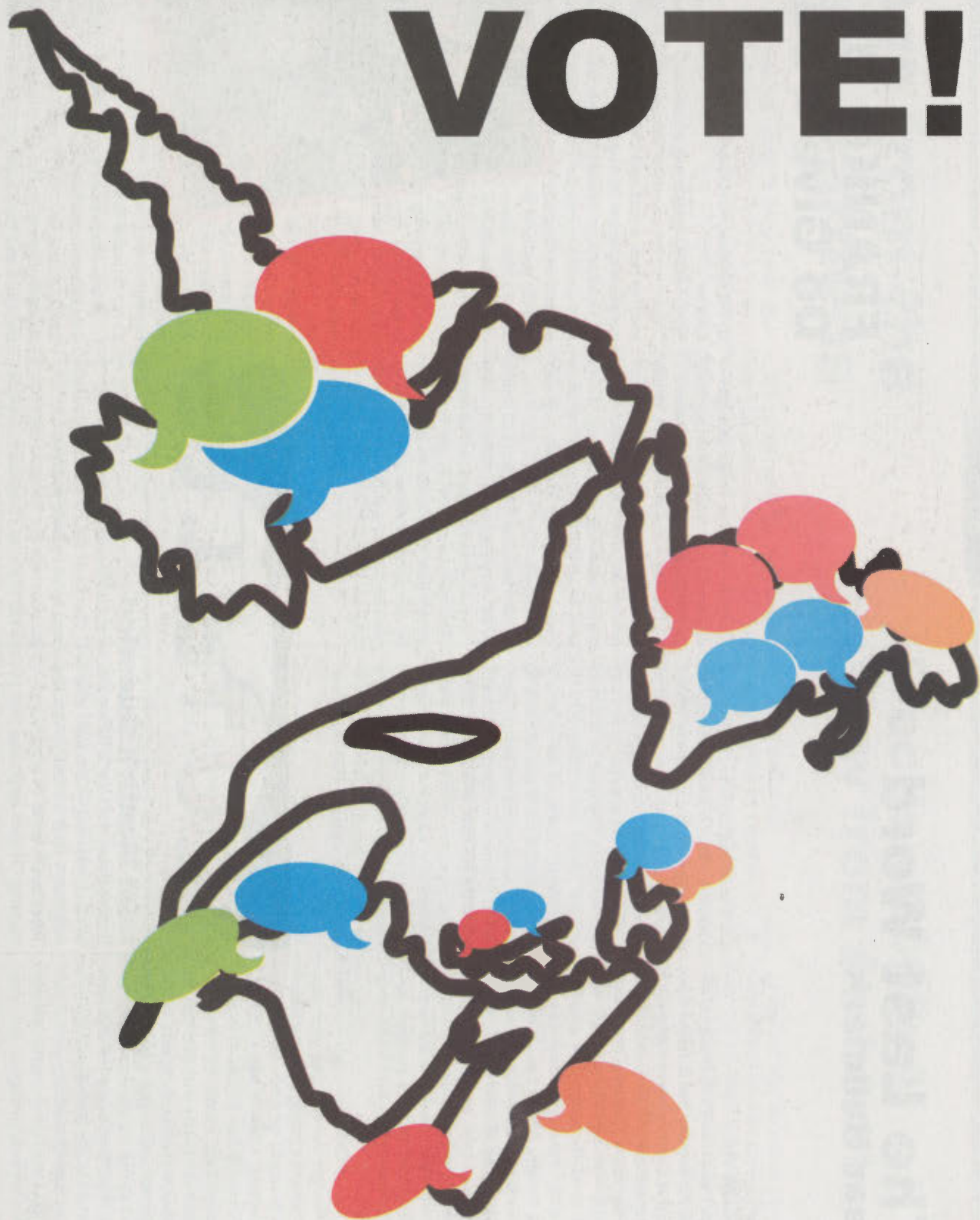


# WAVVES

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October 2008

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# Wayves

## Everyday People Celebrated in Cape Breton

By Peter Steele

It was definitely a celebration of everyday people, as both the gay and straight communities came out to embrace and pay tribute to our diversity. This summer's Pride Week festival in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) was, by far, Cape Breton's best in so many ways. This year we enjoyed an increase in support from our valuable sponsors and more volunteers pitched in to make the week run smoothly.

Always proud to celebrate our diversity, our Honourable Mayor, John Morgan, took part in the raising of our Pride flag. The CBRM, along with its Recreation Department, are one of Pride's main sponsors, and we just couldn't deliver this quality festival without their partnership.

The Atlantic Beach Party that followed at Morrison Beach saw seventeen make the long distance drive to another county. Some camped out, and others, like my vanload, drove back home in the wee hours.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen

circumstances, our gay and lesbian youth did not get their Saturday Dance Social, but hopefully they'll be able to organize one once school begins.

Our Pride Parade, featuring Gemini Award winning actor, Bette MacDonald as Grand Marshall, drew twice as many spectators as last year. Courtney MacPherson piped us along the hour-long parade. As it was no short walk, we appreciate him leading us along. Both our piper and our Queen-for-a-Day mingled for quite sometime at the post-parade gathering, and those in attendance enjoyed the chance to meet and chat with Bette. The AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, PFLAG and Addiction Services had a wonderful response at their tables. Upbeat dance music played throughout the afternoon. Sincere thanks to David Slade and his assistants for overseeing the set up and security of the gathering. Many thanks to M&M Meat Shops, Coca-Cola Bottling and Shoppers Drug Mart for enough hamburgers,

hotdogs, soft drinks and water to give out to 250.

The inaugural Pride Friendship Memorial Tournament saw the men win at baseball for the first time in Pride Week history. Congratulations guys: your 18 to 4 victory over the ladies will live in legend. Thanks to Jean Stewart and her son, Ryan, for their organizing of the game, and to Pam Steele for creating our beautiful trophy. The Family Fun Arcade and Picnic, following baseball, was a huge hit. Thanks to Atlantic Meat Packers and Dairy Queen for keeping the crowd nourished and quenched. Thanks to the Family Place Resource Centre for providing all the games, toys and the face paint (and great job Ryan and Stephanie with the face painting).

Our Movie Night featured screenings of "Imagine You and Me" and "Brokeback Mountain," our tribute to Heath Ledger. Admission and

Cont'd to page 8



Cape Breton Pride Family Arcade Picnic. Photo provided by Peter Steele.



## The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Calling all Unconventional Conventionists! On Thursday, October 30, 2008, at 8:00 p.m., DalOUT will host an interactive screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Bus Stop Theatre (2203 Gottingen St.).

Everyone is strongly encouraged to dress for the occasion. There will be prizes for the best Rocky-themed costumes. Suggested props for audience participation include: a flashlight, a small water pistol, rubber gloves, and a noisemaker. Party hats and newspapers will be provided, and refreshments will be available.

Entrance is free with a suggested donation of \$5.00. So come up to the lab and see what's on the slab. We'll all do the Time Warp again!

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

See Page 3 for more DalOUT news

## Halifax Grieves Loss of Reverend Darlene Young



In the late afternoon of September 12, the Rev. Darlene Young of MCC Safe Harbour passed away peacefully at the Halifax Infirmary. She had been hospitalized due to cardiac complications the week prior, just after celebrating her 47th birthday.

Rev. Darlene was a pillar of the Rainbow Community and her passing will be felt by many. In 2004 Rev. Young performed Nova Scotia's very first same-sex marriage. Rev. Young was pastor at Safe Harbour for seventeen years.

Wayves would like to express our deepest sympathy to her partner, Mun Lei Kai, and to her congregation.

By Bob Fougere

Young, Rev. Darlene Mae

The Rev. Darlene Young, passed away on Friday, September 12, 2008 at the age of 47 years.

Born in St. Catherines, and raised in Welland, Ontario and Pleasant Bay,

YOUNG con't on Page 5

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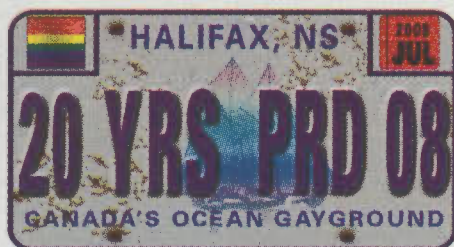
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# Greetings From Halifax Pride



**LICENSE to CELEBRATE!**

By Hugo Dann

First thing on Sunday morning, the boyfriend and I headed to Garrison Grounds to survey the scene of the previous day's Pride festivities. We picked up some stray bits of garbage, rainbow ribbons and water bottles, and chatted with some early morning dog walkers wanting to share their appreciation of the day.

From there we headed across the "old bridge" for the gentlest of Pride events, the family BBQ on the Dartmouth Common. The boyfriend started decorating immediately, and soon Rainbow flags were everywhere, fluttering from trees and bushes. A dozen extended families joined us

for hot dogs and hamburgers, ably prepared by a few hardy members of the Pride Board. Under the bluest of skies, the harbour sparkling, and the laughter of children in the background – it was impossible not to feel a deep sense of accomplishment with the outcome of Pride 2008. Oh we knew there were things that would need improvement, and we'd certainly experienced

what seemed a greater-than-normal number of challenges, but so much had gone right! The boat cruise, the ball game, Reading Out Loud, the Youth Project's events, all had done well. Attendance at the TimeOUT lectures was terrific, kudos and thanks to Kevin Kindred and NSRAP! Angels & Heroes had a sellout crowd for their tribute to Elton John and DaPoPo Theatre's DaPride Café at Menz Bar was terrific. Newer events like the Pride Paddles from East Coast Outfitters did well, and our first ever Songwriters' Circle was a marvelous evening. Many, many thanks to Ryan MacGrath and my new songwriting/

poet hero, Tanya Davis!

We know that there are things we can do to improve the Parade, and there's lots of work to be done on the post-parade concert. We would love to expand the Beer Garden and we'd definitely like to bring in some name acts for the concert. Still, it was fabulous to showcase such fantastic local artists as Ryan, Tanya and The Orchid. Ramona Westgate did a superb job on the community Fair and ensuring that we had so much on hand to offer for families. It was an awesome experience to it take its rightful place in the heart of our capital city. I join with the rest of the Pride Board in expressing our thanks and congratulations to Ed Savage for making the route a reality. Andy, Billy, Dan, Ed, Kim, Kris, Liz, Maggie, Micheal, Patrick, Ramona, Raymond, Shannon, Tamara, Tanya, Trent, and all our terrific volunteers, thank you for your exemplary work and dedication!

But of course, the work isn't over. We're still busy tidying up loose ends and we're working hard to improve the financial and organizational structure of Pride for future years. We want to hear from all of you about what you liked and what you didn't.

We also hope that many of you will consider becoming more involved.

## Halifax Pride AGM Nov 19

Please feel free to join us at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, November 19. We'll be announcing the location closer to the day. In the meanwhile, please feel free to contact me directly by email at [chair@halifaxpride.ca](mailto:chair@halifaxpride.ca).

## Letter From A Proud Mom

I'd like to close by sharing with you an email I received from someone in the week after Pride. It was signed, "A Proud Mom."

"I am the mother of a young gay man. We have been coming to the parade in Halifax for about 4 years. My son was only 14 when he came out to his father and me. I would like to comment on something that happened at this year's pride - something that I thought was awesome. During introductions of the people involved in this year's parade, [Mike Sangster] was introduced as being one of the 'original 75' people parading in downtown Halifax 20 years ago. For me, it

was the highlight of the events that day. I couldn't get out of my head how difficult it must have been to be one of those original 75 people and having to wear a bag over their head to protect their identity. I am so grateful to these original 75 people... they did so much for those like my son who endured many terrible things just going to school. We still have a very long way to go...

I just wanted to say how much I appreciate those that were so brave 20 years ago. I wish [they] could have heard the conversation that my son and I had about them and what they have done on our way home. These people need to be honoured by those in the gay community and I would like for you to pass this message along to them. I am forever grateful to them and the Halifax Gay Community."

I share her gratitude. Thank you, everyone!



## October is GLBT History Month

October has been designated GLBT History Month, and the official website for this month ([www.glbthistorymonth.com](http://www.glbthistorymonth.com)) has been updated with 31 new queer icons, people who have made a difference to the lives of GLBT people in the world. Each day in October, an icon is featured with a video, biography, bibliography and other resources on the website.

GLBT History Month icon videos will be broadcast on the LOGO and here! television networks, and streamed on major gay portals. A link for the videos is offered without charge to educational institutions, non-profit organizations, for profit companies and the public. More than 300 educational institutions, organizations and companies hosted GLBT History Month 2007 on their websites.

To find out more about our history in Canada, and locally, visit the Canadian Gay and Lesbian Archives at [www.clga.ca](http://www.clga.ca) or the Halifax Gay Wiki at [gay.hfxns.org](http://gay.hfxns.org). The CBC Archives website also has video and audio clips from significant points along the struggle. Check out [archives.cbc.ca](http://archives.cbc.ca) and expand the Politics, Rights & Freedoms section.

## 5TH ANNUAL NSRAP Gala Dinner & Silent Auction CELEBRATING THE INAUGURAL COMMUNITY HEROES AWARD



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phone: 902.402.4262

MC: Candy Palmater  
Speaker: James Loney  
(Former hostage in Iraq)

# Transform Your Understanding of Gender Diversity

By Cherie MacLeod, Executive Director, PFLAG Canada

Moncton will soon push gender boundaries to a whole new level. A special workshop on transgender issues is planned for September 30 and it is sure to encourage participants to see gender in new and diverse ways.

Attendees will hear about real life issues and learn the truths and myths of gender variant children and adults. They will also gain an understanding of the extent to which trans-identified persons are marginalized and discuss ways of fostering greater acceptance in schools, healthcare and workplace environments. Each participant will receive a comprehensive resource CD featuring human interest stories, statistical data and research analysis.

Facilitator Denise Holliday is a 61-year-old post-op transwoman

who was granted full female status in Canada in 2003. Denise is an accomplished workshop facilitator and has a reputation for fine educating and story-telling, which will certainly be enjoyed by all who attend. She has lived full-time as a female since 1998 and has been with her spouse, Sharon, for 38 years.

Denise is active in several areas of transgender education. As a writer for Wayves magazine, she penned the column, "Transgender Diaries," and continues to contribute articles on various issues. She also serves on the board of Northern AIDS Connection Society, volunteers as PFLAG Canada's gender identity support coordinator and hosts the radio program, "Over the Rainbow," on Halifax's CKDU 88.1 FM.

The workshop will be held at

La Terrasse, 154 Church Street, in Moncton. Workshop registrants can choose a morning session (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) or evening session (5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.), each lasting four hours. Registration is limited to 40 participants per session. Please register early to avoid disappointment. The cost per session is \$75.00.

La Terrasse co-owner, Mario Bourgeois Leduc, promises fine dining in a professional, yet relaxing atmosphere.

For more information, please contact Denise Holliday at 1-888-822-9494 or Mario Bourgeois Leduc at (506) 854-0220. E-mail [gender@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:gender@pflagcanada.ca) or visit the website for more information at [www amorepassion.com/corporate/en\\_corporate.html](http://www amorepassion.com/corporate/en_corporate.html) (enter pflag0930 in the blank provided for access code).

## Who Will Fill Alexa's Chair?

With Alexa McDonough's imminent departure from the House of Commons at the end of the current Parliament, the federal riding of Halifax is up for grabs. The NDP Member of Parliament held the seat for over ten years, during which time she was re-elected three times, before announcing her retirement from federal politics.

There are four contenders for the popular MP's seat.

On September 8, the Halifax riding's NDP Federal Election Nomination was won on majority vote by Megan Leslie. Megan defeated Alexis MacDonald on the second ballot, after Irvine Carvery lost on the first. A lawyer by profession, she currently hangs her hat at Dalhousie Legal Aid as a Community Legal Worker and teacher. Her community involvement includes membership in the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, facilitating workshops on transgender issues and participation in the NDP Nova Scotia Diversity Committee. Megan is also a founding member of OutLAW, a Dalhousie Law School queer action group. For more information, check Megan's websites at [www.meganleslie.ca](http://www.meganleslie.ca) and [meganleslie.ndp.ca](http://meganleslie.ndp.ca).

Liberal Catherine Meade may be best known to readers for her involvement in LGBT sports, as a lawyer, as a Safe Harbour person and for her overall activism. Catherine is currently Co-president of the Gay and Les-

bian International Sport Association (GLISA) and has been involved in queer sport since the Vancouver Gay Games in 1990. She is an Associate at Boyne Clarke, Barristers and Solicitors, specializing in areas of estate and real estate law. For more information, check her websites [www.votemeade.ca](http://www.votemeade.ca) and [www.glisa.org/web\\_page/BOD\\_Catherine\\_Meade.php](http://www.glisa.org/web_page/BOD_Catherine_Meade.php).

The Conservative contender for the Halifax seat is Ted Larson. At press time, there was no information on the party website about him, except for a phone number and e-mail address. His website, [www.tedlarson.ca](http://www.tedlarson.ca), links directly back to the same boilerplate page on the party website.

Dalhousie University professor and media man Darryl Whetter threw his hat into the ring as the contender for the Green Party. His first collection of short fiction, "A Sharp Tooth in the Fur," published by Goose Lane Editions, was chosen by the Globe and Mail as one of its top 100 books of 2003. His first novel, "The Push and the Pull," was recently released, also published by Goose Lane Editions. Let's look for some interesting creativity from this one, should he succeed. Check out his websites, [www.darrylwhetter.ca](http://www.darrylwhetter.ca) and [ridings.greenparty.ca/index.php?module=article&view=15](http://ridings.greenparty.ca/index.php?module=article&view=15).

Be sure to make time to vote on October 14. Make every vote count.

## Come Out At The Grawood

On Friday, October 3, 2008, from 10:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m., DaOUT will celebrate National Coming Out Day as they host their third annual "Come Out At The Grawood" night at the Grawood Bar and Lounge in the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave.).

Following the format of past successes, the night will feature a drag show, music by a live DJ, and some fantastic prizes. It is a guaranteed good time, so be sure to bring your friends. The cover charge is \$3.00 with \$1.00 going to the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project. DaOUT, the LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University, is open to all members of the public. Everyone is always welcome. For more information, visit <http://societies.dsu.ca/dalout> or e-mail [dalout@dal.ca](mailto:dalout@dal.ca).

## Important WAYVES Dates!

**Issue Content Deadlines:** Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, Feb 6 2009; 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):** Monday Oct 6, Nov 10, Dec 8, Feb 9, 2009. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, location: Anchor Archive, 5684 Roberts Street, Halifax (off Agricola, two streets south of North.) All welcome, every meeting.

**Magazine Layout (Halifax):** Oct 12, Nov 16, Dec 14, Feb 15 2009. 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, **On the stands, in the mail, and online:** Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 29, Feb 27, 2009.

## Calling All Guys For a Guyz Group

By Tammy Barbour, ACNS Program Coordinator

A pilot for a new social group for gay men in the Halifax area is starting this fall. Providing a safe space for men to come together to develop social networks and talk about their experiences, it is an initiative of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) and we hope that the group will begin to define itself. Thanks to the Menz Bar, the first three meetings of the Guyz Group will be held there in the library. The meetings will be guided

by Gabe Saulnier, a proud member of the community, from 6:00 8:00 P.M. on October 16, November 6 and 27. Please come join us If you have questions please contact me at 425-4882.

### Our Cover:

Vote early, vote often! Ottawa needs to hear a rainbow voice from all over Atlantic Canada! Cover design by Cam MacLeod

## Wayves On Line!

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

## wayves

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

**wayves** is an independent publication, published every month - except January - by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to **wayves** is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. **wayves** reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in **wayves** are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the calendar of the Community Events page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and might be edited for length. Submissions should be e-mailed - in plain text - to the address noted below. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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### How to reach us...

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Atlantic 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!

# Anal Douching 101

By Angus Campbell

Last month: rectal microbicides. This month: douching. Should I change my name to Anus? Am I being too tongue in cheek?

But this is a serious topic and recently I've been asked this question by a few people so let's get all the giggles out of the way now. Proceed when ready.

Many men and women, gay, straight and bi, want to explore the pleasures of anal sex (fingering, rimming, fucking, toys, etc.) but are concerned about hygiene. Anal douching is the answer so you can relax and enjoy, and the most common form is the anal syringe. Stay calm, there's no needle involved.

Two important comments before continuing: 1 - Douching flushes everything from the rectum, including the good flora, hence daily douching is not a good idea. I'm not a medical professional so I can't advise how

often is too often, but two to three times a week hasn't harmed anyone I know. 2 - Unprotected anal penetration is a high risk activity for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Safer sex suggests using a condom on the penis, finger or toy with lots of water-based lube. For rimming you may want to consider a barrier like Saran Wrap. Put a dollop of lube on the side that will press against your bum to increase the sensation. So let's look at the benefits of

*"When you're done you'll know you're 100% fresh and ready for a fun prostate massage."*

the anal syringe: compact, portable, inexpensive and available in select drug stores (often located on a lower shelf around the ear syringes) or online at a variety of sites (search for "anal douche")

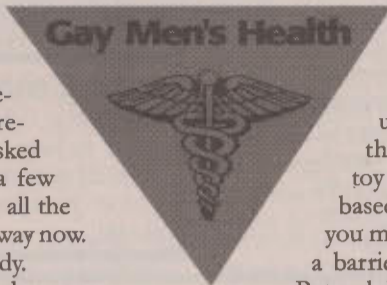


or SeaDogs. It's easy to clean, and you want to keep it clean. And most importantly, it's effective and safe when used correctly.

It's made of two sections: the bulb and the spike, each about 4" long,

and operates on the same premise as an enema. And it's easy to use, just follow these instructions:

Got health and sexual health questions? Email me in confidence at: AngCam59@yahoo.ca.



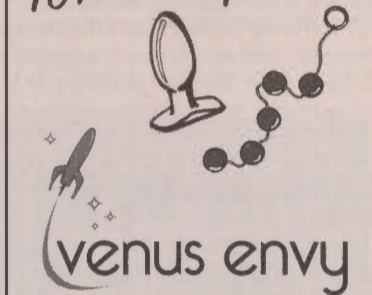
## The How-To

- Pull the spike off the bulb.
- Fill the bulb with warm (not cold and definitely not hot) water.
- Reconnect the spike back on the bulb.
- Rub a little water-based lube over the spike.
- Sit yourself on the toilet. Take a deep breath and relax. This is not going to hurt. Some consider it refreshing and sensual. Gently and slowly insert the tip into your bum. Relax. Don't force it. Take your time.

When the spike is mostly in, slowly squeeze the bulb. The warm water will be directed into your bum.

- Gently remove the anal syringe. Hold the water in your bum for up to 30 seconds, a good sphincter control exercise. Then release the contents into the toilet. How did that feel?
- Clean the spike with some soapy water if necessary then repeat the process. You may want to repeat the process three or four times.

*Books and sex toys for everyone!*



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## AIDS PEI Receives Literacy Funds

AIDS PEI recently received a grant of \$1,000 from the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Literacy Foundation. The grant will be used to produce a culturally-sensitive, plain-language brochure describing the current needle exchange program. Partners for the project include the Native Council of Prince Edward Island and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

"Many thanks to the Rotary Club Literacy Foundation for these

funds. It is because of funds like this that AIDS PEI can continue to ensure that its clients are receiving information about hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS and that the information is relevant to diverse groups and accessible," said Mark Hanlon, Program Director at AIDS PEI.

AIDS PEI hopes to have the brochure ready for the public in 2009.

AIDS PEI is a not-for-profit organization on Prince Edward Island

that creates a supportive environment for persons living with HIV/AIDS, to increase public understanding of the impact of HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and other STI's in Prince Edward Island.

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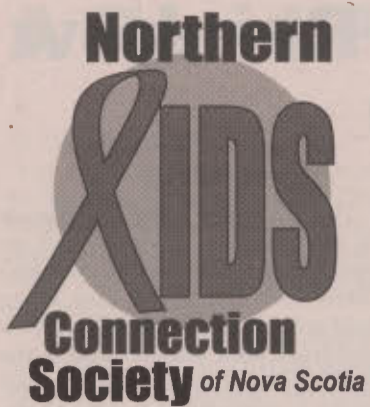
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## Active Season for Northern AIDS Connection

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) hosted four walks this year in the communities of Truro, New Glasgow, Amherst and Elmsdale. The turnouts were super and the final amount of money raised has not yet been determined. Thank you to all who supported these events and worked behind the scenes. A very special thank you goes to Lauren Grant, our summer walk coordinator. Great job!

As part of the work plan NACS hopes to work with the GLBT groups

in Truro, Amherst and New Glasgow to set up a display about HIV/AIDS and programs we offer. Our agency knows that stigma and discrimination pertaining to HIV, as well as being gay, are huge factors and would like to address these concerns by working directly with these groups. There may be a possibility of organizing workshops and providing guest speakers highlighting issues such as prevention, healthy choices, services and more. We hope that the various groups in these communities will be open to working with the Society. We also hope to be invited to events such as dances or meetings with the various GLBT groups to communicate and provide resources.

Our Healthy Decision Making Fair will be held in November at the Nova Scotia Community College in Truro. The goal is to assist community-based agencies working in areas of health, healthy living, making healthy choices and services that they provide. This day is sponsored by the Truro and Area Community Health Board through the provision of lunch and the space is provided free by NSCC. This annual event exposes students and the general public to information and services in the area. Anyone interested in setting up a booth is asked to contact Al or Bonnie at 902-895-0931 or email [nacs@eastlink.ca](mailto:nacs@eastlink.ca).

## The Youth Project Turns 15!

By Sandra Bornemann  
On November 15, the Youth Project will be celebrating 15 years of serving the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in Nova Scotia! We will be hosting a reunion and birthday celebration open to all members of the community. Whether you currently are or have ever been a youth, a volunteer, board member, or a supportive community member, this is a great opportunity to come out and celebrate with us! Check out our website for more details.

In preparation for our celebration, we are currently looking for anyone who has previously been involved with the Youth Project to help us compile stories to document our history thus far. If you were involved with the Youth Project at any point over the past 15 years, please visit our website for more information on how to get involved in our commemorative 15 year anniversary project.

For more details, please visit our website: [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca).

## Bedford United Church News

Bedford United Church, located at 1200 Bedford Hwy, is an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada. This means the congregation has made, and continues to make, a public welcome to the Rainbow Community as well as other marginalized groups in society.

Recently Anne Hebb, Chair of the Inclusivity Committee, attended the Affirm United National Conference held in Saskatoon, SK. While the conference focused primarily on working for the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the United Church, the physical setting for the conference was in an inner city church. With that backdrop, all participants were made painfully aware of the continuing homeless and hunger that exist in Canada. Near the end of the conference, Anne was presented with the 2008 Affirm United Volunteer Award for her work in support of the GLBT community in HRM and Nova Scotia.

In June Anne also began working as a covenantor of the Affirming Ministries Program at Affirm United. In its third year as an Affirming congregation, Bedford United Church continues to be enriched by the presence and participation of gay and lesbian members. Services from September to June are held at 9:00 a.m. (celebratory in tone and features contemporary music) and at 11:00 a.m. (quieter and more reverent in tone). Occasionally services are held at 10:00 a.m. Call the church office at 835-8497 to confirm times or visit [www.bedfordunited.com](http://www.bedfordunited.com).



**Leonard Preyra**  
MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island

*"Coexistence: what the farmer does with the turkey— until Thanksgiving"*

*Mike Connolly*

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YOUNG con't from Page 1

Nova Scotia, she attended Mount Allison University (83) and the Atlantic School of Theology (86). She was ordained in 1986 and served in ministry in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In 1991 she began her work with the congregation of Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church where she served as senior pastor until her death.

She is survived by her life partner Linda Kai (Mun Lei), siblings; Jessie (Douglas) MacKinnon, of Pleasant Bay, Lorraine (Ronnie) Muise, Herbie of Cheticamp, and beloved nephew JR Muise.

Darlene will be remembered for her incredible dedication to her family at Safe Harbour, MCC. She served on numerous boards in the Halifax community including the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project and the AIDS Coalition. She was a theologian and scholar who had a tremendous faith and love of God. She had a balance of passion and compassion that changed all who knew her. She laughed easily and it was infectious. The delights of her heart were her

soul mate, Mun Lei (Linda) Kai and her nephew, JR Muise.

A viewing was held at J. Albert Walker Funeral Home in Halifax Monday, September 15, 2008.

A Celebration of Darlene's life was held on Tuesday September 16, 2008, St. John's United Church Halifax with The Reverend Elder Diane Fisher officiating and several other church leaders notably The Rev. Elaine Westcott of Koininia Church Halifax and Metropolitan Community Church Toronto's The Rev. Brent Hawkes.

A memorial service will be held at St. Andrews United Church, Pleasant Bay at a later date followed by interment at St. Andrews Cemetery Pleasant Bay.

Mun Lei (Linda) Kai would like to thank the doctors and staff of Queen Elizabeth II Hospital for their extraordinary care of Darlene and the ongoing care she received from the nurses at the Cardiac Care Unit.

Memorial Donations in memory of Darlene can be made to Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Box 31108 Halifax, N.S. B3K 5T9.




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*Peter Kelly*

Leadership and Vision

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The municipal election day is October 18th.

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**Halifax at 6009 Quinpool Rd. (Corner of Robie)**  
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**Dartmouth at 149 Portland St. (Corner of Victoria)**  
Open House Wednesdays 4-6 PM


You can also email me at [kellyformayor@gmail.com](mailto:kellyformayor@gmail.com) or through the contact button on my website, or you can call me at 445-5353 or 468-5252

Your comments and suggestions are a vital part of the democratic process.

I ask for your input and your support.

Respectfully, I remain

Peter Kelly



## Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom

October is a big month in the gay world. It is GLBT history month, plus October 11 is National Coming Out Day, at least in the US. Have there been Canadians who have come out on this date I wonder? And, of course, October is the month for Hallowe'en, considered by some to be the gayest holiday of all. I think it is a big event for the GLBT crowd because being in disguise is how some of us lived for a long time. And ironically there can be freedom to cut loose and really be yourself when dressed as someone or something else.

Did you ever go to a Purple Jesus party? Many years ago—like when you were a teenager—they had these parties where everyone brought some kind of booze and it all got emptied into one large container making a kind of potluck punch that everyone drank from. That's kind of how I feel about this election; we Canadians have no idea what kind of bitter cup we are going to have to swallow, but we are pretty much guaranteed to have one heluva hangover! I mean look at each of the party leaders as liquor. Jack Layton would be beer, the working man's ale—and none of that imported stuff either. Elizabeth May would be something like Jägermeister, potent, made with organic herbs and green. Stéphane Dion would be vodka, has strength but colourless and not much flavour on its own. Stephen Harper would be wine made by an amateur winemaker from a kit. The kind that looks alright in the glass but leaves a really bad aftertaste in your mouth and upsets your stomach.

Forgive me if my typing seems a bit wonky sometimes. I think I've developed carpal tunnel syndrome from hitting the mute button every time I see one of the ads for Harper on television. And it does my blood pressure no good to look to the interminable American election now that Sarah Palin, that ideological granddaughter of Phyllis Schlafly, has arrived on the scene. It has all of the nightmarish quality of one of those horror movies where you think the madman has been slain and then suddenly a myopic monster rises up to take its place. Although I must admit it is nice of Palin to ensure that the healthcare package for her staff will cover rabies shots.

Palin's discount eyewear is an interesting accessory. It reminds me of those old movies where a woman would put on glasses to disguise herself as an intellectual, although certainly not a librarian in Palin's case. I think the Palin look will be very big this Hallowe'en. What could be scarier? Oh yeah, the Stephen Harper disguise. The best thing about the Stephen Harper costume is that all it takes is a sweater to completely alter how people see you.

A kind of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hidebound. Imagine hordes of little trick or treaters showing up at your door dressed as Palin or Harper, like Stepford children with vacant smiles and rifles.

Did you hear about Geri Hall of This Hour has 22 Minutes getting kicked out of Harper's press conference, handcuffed and almost arrested? Harper said he didn't recognize her or watch the show. Well, of course not, that would require a sense of humour! I sometimes think his handlers must have little cue cards for him that say "Smile" or "Pretend to find slightly amusing" or "Shake hands with children" so that he will know how to act in public. I guess they were unprepared for 22 Minutes; spontaneity not exactly being the Conservatives' strong suit.

I'm glad to see comics on both sides of the border are starting to weigh in on the candidates. Ridicule is one of our most effective weapons, especially when politicians are relying on style over substance.

Speaking of comics, I was happy to see the lovely photos from the DeGeneres/Rossi wedding—even if I was slightly surprised that both were dressed in virginal white. And now George Takei has married his long time partner. To think that all those years ago he might have been secretly thinking, "Beam me up Scottie and don't wrinkle the chiffon!" Or maybe Sulu was a space-faring closet case yearning for some man to go where no man had gone before, while adjusting the speed of the thrusters. Considering the number of Trekkies in the world this is big international—perhaps intergalactic—news.

I will admit to a certain smug satisfaction in being able to see these ceremonies from Canada where same-sex marriage is legal across the land but I very well remember the emotional and powerful effect of the first queer weddings here. When someone as well-known and well-liked as Mrs. Ellen DeGeneres gets married it has a huge ripple in the pond effect, and there are lots of boats that need rocking.

Gotta go now, Tom. Need to change the newspaper in the bird cage and I've got a lovely image of Stephen Harper so my feathered companions can show him their ...uh, affection. A form of what I call birdy doo doo voodoo.

Love ya!

*Crawford*

## Abegweit Rainbow Collective

by Shawn-Patrick McDonald, ARC Co-Chair

Happy fall to everyone as Thanksgiving and Gay Christmas (Halloween of course) approaches and the cold weather starts to set in. I hope that everyone has found a cuddle buddy for the winter. ARC is doing a lot of work this fall within and outside of our community and it is very exciting to see the plans we have shaping up.

There are some big plans in the works for the upcoming months. A Red Tie Gala fundraiser is in the works to help out one of our fantastic partners, AIDS PEI Community Support. The exact details such as date, time, place and who will be performing are still being ironed out, but it is shaping up to be a huge event. We are also reviving our GLBT Youth Group and GLBT Youth Drop-Ins with renewed vigour; after all, youth are the future of our community. We are also looking for more volunteers to complete the setup of our Rainbow Resource Room GLBT Library. We have lots of books, magazines, and videos that need to be entered into the computer and catalogued in order to start our lending process.

We have three dances coming up in the month of October and we have many more booked well into 2009. Our dances are now being held in Mavor's Bistro and Bar, with the dance floor being located in the Studio Theatre, both venues located in the Confederation Centre of the Arts in downtown Charlottetown. The venue is perfect and has a beautiful softly lit courtyard for those who need to take a break from the dance floor. Speaking of the dance floor, we normally have our Resident DJ, Michael-Shawn, spinning all the latest tracks from Ibiza and all around the world, as well as our favourite pop and dance hits remixed for an extra flair. As an added bonus we plan to feature some guest DJ's, such as DJ Marnie G. and DJ Eric.

Upcoming dance dates: Friday, October 3; Saturday, October 18; and, of course, our Halloween dance on Saturday, November 1. As usual, we will have a best costume contest, so come out and be the most creative and festive that you can be.

For the complete schedule and other information, visit [www.arcpei.com](http://www.arcpei.com) or call 902-894-5776.



ARC fun on PEI Photo provided by: Shawn Patrick McDonald

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# A Rural Point of View

By Paula Arsenault

"The prices are going up tonight so we better fill the tanks tonight." This has become a new way to say good night in our household. Transportation is a big concern for those of us who live in a rural area.

Gas prices are one more thing to think about when deciding on taking a certain job over another. I recently had this experience when weighing the different jobs I was applying for. Would I be able to car pool? Would I be able to earn enough to cover the cost of gas? What about the covering the extra car insurance? What about the wear and tear on my vehicle? Was taking this job going to be worth it?

I have a feeling these are all things everyone is considering, not just country folk. However, we don't have options. There is NO public transportation: we have to still find a drive 55 kilometres away to catch it, and this would just not work.

I remember complaining about the buses when I was going to university in Halifax. I regret that now as the complaint was about waiting another 10-15 minutes to catch a bus. That is minor compared to now when my concern is the dent in my pocket caused by the cost of gas and vehicle prices.

Our transportation woes do bring out the plusses of being neighbours on the rainbow dirt road. We soon learn who along our road is travelling to work and willing to car pool. We also learn quickly which neighbours have a snow plough for winter and a tractor for those greasy mud roads

in spring—this summer, a visiting relative commented to me after all the August rain, "The cottage owner should be able to bring out a fan to dry the road." "Thank you for that laugh," I replied. "You should see the roads in spring!"

When living in the rural area you have to also learn the art of driving a "beater," the car that will get you through the year. Purchased for little money, with a safety inspection for one more year (important), this is the car that can be driven on back roads, where you don't mind getting bent rims from pots holes and or dents from animals. A beater is the car you USE; it is not an ego car.

Who can afford an ego car in the country, anyway? Rarely will you find an ego car, like an SUV, in the country. We are the champion gas mileage car drivers, and only when needed for the farm or other work do we purchase a truck. We never have to fret over leasing or buying, because our mileage will be so high we can not afford the lease in the first place.

Some of our country rainbow friends use alternative travel. They ride a bicycle to a store or, for leisure, go horseback riding. When we gather to party or celebrate our conversations often turn to the price of gas, what car gets the best mileage, and who has a beater for sale.

Not so long ago we have stories about our rural ancestors using public transportation to get to appointments and to visit. There were buses and railroads crisscrossing our landscape. These provided a lifeline of travel for

many people. We do not even hitchhike anymore. The concerns about rural transportation are many. The pat answer to all this is, "Well, you choose to live where you live." My response is, "Choice is only a matter of opinion."

And speaking of choice, in my next column I will let you in on what it has been like to be a "focus family" for a reality television show... stay tuned.

*"When we gather to party or celebrate our conversations often turn to the price of gas, what car gets the best mileage, and who has a beater for sale."*



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## Integrity Fredericton

The Anglican Church support group for homosexuals, lesbians, and other non-heterosexual people is hosting a fall symposium on Human Sexuality and the Church. This event, scheduled for Saturday, October 18, will be held in the Alumni Memorial Building, 13 Bailey Drive, at the Fredericton campus of UNB.

There will be five presentations, with dialogue following each topic. The presentations will include Scriptural interpretation of sexual issues,

the history of our sexual acceptance within the Anglican Church, the Diocese of Fredericton's response, the psychological cost of being a non-heterosexual in our society, and a pastoral response to non-heterosexuals seeking a spiritual journey.

This event begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Registration cost is \$25.00 per person, and lunch is included. For registration forms and further information, contact davidstaples@rogers.com.

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# Cape Breton Pride con't from page 1

popcorn were free, along with bar service. We relaxed in lawn chairs for a wonderful evening. Thanks to the YMCA of Cape Breton for the projection equipment.


Robert Barrie rocked our MusicFest once again. Robert donates his time and talent every year and is truly a crowd favourite. Our first ever Karaoke Night was a huge hit. Congratulations to Ross Hunter for winning the top prize, and kudos to Cathy, Matt and David for their winning performances. Special thanks to Blair, Eva and Michael for playing judges Randy, Paula and Simon.

PFLAG's Open Forum didn't get the turnout we had hoped, but the publicity of the event and PFLAG itself in the news was huge. PFLAG will certainly get lots of calls from the exposure. Pride Cape Breton is proud to partner with PFLAG however we can. Congratulations to Michael Gillis and Sana Kavanaugh on their presentations and work on behalf of PFLAG. Thanks to Sobey's for the light lunch and refreshments.

Our Pride Dance was the largest attended event in our history. Thanks so much to Chuck and Mike (or was it John?) for getting the sound system working. Carrie and Crystal, you did an awesome job with the music! Besides the huge number of people, it was great to see the diversity amongst those at the dance. We hope we'll get to see you all at our end of the month dances.

## INAPPROPRIATE

New paintings by Holly Carr will be on display at FRED, 2606 Agricola St, Halifax, from September 19 to 30, 2008. The opening performance, suitable for adults only, which will incorporate a monologue, music and the creation of a 16' x 18' painting, will be held at FRED on Friday, September 19 from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Tickets cost is \$20, on sale at FRED. Call to reserve your seat at (902) 423-5400 or e-mail [info@fredsalon.ca](mailto:info@fredsalon.ca). Visit the website at [www.fredsalon.ca](http://www.fredsalon.ca).



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The special drag show, hosted by hometown girl, IV and VIII Empress Boom Boom, was an amazing end to an incredible week. Accompanying her was Empress Ms. Vicki, Dowager Empress Natasha N., G.G. Gore and Dennis Storm. Our biggest surprise was the introduction to Ms.



Bette MacDonald at the Cape Breton Pride Parade Sydney

Indie Skies. This gorgeous number is already a pro after only two performances. I lost count of Boom Boom's continuous wardrobe changes, and Ms. Vickie, I'll never forget you and look forward to meeting you again. Thank you, Swiss Chalet, for feeding my ladies and gentlemen.

We presented lots of donated merchandise and certificates as door prizes at all our post-parade events.

Thanks to our friends at CBC for their continued coverage of our community, and to K94, the Giant and the Eagle for their participation. You may think you just give notice of our events, but you help foster awareness and acceptance of our community. Thanks to City Printers and Boutique

Calliope for your huge support.

Profound thanks goes to Darren McKinnon and John Griffen for all they did to help make Pride Week run smoothly, and to Cheryl for always being there to serve up our refreshments. And last, but not least, for your help throughout Pride, thanks to Stephen, Ducky, Jackie and Angela, as well as my good friend, Rob, who visited Pride from Ontario. He

volunteered throughout his stay and said he never met such a great group of people.

Visit us at [www.pridecapebreton.com](http://www.pridecapebreton.com), where you'll find updates of our monthly activities, maps to venues, and links to other friends and allies within our community. We're



Pride Baseball. All Photos provided by Peter Steele



Pride Drag Show - Mx Indie Skies

always looking for volunteers, so if you're interested in getting involved with your community, email us at [info@pridecapebreton.com](mailto:info@pridecapebreton.com), or contact a board member.

### Lay Chaplaincy Services

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# Atlantic Fringe Festival 2008: A Review

by Bill McKinnon

The Atlantic Fringe Festival (AFF) is over for 2008; so it's time to consider Fringe 2009. AFF had many super shows this year including three productions of LGBT relevance. AFF is small in size compared to festivals in larger cities but its quality is high.

Daniel MacIvor's one-man play, "Wild Abandon," an emotional roller coaster, chronicles the turmoil of a lonely youth's struggle with the vicissitudes of life. It was beautifully, passionately and convincingly performed by Kyle Gillis under the direction of



Kyle Gillis in *Wild Abandon*.  
Photo by Bill McKinnon

"Southern Time," a two-person rock opera is of interest as the lead character "relives how he contracted HIV from a complex and disturbing relationship with his African-American cello professor." Tim Bartsch (the writer/composer) and Shazia Islam are the two performers and both have lots of talent. The show was a bit too long but the story and music are both great and this is a play with a message every non-hermit gay needs to hear. Readers can listen to the music, see a video, read a synopsis of the show and learn what it is all about at [www.southern-time.ca](http://www.southern-time.ca).

These shows are now over—no point in dwelling on what-one-might-have-seen, but they will likely all be back in or near Nova Scotia again someday; so if you missed them, watch for their revival and find out more from <http://www.atlanticfringe.ca/> or write to [billmckinnon@eastlink.ca](mailto:billmckinnon@eastlink.ca) for a review.

What is a fringe festival? It's a low cost, low risk, theatre delivery system for performing arts, artists and audiences. A fringe is accessible and affordable, a free market for performers—uninjured, uncensored, with an anyone-can-put-on-a-show/anything-goes attitude. It's an art-

ist-driven festival, the on-ramp for culture workers—actors, writers, technicians and producers. The AFF celebrated its 18th run in 2008 with over 40 shows from Atlantic Canada, Ontario, and the U.S., with 250-plus performances in seven venues: musicals, dramas, comedies, dances, performance, belly dancers, stand-up, etc. The concept was born in 1947 in Edinburgh, Scotland, where the world's largest fringe festival is still held. In this country they are held in many cities including Edmonton, Canada's largest. (Some of the forgoing was gleaned from fringe websites.)

Would you like to get involved? You may wish to put on a show by yourself or with others, an original or not, gay or mainstream. In any case, now is the time to start preparing for next August. Maybe you will write a play, skit or a routine. It will be a lot of fun, will not cost much and may be a way for you to break into show business, as an amateur or to make some money. Some fringe plays have achieved fame and fortune. Perhaps you would like to volunteer and are not interested and/or not yet ready to mount a production. If so, you don't need to do anything until next

August, but then you will be able to help out and see some shows for free. Finally, you may just wish to simply attend shows and that is also great. Whatever experience you choose, you will have the chance to get off the couch, enjoy shows, meet interesting people and come to the media launch which always has great food and celebrities.

I have experienced fringe as a spectator in six cities, including Edinburgh, and enjoyed participating in a small way as a volunteer in both Ottawa and Halifax.



*Southern Time*.  
Photo by Bill McKinnon

Neptune Theatre School's Charlie Rhindress. For more about Kyle, see [www.facebook.com/pages/Kyle-Gillis/8272619813](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kyle-Gillis/8272619813) and for more about Daniel and his many plays, see [www.danielmacivor.com](http://www.danielmacivor.com).

"Gay White Trash," by Michael Best and Kevin Curran, is perhaps the best gay play ever to originate in Nova Scotia. It ran to sold-out houses in 2005 and was again a hit at this festival. The excellent cast included Michael and Kevin and Tara Doyle, from the original, plus Marty Burt who also directed this not-to-be-missed play which so deftly and hilariously dispels gay-stereotype misconceptions. For a review, see [www.metronews.ca/halifax/entertainment/article/103281](http://www.metronews.ca/halifax/entertainment/article/103281) and/or [www.thechronicleherald.ca/ArtSLife/1075349.html](http://www.thechronicleherald.ca/ArtSLife/1075349.html).



*Gay White Trash*. Photo by Bill McKinnon

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## Chef's Corner



When I think Thanksgiving dinner the first thing that comes to mind is my nanny Lewis' amazing sweet potato pie. I have never been a sweets fan, not even as a child. I have always preferred the savoury side of the feast, but nanny's sweet potato pie always made me finish my peas so I could have dessert. Nanny has been gone for years now, but her base recipes live on through me. If you enjoy pumpkin pie you will love this recipe. The flavours are very similar, yet the sweet potato has imparts a creamier texture. This dessert is best served still warm and fantastic drizzled with maple syrup and a scoop of candied ginger gelato. Enjoy!

Next month a salute to our troops on Remembrance Day.

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

## Sweet Potato Pie

### Ingredients (for 1 9" deep dish pie plate)

1 recipe sweet dough (write for recipe)	1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
1 1/2 lb sweet potatoes	1/2 tsp ground cloves
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/2 tsp salt
1/2 cup maple syrup	1 oz vanilla brandy
2 tsp ground ginger	1 cup 35% cream
1 tsp ground cinnamon	4 large eggs
	2 egg yolks

### Method

1. Line your pie plate with rolled out dough and crimp the edge, dock with a fork, line with parchment paper, fill with dried beans to weigh the dough down and bake at 400°F for 10 minutes or until dough is golden brown and set. Remove from oven and let cool on a rack, then remove the beans and paper. Brush the inside of the shell with 1 lightly beaten egg white to create a barrier between the shell and filling.
2. Bake the sweet potatoes in a 400°F oven until very tender. Cut in two, remove the flesh and puree in a food processor until very smooth
3. In a large mixing bowl combine the puree, sugar, syrup, salt and spices. In another bowl whisk the eggs, brandy and cream together, then combine this mixture to the potato mixture and whisk smooth. Pour the mixture into the prepared pie shell and bake at 350°F until the filling is set in the centre (approx. 35-45 min).
4. Let cool on a cooling rack for at least 30 minutes before serving.

## The 2008 International AIDS Conference

by Ted Gaudet

I was fortunate to get a last-minute scholarship from the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) to attend the 17th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008). The Conference is convened by the International AIDS Society (IAS) every two years, and took place in Mexico City from August 3 - 8, with close to 25,000 participants. For the first time, the 12th International Conference for People Living with HIV/AIDS (LIVING 2008) was held just prior to AIDS 2008 on July 31 - August 3 which had over 400 participants.

The Positive Leadership Summit of LIVING 2008 was centered on the following themes: universal access to HIV treatment, care and support; positive prevention; sexual and reproductive health and rights of people living with HIV; criminalization of the transmission of HIV and included issues for women and most at-risk groups.

*"The program promoted dialogue, encouraged networking, built solidarity, and promoted inclusion in the global community."*

AIDS 2008 continues to offer a scholarship program and this year, of the 866 international applications from People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV), 320 were awarded. In addition, the province of Ontario made 150 scholarships available for Ontario residents and ICAD provided 30 travel scholarships to Canadians. Other Canadians also attended as self-supporting delegates.

AIDS 2008 had a number of components, including satellites sessions, poster and exhibitions while the main conference had three main streams: community, leadership and scientific programs. It also included a Skills Building Program which was a unique component of the conference spanning the community, leadership and

scientific programs. Its purpose was to offer workshops covering a diverse range of topics with the principal aim of providing a stage for teaching specific skills or strategies to specific audiences that can then be applied within their own work or life settings once they return home.

The Global Village was a large area at the conference consisting of exhibitions, workshops, networking area, and a marketplace which was open to both conference delegates and non-delegates free of charge. This included community organizations from around the world, local or national groups and the general public. Through this interactive and participatory space, the Global Village highlighted HIV-related issues, concerns and priorities facing various HIV-affected communities. The program promoted dialogue, encouraged networking, built solidarity, and promoted inclusion in the global community. The Cultural Program demonstrated the importance of art in response to the global AIDS epidemic by showcasing culture and arts in all forms including film and video, visual art, theatre, poetry, dance, music and other creative forms.

The AIDS 2008 Youth Program provided an opportunity to strengthen the participation of youth and the profile of youth issues in the conference with such activities as a youth pavilion, an electronic youth bulletin, a youth media hub, youth presentation space, youth mentorship activities and a youth website.

The PLHIV Lounge helped delegates to maximize their participation at the Conference by providing a calm and supportive environment with space for informal discussions and peer support, quiet relaxation, complimentary refreshments and a safe place to take prescription medication.

Other than the various pre-Conference events, the Conference program included 150 satellite sessions, a daily plenary session, and over 600 information and skills building sessions while the Global Village had its own program and activities. Activists played an important role at the Conference by organizing events and demonstrations that created awareness on various issues.

I had attended the Bangkok Conference in 2004 and the Toronto Conference in 2006 therefore the Mexico Conference provided me with a continuum and a basis for measuring successes in the response

to HIV/AIDS globally. The next conference will be held in Vienna in 2010 and I encourage those actively involved in the field of HIV/AIDS and those looking to expand their horizons in the field to consider at-

tending at least one conference—it definitely will change your perspective, enlighten you, and you will be much better informed on the impact of HIV/AIDS on many fronts.



Students rally at Canada's Parliament against a ban on gay organ donors.

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# Ramblings from the Sanctuary Gardens

## Wayves Welcomes New Columnist

Wayves is excited to introduce our new columnist Bethana Sullivan. Her own words say it best, "A transplanted Ontarioan, I found my gayness living in the place where ocean and ocean-rock meet, and ancient wisdom awaits our awakening." Bethana will be writing a monthly column titled Ramblings from the Sanctuary Gardens, where she actually does write.

By Bethana Sullivan

I am honoured and excited to be asked to write for Wayves. Though nervous too, as words, language, ideas, concepts and stories are so important to how we understand who we are, how we build ourselves, individually and in community, that care must be exercised in how and what is expressed in this column so as to honour the space as a place of truth. Truth, as I address it here, is defined by Parker Palmer as "an eternal conversation about things that matter, conducted with passion and discipline."

My writing tends to read like the way I speak, and I speak about the questions I have about life. Life as I experience it internally and externally. Sometimes my interior life is more real and exciting than my exterior life. But that's my nature, to be a reflective intuitive until I get bored and become a doer. Being and doing -- Descartes' famous quote is "I think therefore

I am". I prefer "I do to know that I am."

There's a tension here, a creative tension at the best of times, at the worst it is painful and depressing. Most of the

in between, which is the best of things. We don't live on the extreme edges most of the time. Even though as gay people it might feel as if the edge is always close. To live on the edge all the time is to be in active crisis of some sort -- of poverty, of abuse, of drugs, of a religious high or

*"Even though as gay people it might feel as if the edge is always close."*

a despairing low. It seems to me that the tension might be because of the invisibility of living on the edge, especially when there is no crisis, there is only you and I and the wonderful lives we live. *Time present and time past Are both perhaps present in time future And time future contained in time past.* (Burnt Norton, T.S. Eliot)

Time is a wonderful concept, more complicated than when experienced as only linear, something that Eliot seems to have known intuitively. Time as experienced in Burnt Norton is like string theory or multiple realities, many truths living side by side by side. So as a woman today I am all that I was and all that I will be, yet changing too.

My second most favourite quote from the same poem; [ITALICS] Footfalls echo in the memory Down the passage which we did not take Towards the door we never opened Into the rose-garden.

Time as understood by Eliot offers us the opportunities to make different choices, to examine the echoes of our footfalls and, this time, to take the path to the rose-garden.

Entering the rose-garden is not without its peril, as most of us know. Roses are prickly and gardens have pests. But this is life; its pains, its sorrows, its loves and its happiness. This is what makes our lives wonderful.

In a somewhat rambling way I have arrived at the point, "the still point" of what I will write about: living on the margins in an extraordinary life, full of potentials and pitfalls. Most recently my partner and I leapt from the margins onto centre stage -- we had a Blessing Ceremony that everyone else called a marriage so now you can call me "Mrs. Sullivan" if you please. Talk about creative tension! In my next "Ramblings from the Sanctuary Gardens" I will speak to a friend's question to me on the night of our ceremony, "What difference does it make?"

Until then, Bethana.

References: Eliot, T. S., "The Four Quartets" in *Collected Poems, 1909-1962*. Palmer, J. Parker, "The Courage to Teach" 10th Ed.

# Election 2008: A View from Amherst

By Gerard Veldhoven

When it comes to elections we all wonder where the candidates stand on GLBT issues. The fact remains clear that not all share the same view.

Bill Casey, the former Conservative MP from Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley, now an Independent, was kicked out of the Conservative party by Stephen Harper for voting against the government regarding the Atlantic Accord. When the Liberal government brought in the same-sex marriage Bill, Casey voted against it twice.

Then, when Stephen Harper attempted to reverse the new marriage Bill by allowing a free vote, Mr. Casey voted against his boss. So Bill Casey's stand changed and apparently he is at ease with equal rights for the GLBT community.

The NDP has consistently been supportive. Karen Ollson is the candidate in this area. The views of the Liberal candidate, Stacy Parsons, are unknown. It is not known where the Conservative candidate, Joel Bernard, stands. He was appointed by the federal Conservative party to run in this riding. He is unknown in this area, so no information as to his thoughts on GLBT issues is available.

Elizabeth May decided not to run a candidate in this area for the Green Party out of respect for Bill Casey, calling him an "honourary Green".

One may look south of the border where Obama and McCain are battling, to help grasp the differences between Canada and the United States. Neither candidate publicly supports same-sex marriage. Governor Sara Palin, the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate, has said she not only opposes same-sex marriage, but also is against equal rights for gays and lesbians.

*"Stephen Harper prefers to be a fruit, not a vegetable."*

We will know all on October 14, however I believe Casey will probably win again, unfortunately, as an Independent.

As for the party most sympathetic to our cause, the NDP tops the lot. Above all, the Canadian citizens are quite solidly behind us. This gives us a great deal of hope for our future.

And it was just announced Stephen Harper prefers to be a fruit, not a vegetable. He explained, "...because I am sweet and colourful." Perhaps this election will put a different spin on a side of our esteemed Prime Minister that has thus far been hidden in the proverbial closet. Where does Harper REALLY stand on GLBT issues? Stay tuned.

# SIDA/AIDS Moncton Update

By Debby Warren, Executive Director

AIDS Moncton has a new home at 80 Weldon Street—lots of space and storage, no more boxes piled in offices. We're planning an official open house sometime in November or early December.

Currently we are in the process of having a vehicle retro-fitted to provide a needle distribution service throughout Westmorland, Albert and Kent counties. Since May 2007, our community partners have been working with AIDS Moncton to deliver a 4-hour mobile weekly service. The procurement of a vehicle will enable us to deliver a daily service which is long overdue.

September was an extremely busy month with planning for the Scotia-bank AIDS Walk for Life plus the Rouge Restoclub benefit. Proceeds received from both of these events assist AIDS Moncton with its delivery of HIV prevention and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The fall months are packed with various initiatives: delivery of HIV prevention workshops; start-up and facilitation of support groups for GLBTQ youth; World AIDS Day breakfast with the Lieutenant-Governor; Candlelight Memorial Vigil at St. Paul's United Church with Moncton's African Children's Choir; AIDS Awareness Week activities; Volunteer Symposium at Moncton Coliseum;

Poinsettia Campaign; and the agency's Christmas Party.

AIDS Moncton will host two youth from September to November from Canada World Youth, who will assist with various activities while learning how a grassroots organization fulfills its mandate.

It would be helpful if some people could offer a few hours of their time to assist with some of the above activities. In particular, we would be pleased to have assistance with start-up and facilitation of a support group for GLBTQ youth. To find out more about volunteering needs and information on other activities, please contact us at: (506) 859-9616, or e-mail at [sidaidsm@sida-aids-moncton.com](mailto:sidaidsm@sida-aids-moncton.com), or our website at [www.sida-aidsmoncton.com](http://www.sida-aidsmoncton.com). Or just come visit us at our new digs at 80 Weldon Street.

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## The Last Word

### Dear Hallmark,

By Randall Perry.

When I was a boy, still living in Toronto, my mother had a friend who worked at a greeting card company. I don't remember the job she did—perhaps she was in marketing or perhaps an artist—but I do know that she was privy to all the company's exciting new designs and upcoming seasonal ad campaigns. About once a month my mother would arrive home with sample packs of new cards, direct from the artists' paintbrushes and the writers' pens. I looked forward to these little gifts, many of them with the lingering scent of printer's ink, as little excursions into small-scale creativity.

Some of these new cards featured new designs for wedding greetings. Even at such a young age, I wondered if there would be card for the kind of wedding I would like to have... to Nicky, the boy I secretly wanted to be my best friend, to come live in my room, to pay attention only to me when we kids congregated on the playground before going home after school let out for the day. A juvenile crush (VERY juvenile) but still very important to me. I wondered out loud one day why the wedding cards didn't have two boys or two girls, and my mother replied, perhaps a little too curtly, "Because boys can't marry each other."

Well, now boys can marry each other, and so can girls, in Massachusetts and California, at least, and Hallmark, you have decided to mark the occasion by introducing a line of wedding cards aimed at same-sex couples. I welcome the move into this growing niche market; however I have a couple of criticisms.

First, same-sex marriage has been legal in Canada for a few years and there's been nary a drop of ink or tube of paint squeezed for the plentitude of same-sex couples who have tied the knot here from either you or your main competitor, Carleton Cards/American Greetings. I could list a number of smaller, gay-specific greeting card companies whose financial bottom-lines are in the black because of the amount of money I've spent on friends' rushes to the altar.

Second, your new designs are, well, boring. Uninspired, as if the initial designs were dashed off at the end of a bathroom break. Come now... one design with an illustration of two cardboard cutout-style tuxes holding hands (construction paper, anyone?), another with two crayon-drawn hearts mashed together, another with nothing but little coloured hearts all over, with a bit of vague text about promises and hearts... are you marketing to sophisticated adults, many of whom have waited all their lives for the chance to marry their significant other, or do you just think we will take the first thing that comes along because we're so grateful for the attention?

I know you're trying to walk a fine public-relations line, considering in a political climate where same-sex marriage is a flash-point for bigoted hot-heads, but by leaving off words like "wedding" and "marriage" you're trying to have your cake and eat it,

too. The attempt at being inoffensive is coming across in bland, unimaginative designs from a company whose artists and writers have produced some absolutely stunning products.

When you get involved in any way with same-sex marriage in America you will always court some sort of controversy. You're in for a penny, so why not in for a pound. You've already pissed off the loopy Concerned Women for America (at least, according to their spokesman, Matt Barber!) and no doubt some pastor in some right-wing church will stage a boycott or two, but doesn't the profit potential in this enterprise outweigh the risk of losing a few shit-heads to the competition? Pull out some

of those creative stops and give a decent-sized segment of the greeting card-buying public what it wants.

I'm sure Ellen and Portia's friends didn't settle for such dreck; and neither did those who attended the recent wedding of George Takei and Brad Altman, married after already spending 21 years together as a couple.

So, Hallmark, I suggest you return to the drawing board—literally—and I'm confident that you can do better. The wide-eyed boy in me may no longer have the crush on Nicky, but he still likes to dream that perhaps one day he may get the perfect wedding card.



### Last Month's Question

In September we asked, "What kind of social events are you most interested in attending?" The final tally is 41 checks of the 10 multiple-choice responses. Here's what you picked, from most to least popular. Topping the list at 17 responses is "Special events at a licensed bars/restaurants." Three responses tied for second place at 15 apiece: "Casual events," "Live music events" and "Private parties." There were 10 responses for "Alcohol and drug-free events." Seven chose "Regular (or irregular) attendance at licensed bars/restaurants" and six picked "Sporting events." At the bottom of the list, with 4 responses, was "Events with other restrictions such as gender/sexual orientation" (seems we like our mixed crowds). Two people picked "All or most of the above" and nobody picked "None of the above."

Many thanks for the number and variety of responses.

### This month's question:

This month's question is, "What effect do you think the election will have on the lives of queer Canadians?"

You tell us at: [wayves.ca](http://wayves.ca)

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## FRANKly My Dear We Do Give a Damn!

By FRANzine, HRM's latest rumour tumour

What Halifax gossip rag, excuse me, "supermarket checkout magazine," tried to pull a fast one over a local gay photographer in August?

Publications cannot use photographs without consent from photographers or owners.

Usually payment is waived for community papers like ours. However for publications that charge, photo credits and remuneration are standard, especially for a cover shot. One could consider it the dangling paparazzi carrot (not to be confused with dangling paparazzi salami, but that's a very different story.)

Frank Magazine recently learned the difference between free and fee, thanks to one very alert Wayves team member. One of my sources-horses informed me that it took quite the effort for Frank to pay. Some might say they were Frank-incensed but I think it's more like Frank-insensitive.

Tsk, tsk, tsk, Freeloadin' Frank! You got caught with your hand in the photog's cookie jar. And what's this

I hear that **Bill McKinnon** doesn't want any money from you? Your penance is to donate to Manna for Health, MCC Safe Harbour's food bank for people living with HIV/AIDS? That's fair, Frank. Fairy fair, girlfriend, as Fifi would say.

She's also queerious about your claim that your "flash happy shut-

terbug was on the scene" (at Halifax's 20th Pride Parade) but nowhere do you publish her name. Come out, come out wherever you are. Should Fifi and the rest of us that posted pics online for friends to enjoy check to see if we've been ripped off too? What's that smell? More donations cooking?

You're not 'fraid of fags, are ya, Frank?

Because in my books it's either gay up or pay up.

If you really want to do the right thing, you'll become a regular donor. **Manna for Health** is a great cause that requires ongoing community support. Show us all that you DO give a damn. Oh yeah, and ask for permission next time. It's not only the right thing to do, it's the law.



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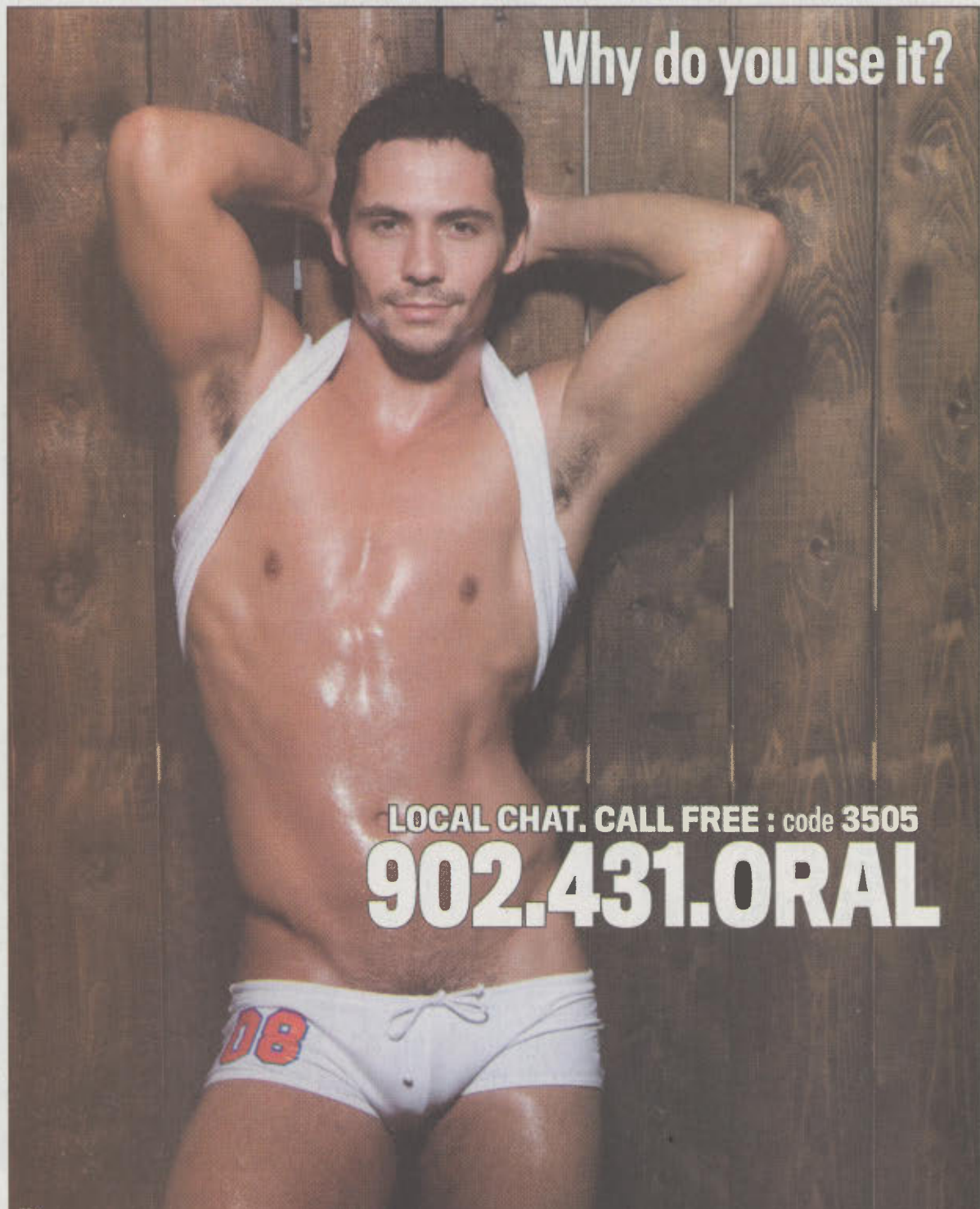
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