right, came the right to create a family.

In 2006, lesbian couples in Nova Scotia won the right to put both mothers' names on their children's birth certificates. That, one would assume, should be enough to establish the definitive parentage of the non-biological mother. However, lawyers are not so sure; we remain concerned that the insertion of the name of the non-biological mother on the birth certificate may be insufficient to prove "absolute proof of parentage." At our firm we are of the view that a step-parent adoption is still required in order to provide "absolute proof of parentage."

In 2006 a regulation was created under Nova Scotia's Vital Statistics Act, directing that both mothers' names be registered on their children's birth registration papers. The non-biological mother's name can now simply be registered as the "other parent" and/or a statutory declaration can be filed with Vital Statistics. Practically speaking, this will be sufficient in order for the non-biological mother to participate in day

to day decisions around issues like daycare, school, and border crossings. However, this is only the case if the couple is using an anonymous donor. Lesbian couples who choose a known donor face further complications, as the donor's parental rights arguably cannot be extinguished without an adoption process.

The issue that concerns lawyers is the legal definition of "child" and "is-

*...one of the biological grandkids might argue that the child of the lesbian couple is not included because there is no biological connection to the deceased.*

sue" in various pieces of legislation, and in case law. For example, Ontario has an over-arching law that applies to all other legislation that defines "child" as "the child of his or her 'natural' or adoptive parents." The term "natural" has been interpreted as requiring biological kinship. The concern in Ontario is that in an estates dispute, where property is given to the deceased's "grandchildren," for example, one of the biological grandkids might argue that the child of the lesbian couple is not included because there is no biological connection to the deceased and no court order, and so no actual status.

In Nova Scotia we do not have an equivalent over-arching Act that defines "child" for all purposes, but we do have quite a few individual Acts that define "child" in roughly the same manner. What is of concern is the notion that simply naming yourself on the birth certificate establishes your parental rights completely. Is this a process that is comparable to that of an adoption, thereby creating a definitive parentage in a manner that will protect the parent and the child under all laws? Is it sufficient to establish a complete relinquishment of the donor's parental rights? We think not.

In the Wills and Estates world the idea of having a "definitive parentage" is important for your descendants. Courts have gone to great lengths in determining the rights of adopted children with respect to their parents' estates. There is ample case law that sees adoption as having the effect of terminating the rights of the child with respect to the natural parent and according him/her with all the rights of a natural child with the adopting parents. The rights of an adopted child are certain.

As it stands, adopted children are included in all definitions of the Wills Act, Intestate Succession Act and Testator's Family Maintenance Act. It will be some time before the registra-

tion of a child's "other parent" or a statutory declaration is challenged in Probate Court, but it will no doubt happen eventually. Inevitably the court will need to determine whether registering the name of a co-mother on the birth certificate is sufficient in creating the "lineage" that is required in the definition of an issue— i.e. a "lawful lineal descendant;" or in extinguishing any rights a child may have to the "natural parent" without an adoption order and vice-versa. One can imagine the difficulty non-biological and un-adopted children might encounter when pursuing their right to inherit as an "issue" or a "child" of which the testator is the "natural parent." We as lawyers cannot render a conclusive opinion as to what would occur.



Photo by Christina McPherson



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Merçi à nos Partenaires, Alliés, Invités, Bénévoles, et Membres de la Communauté pour votre contribution au succès de la Semaine de la Fierté 2010!



# Fierté Moncton Pride



Photos from Moncton Pride Day celebrations August 22. Photos courtesy Fierté Moncton Pride.

# First Corner Brook Pride



Corner Brook Pride Proclamation signing. The first visually recorded and first Pride proclamation to be signed in all of Newfoundland and Labrador.

L-R Christian Corbet (Corner Brook Pride Chair, Mayor Neville Greeley and Benjamin Trickett Mercer (Corner Brook Pride Park Festival/Parade Coordinator). Corner Brook Pride events were held September 10-12. [www.cornerbrookpride.com](http://www.cornerbrookpride.com) Photos courtesy of Corner Brook Pride.



# Fredericton Pride



Officers' Square Fredericton Mayor Brad Woodside (left) shakes hands with Saint John Pride Festival Chair Mack MacKenzie (never thought that day would happen!). Fredericton Pride week was held August 6-15. [www.frederictonpride.org](http://www.frederictonpride.org) Photo courtesy of Fredericton Pride.

# Gaies.es Nor Gay Weekend



Perpetual Detour at the Gaies.es Nor Gays Gay Pride Camping Weekend. Many campers were deterred from the GNG Camping Weekend in Petit Rocher, NB September 3-5, but the few that did show up were in for a treat! Halifax dyke band "Perpetual Detour" played indoors on the Saturday evening and outdoors on Sunday evening. The playlist for members AJ Leblanc, Ro Gionet, Jen Stewart, Meagan Lanchberry included mostly tunes they'd written themselves, and a few covers. Tenting was at a minimum at the GNG Weekend this year; most of the attendees stayed in cabins, but as usual the weekend included great food from the cafeteria-style lunchroom, a couple of very well attended dances, and lots of socializing (indoors during the very wet Hurricane Earl on Saturday) fireworks, karaoke contest, and a giant bonfire on Sunday evening. Photo by Gabe Saulnier.

# Port City Rainbow Pride



Local youth carrying the gigantic Pride Flag during Port City Pride week August 6-12. Photo by: James Appleby



Balloon banner made by local supporters at Port City Pride Parade. [www.portcityrainbowpride.com/](http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com/) Photos by: James Appleby

Pregnant cont'd from page 1

plan on referring to the donor father as an uncle. He is connected to the family and will occasionally see the child but other than that he will not play a role in parenting.

You can use an unknown sperm donor, just be sure to screen for STIs and HIV. Sperm banks, fertility clinics (also known as reproductive assistance clinics) provide these services to varying degrees and expense. Donor insemination can take months and at least several attempts to conceive. Most provincial healthcare plans will not cover these services and the cost can rise quickly to thousands of dollars, not to mention the emotional toll of each attempt.

You can inseminate at home as well but getting the sperm at the right ovulation time is tricky and it is recommended that you screen the sperm. To increase your chances of success, there are online resources, such as [www.lgbtparentingconnection.ca](http://www.lgbtparentingconnection.ca), which provides an instructional brochure for donors and the person being inseminated.

Adoption and donor insemination are the most common ways to bring children into lesbian families. Other

methods include surrogacy, foster care, lesbian and gay men co-parenting teams (remember it takes a village to raise a child), and communal living.

What about adopting? Canadian adoption rules include same-sex couples as qualified parents for adoption. The fostering and adopting process takes time and commitment as well. You will need to attend educational sessions as well as pass an assessment which is usually provincially administered. Check with your local family and children services/child welfare office to find out what is involved. Before you put any money into an international adoption, you should verify the laws and expectations of that country. Some countries will not allow lesbians or gay men to adopt children.

If you are ready for the busy life of a family and ready to welcome a child, go for it! If you have spent any time with children lately, you probably already know some of the joys and the challenges of parenting. Children understand love and they won't care about having gay parents as long as they have lots of love and nurturing.

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Now that the harvest is in full swing and gardens are a good three weeks ahead in their growing cycle, this month I offer you hearty fall soup that is the perfect starter for your Thanksgiving dinner. I like to serve this soup in hollowed-out gourds for that extra special presentation, but any oven-proof bowl will also do the trick. Slice off the top of 6 gourds and hollow them out like you would a jack-o-lantern, slice a thin layer off the bottoms as well so that they will steady on your serving plate. Wash well and pat dry, then broil them in oven for 5 – 8 minutes until they have warmed through and toasted slightly. Then ladle the hot soup into each of the gourds, garnish with croutons and cheese, melt cheese under broiler, add seeds and balsamic drizzle. Serve immediately.

## Spiced Pumpkin Soup au Gratin

### Ingredients (serves 6)

- |                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 8 cups, peeled, diced cooking pumpkin | 8 cups chicken broth                    | 2 Tbsp balsamic syrup (see serving suggestions)                                   |
| 2 cups diced yellow onion             | 1 tsp freshly grated nutmeg             | 1/2 cup pumpkin seeds (store-bought)  |
| 1 cup diced celery                    | 1/4 tsp ground clove                    | 2 Tbsp maple syrup (toss with seeds and bake at 350°F until toasted, about 7 min) |
| 6 cloves garlic                       | 1/4 tsp all spice                       |   |
| 1/4 cup olive oil (to coat veggies)   | 1 cup sour cream (or 35% cream)         |   |
| 1/4 cup butter                        | salt and pepper to taste                |   |
| 1/2 cup sherry wine                   | 2 cups grated Oka or gruyere cheese     |   |
|                                       | 2 cups croutons (store bought are fine) |   |

### Method

1. Toss the vegetables in olive oil and roast in the oven on 400°F for approx. 20 min or until they have started to caramelize and brown. 2. Melt the butter in a large stock pot over medium to high heat, add the roasted vegetable, and sauté for 3 – 5 min. Add the sherry and reduce by 1/2 volume (5 more minutes). 3. Add the broth and bring to the boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 40 minutes. 4. In a well-vented blender, puree the soup and pass it through a fine mesh sieve to achieve a silky smooth texture, return to pot, add the cream and heat through. 5. Ladle the soup into the hot gourds (see article) top with croutons and cheese, place under broiler until cheese melts and browns.

### Serving suggestions

Place each of the gratinéed gourds in the centre of a seasonal napkin clad plate. Garnish the top with the toasted seeds and a drizzle of the balsamic syrup. This balsamic syrup can be bought in the specialty sections of your grocery stores under the name Balsamic Cream. If making your own, use 1/4 cup regular balsamic vinegar and 1/4 cup maple syrup. Bring to a boil in a small sauce pan and reduce the total amount by half. Once cooled it will have a syrup consistency. You may also choose to use a few drops of a well-aged balsamic (25 yrs or more) to achieve the same tangy sweetness, but these vinegars can be quite costly.

# South Shore Youth Revamps the Rainbow

by Valerie Windsor  
GSA youth from all over Nova Scotia attended a conference at Forest Heights Community School on April 10. Revamp the Rainbow was hosted by the Chester area Gay-Straight Alliance. The youth delegates expressed the importance of being accepted as they are both within and outside the gay community. According to the post conference report, the youth say, “You are not just your orientation! YOU are YOU! You are the message. Live it!” Another youth says of her friend, “Dan is not just gay, Dan is Dan!”

*Dan is not just gay,  
Dan is Dan!*

Workshops led by the youth focused on diversity, health issues, image, awareness and media. Raymond Johnson, an adult facilitator, led an adult education workshop focusing on reviewing past history and developing positive, healthy, strong images. The adult participants then attended the youth workshops for a better understanding of youth perspective.

Language and image are predominate themes in the post-conference report written by Johnson. The report uses the term “affectional minority” to describe youth and children in an effort to de-sexualize language. According to Johnson, affectional minority is used to represent LGBTTIQ persons in general in response to the terms homosexual or bisexual as they are archaic and reductionist terms that focus solely on the person’s sexual practices.

He believes that gays have been sexualized to little more than sexual acts in the minds of many parents and in youth themselves, and in order to change that we have to educate parents and teachers.

Johnson also says, “Coming out is a process that only has to happen as a result of the failure of families and service providers to act on the needs and realities of affectional minority children.” Johnson went on to say

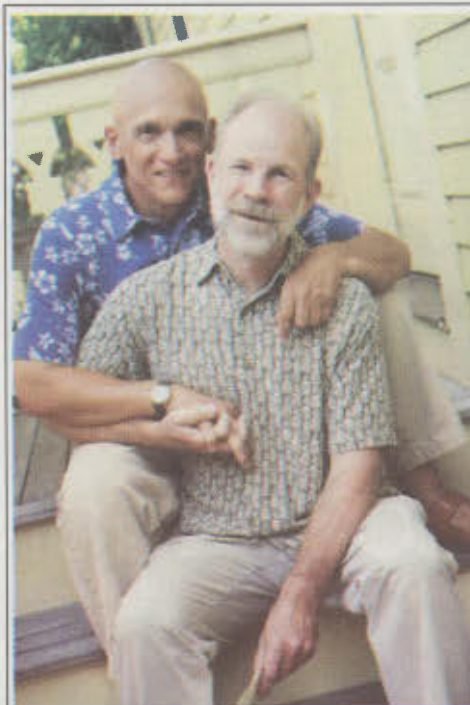
that informed parenting is key and if children were raised to see positive realities that include same-gendered relationships we would accept it for what it is: puberty.

Many youth believe that while sexuality is obviously important, it is not a true reflection of who they are. This group advocates “Just me, label-free” as a GSA slogan and realizes it is a practical ideal, but does

not deny or hide same gendered love relationships. Johnson says, “We all love. Affection is a common human bond that is not negatively perceived by others and my students recognize it as more inclusive than the older labels. So they prefer this use if they have to be labelled at all.”

Revamping language may be an important piece to the growth of our community.

The South Shore School Plus program sponsored and supported the conference, along with many community groups, businesses, churches and government representatives, not to mention parents, students, and school administration and staff. The south shore youth are to be commended for their leadership, strength and creative insight.



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## Ramblings from the Sanctuary Garden Reshaping the Future

By Bethana Sullivan

Another new year! It always feels like the start of the year, more so than in January. I missed the September issue so I am writing about what I would have put in that column. As usual the task of writing something for the future is awkward, the past having come and gone in one sease yet the living of it is ongoing. So here goes.

Back in July my partner and I started on an adventure into the Green Mountains of Vermont. It was time to attend a two week permaculture training program with Starhawk and her staff, called "Earth Activist Training." For any of you who have been on any journey involving time, focus, others, and an away-from-home environment, you will be familiar with the kind of instant intimacy and community that ensues in such a venture. A good thing in this case, as we only had a medium size room to gather in out of the elements. It was part of a duplex "Earthship," a rammed-earth tire structure built into a hill amid 240 acres of mainly forest. Our tents were about a quarter mile away up one of those hills with a wonderful view of the Green Mountains. We had solar showers, compost and trench toilets, and a huge tarp shelter where many classes were held, all put together by various participants. In all the above places much stirring, ingesting, digesting and releasing went on.

I found it surprising that of the

twenty-seven women about 90% were gay, ranging in age from 18 to 63. It was not something that ever emerged in open conversation, but was rather softly spoken about on the side. I wondered if it means that being gay is such an everyday experience in our lives now that it doesn't need to be spoken aloud or if the fact that the leaders were all straight affected how and what was discussed in the big group. This information probably belongs in the category of "social permaculture," a topic I will have to address in another column.

As I didn't actively prepare for this training I was ignorant of what permaculture actually is in any meaningful way. Bill Mollison, considered to be permaculture's creator and author of "Permaculture: A Designer's Manual," indicates it is, "...the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people providing their food, energy, shelter, and other

material and non-material needs in a sustainable way."

Permaculture is about designs of systems in a pattern which functions to benefit life in all its forms. It works with nature rather than against it. It is guided by values and ethics, and mostly by a sense of personal responsibility for care of the earth and all who inhabit it. Mollison goes on to say that as a design system it contains nothing new and yet it is revolutionary in its "total commonsense design for human communities."

The application of permaculture strategies in any country or region will dramatically reduce the area of the agricultural environment needed by households and the settlements of people resulting in the opening up of much of the current landscape for the "sole use of wildlife and ... endemic flora." These are quite dramatic statements, giving me much to think and ponder about.

In these days of what feels like limited personal power permaculture theory and design offers a new way in which I, with others, can work to-

*I wondered if it means that being gay is such an everyday experience in our lives now that it doesn't need to be spoken aloud or if the fact that the leaders were all straight.*

## Queer Parent

from page 6

early years. He came out before he left Nova Scotia and eventually his mom came to terms with the fact he was queer. He sent her books and other related material so as to make her aware of his sexual orientation and consequently his future. He pointed to the fact that he eventually settled into his own life by becoming an activist and community leader. Eventually he came out to me. Chris also discussed his positive relationship with his brother and being an uncle, a role he cherishes. The folks at the seminar were very receptive to his story.

I made my presentation by explaining how my life evolved, especially after coming to Canada in 1954—my first marriage that produced two sons; hiding my true sexual identity to my parents, siblings and friends; the subsequent divorce and horrific court hearing regarding custody and visitation rights. I had decided to reveal my orientation to my wife, as I could no longer live "the lie." It was without doubt a difficult experience, especially for her. My eventual involvement in gay rights, and subsequent marriage to Norman Carter and losing him to a heart attack earlier this year, also made for much of the presentation. After my presentation, we opened the floor to questions.

One after another the questions came and, not surprisingly, many consisted of how I feel about being a queer dad of a queer son and a straight son, as well as my feelings on being a queer grandfather to two delightful granddaughters. Many in the

group attached a lot of importance to my coming out in 1974, when to do so was not particularly a wise move. However, I explained my determination to make a difference. A family unit was established in Amherst and it worked rather well, given the times.

The two-hour presentation was a decided an eye-opener for many of the seniors and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to take part in such a venture. Many times I have said the following: Being a parent and grandparent is a bonding between people that cannot be equalled, re-

gardless of one's sexual orientation.

We also touched on the various ways one may become a queer parent. Chris explained the possibilities and the myths attached to the idea. Aside from his expertise in this field he also facilitates the course "Papas to Be" a few times each year. I would suggest that anyone going to Toronto should pay a visit to the 519 Community Centre on Church Street. They offer a great number of programs and support for the GLBTQ community.

*Books and sex toys for everyone!*



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ple from Calgary was telling me about an advertisement in their community that was directed at white-only, married couples needing to apply to a new subdivision. I hope they gate it and keep it away from the rest of us! And I am grateful to live in Musquodoboit Harbour where diversity is flourishing.

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## 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

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: gender\_expressions@hotmail.com (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Healing Our Nations: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. 1.800.565.4255 email: director@access-wave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Integrity: Integrity is an organization of GLBT Anglicans and their friends, to encourage Christian gay men and lesbians in their spiritual life; to support the Church in its commitment to seek and serve Christ in all people; and to reach out to the GLBT community in Christian love and service. (902) 425-8383 web: www.integritycanada.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

## New Brunswick (506)

### Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. Needle exchange located in office at 65 Brunswick Street Fred. E3B 1G5. 459-7518 email: jennifer@aidnsb.com web: www.aidnsb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

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

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

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

Spectrum: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum (Meets Fridays 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. 506-859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at (506-859-4726 fax) 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

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

Safe Spaces Moncton Region: Education on how to create safe environments for GLBT-TQQ youth. 859-9616

Transgendered Peer Support Group : Open to all M2F, F2M, Andro and trans-supporters from across Atlantic Canada. email: be\_tgmoncton@live.com

UN sur DIX - 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/un-sur-dix/ (Visitez le site Web ou envoyez un courriel pour en apprendre davantage au sujet du travail que nous accomplissons.)

### Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG): A bilingual volunteer association serving gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of northern New Brunswick. email: info@gngnb.ca web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

### Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

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

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT-T2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location 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!. 506-634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS Saint John: To improve the quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the spread of HIV through education and a needle exchange program. Call the office for details. 652-2437 email: aidsnj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.port-cityrainbowpride.com, meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St. Saint John New Brunswick

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

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

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

The UNBSJ Q-Collective: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 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)

Frontrunners Newfoundland and Labrador: Running/walking club. 722-5791 or 753-9529 email: tonybrathwaite@bellalliant.net, jennifer.mccreath@yahoo.com (meeting times can be flexible to accommodate new runners.)

### St. John's

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

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

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

LBGTQ Youth Group: A monthly gathering for queer, allied, questioning, and any interested youth. We offer social events such as bowling, movie nights, and coffee houses. Contact group coordinator Rob Sinnott at the number listed, email, or visit the web page for more info. 699-0509 email: lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org web: nlsexualhealthcentre.org

PFLAG Canada: Information 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 gemmashickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's Pride: St. John's Official Pride Organization. web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2497860774

## Nova Scotia (902)

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

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.

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

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

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

## Amherst

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

The Cumberland Pride Society: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5143 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Monday (7-9 PM)

## Antigonish

Rainbow Warriors: Rainbow Warriors is a youth-run support group for LGBTQ youth and allies in Antigonish. We hold social events such as picnics and game nights, have educational discussions around topics such as stereotypes/assumptions and transsexuality, and raise awareness in the surrounding community by participating in functions such as the Highland Games Parade and the Farmers' Market. While our group is youth-focused everyone is regardless of age, and gender identity or sexual orientation! Find our group on Facebook "Rainbow Warriors - AAHA!". email: antigonishrainbowwarriors@gmail.com, meets every Monday (3:00-5:00pm) at The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, located in the Kirk Building at 219 Main Street, Suite 204 (above Tim Hortons).

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

## Bridgewater

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

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: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. June 13 to around September 12 we have one 10 am service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

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

Bluenose Bears (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.

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

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

Girl-ish Productions: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. 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@yahoogroups.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.imperialcourtsns.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.

NSRAP, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action



Project: for 15 years the leading advocate for Nova Scotia's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community. Fostering change in our communities through education, outreach, and political action. 444.3206 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrp.ca at TBA

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

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

prideHealth: prideHealth is a program of Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre. If you are a member of the pride community and need support with any kind of health care call Anita our Clinical Nursing Specialist, number below. She is available free of charge, offers complete confidentiality, and can also give you support if you are experiencing homo or transphobia. prideHealth- improving safe access to health care. 220.0643

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

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

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: Youth Health & Support Centre. Information and services for sexual health. Ages 13 - 30. 679-1411 web: thereddoor.ca (Monday to Friday 2pm to 6pm) at 150 Park Street

## Kingston

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 825-3197,363-2055 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 Women's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

## Middleton

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

## New Glasgow

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: Offering Individual Support Counselling and Crisis Intervention, Information and Referral, Advocacy and Accompaniment, Programs and Community Education. 755-4647 email: pppc@ns.sympatico.ca

Pride of Pictou County: All GBLT 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 GLBT-T2IQQ 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: sdc@cbusu.com (M-F 9-4pm. Call or drop by for event listings, Ally Training, and Anti-Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshops!) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneyns@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@pridecapbreton.com web: www.pridecapbreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

## Tatamagouche

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

Truro

Central Nova Women's Resource Centre: Resources, programs and services available for all women identified women. Advocacy and support - with outreach to rural areas. Also, see our Facebook group. Central Nova Women's Resource Centre http://cnwrc.weebly.com, cnwrc@eastlink.ca 535 Prince Street, Truro, NS B2N 1E8 (902) 895-4295. web: cnwrc.weebly.com

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre: Provides support and information to sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: turosexualassault@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

Rainbow Proud: Rainbow Proud supports the LGBT\*\* community of Truro and surrounding areas. Our small group of volunteers work hard to put events together for everyone's enjoyment. Any feedback will be considered and can be sent to our email address. We hope you continue to come celebrate our community together. email: rainbowproud@hotmail.com web: rainbowproudnovascotia.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

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

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

## Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGB-T2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadia@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB) Acadia Women's Centre: 585-2140 email: womens.centre@acadiau.ca (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

## Yarmouth

Southwest Nova Pride: Gays, lesbians and those interested of any age are invited. We

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3rd Monday of each month  
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The Youth Project  
2281 Brunswick, Halifax  
902.431.8500  
transfamily@eastlink.ca

meet as a social gathering and support group and we are not church affiliated. 645-2914 email: jackanddan@eastlink.ca, meets 2nd Friday (7:00pm) at Beacon United Church on Beacon Street

## 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

Gay PEI Mailing List: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pe-owner@yahoogroups.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei 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.

## Charlottetown

ARC -- Abegweit Rainbow Collective:

Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)

**PFLAG CANADA**

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Contact Michelle Malette  
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uuchurch@eastlink.ca  
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## The Last Word Brooding about Breeding

sygirl will be the first grandchild for both sides of the family. And it also means I'm officially off the hook, as it were, not that I ever hung from it in the first place.

I decided a long time ago that parenting was not in the cards for me. It's not a case of being gay or straight. I never felt the urge to make copies of myself to carry on the family name or add to the substance of the world or what have you. Even if I were not gay—there's absolutely nothing wrong with being straight, it's just not for me—my loins would still be fruitless.

To be completely honest, I'm not comfortable around children. They kind of scare me. All that neediness and growth spurts and asking, "Where do babies come from?" I could barely stand myself as the annoying, chatty, chubby, know-it-all child I was. I can't see another me

in the world. It'd be like a scene out of a bad sci-fi film, where universes collide and mutually annihilate each other. That's what would happen if there were another me: the universe can't handle that much Randall Perry-branded double-helix.

*I never felt the urge to make copies of myself to carry on the family name or add to the substance of the world.*

So I'm leaving the parenting up to the other, better-adjusted people in the world.

A number of my queer friends have gone the family route. My old friends Nola and Elizabeth have two rambunctious young daughters—the joys of their lives. A number of gay male friends of mine have close, positive relationships with their children,

both adult and teen, from previous heterosexual marriages. They all weather the same storms and bask in the same sunny days. They have my unfettered admiration and utmost respect.

As far as I'm concerned, only the most committed should become parents. It's a tough job for anyone. In the case of queer parents, too, there's a higher-stacked deck against them, despite the legal advances made of late. Generally I think that we as gay people are at the same time a little more messed up yet somewhat better adjusted than the rest of society: we struggle against proscriptive elements of society—parents, school, church, work, authority—but in the end, having dealt with all that crap and come through to the other side of that paradox, we're well-equipped to impart to the next generation a heightened sense of

awareness of the beauty and the beast of the human condition.

From what I see, the risks are definitely worth the rewards, for those who choose to take the plunge. For me, I'm looking forward to becoming an uncle. I don't regret the decisions I've made.

As an afterthought, I will say that the closest I ever came to being a parent was through my ex-partner's daughter from his previous marriage. Kristin was 2 when Jim and I met, she was 10 when he and I went our separate ways, and in the eight years in between I contributed what I could, on the periphery. Soon she'll be 21, a lovely young woman, full of drive and passion for life. I like to think I had something to do with that and hopefully through her I've left a lasting mark on the world, something she'll pass on when (or if) she decides to have children of her own.

randall@wayves.ca

By Randall Perry

A few months ago my brother, Rodney, called me to say that he and his wife, Karen, are expecting their first child in January. While the news came as a pleasant surprise, it wasn't unexpected. Rodney is the only one of my siblings who seems to have all his ducks in a row (and his shit together), whilst my sister and I tend to be "seat of our pants" pilots of life. Not that there's anything wrong with that... but there are days I wonder if my grabbing life by the balls and running with it is affecting its sperm count.

Not surprisingly, both families are excited since little misterboy/mis-

## Forgiveness is the Only Way Out

By Rev. Jennifer Paty

Over the past couple of weeks I have felt a need to talk about forgiveness. It could be that I feel like I need to ask for forgiveness from friends and family because, up until last week, my attention was centered on Pride and that took me away from taking care of myself, my family and my friends. It could be that I may have been short with someone during the

Interfaith Pride service. It could be while decorating the Pride float, I snapped at someone. It could be... you fill in the blank.

There are a number of ways that we can hurt each other during such busy times as those most of us experienced during the month of July. I also be there are more than a few of us that have experience in dealing with "the morning after." How often

have you had to say I am sorry on the morning after? Ouch!

There is an old story of a married couple, Bill and John. John said, "Why do you have to keep bringing up my past mistakes? I thought you had forgiven and forgotten?"

"I have forgiven and forgotten," Bill said. "But I want to make sure you don't forget that I have forgiven and forgotten."


On a serious note I am beginning to understand that forgiving is not wiping the slate clean, but healing the wounds of the past so that the present is not contaminated and the future is open. Forgiving is the healing that allows the relationship to once more become whole.

I am also realizing that forgiveness is hardly a natural act. Our sense of fairness tells us that people should pay for the wrong they do. In this way, forgiveness goes against the grain of wanting to even things up. But we also know that if we all lived by the rule of "an eye for an eye," eventually, as Gandhi pointed out, the whole world would be blind. Things do have a way of escalating. An eye for an eye can become a city for a city, a bomb for a bomb, until nothing remains. Sadly, sometimes that is what I see happening in relationships. The retribution never ends until there is total destruction. You know what I mean....


My bottom line is that retribution does not work. In the words of the Buddha, "In this life, hatred never yet dispelled hatred; only love dispels hatred. That is the law, ancient and immutable." Forgiveness is the only way out.

And, just like our experience during the parade and the community fair, we are in this together and we are all doing the best we can. Compassion/love goes a long way and I bet forgiveness just follows that natural path.

Rev. Jennifer Paty is the spiritual leader and pastor for Safe Harbour MCC.




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- **Symphony Nova Scotia** with **Denise Djokic**, cello; **Bernhard Gueller**, conductor, October 15 — Symphony on the Shore, Lunenburg
  - **Bach The Goldberg Variations**: **Martin Robidoux**, harpsichord, October 24
  - **Donizetti L'elisir d'amore (The Elixir of Love)**: **Artists of Jeunesses Musicales**, November 20 (Lunenburg) and 21 (Halifax)
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