

# WAVES

March 2004 for atlantic canadians

## In This Issue:

**Our New Real Estate Section!!**

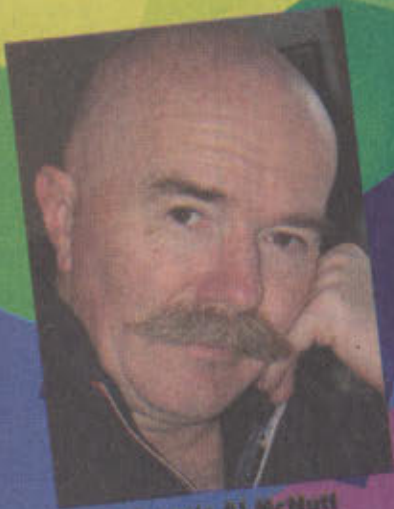
**Gary Beals: Whose Side Is he On?**

**Queer Camping**



*Order of Canada for Eldon Hay*

## Atlantic Canada Activism



*Truro's Al McNutt*



*Halifax's Gary Beals*

## Where You Can Find wayves

(updated 2004/02/15):

### New Brunswick...

**Bathurst:** Gaie-es nor gays

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

**Moncton:** Reid's Newstand; Rainbow Pride Store; Triangles; United Books, Martin Road; X-Citement Video

**Sackville:** Bridge Street Café; Mount Allison; Tidewater Books

**Saint John:** AIDS Saint John; Club Montreal; Mahogany Manor

### Newfoundland...

**Comer Brook:** Comer Brook Status of Women

**Gander:** Gander Public Library

**St. John's:** Bennington Gate; LBGT M.U.N.; Newfoundland & Labrador AIDS Comm.; Newfoundland Gays and Lesbians for Equality; Our Pleasures; Shopper's Drug Mart, Le Marchant Road; St. John's Public Library; Word Play; Zone 216

### Nova Scotia...

**Amherst:** Carvel Upholstery and Draperies; Cumberland County Family Planning

**Annapolis Royal:** The King George Inn

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

**Bedford:** Bedford Library

**Bridgewater:** Second Story Women's Centre

**Canning:** Canning Library

**Dartmouth:** Alderney Library; Dartmouth North Library; Healing Our Nations; Jake's Video & Variety; Nova Scotia Government Employees Union; Wolfgang Leathers; Woodlawn Library; X-Citement Video, Main Street

**Halifax:** AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia; Alteregos Café; AND Café; Atlantic News Stand; Blowers Street Paperchase; Bookmark; Buy the Book and More; CD Plus; CKDU Radio; Captain William Spry Library; Counseling and Community Support Services; DALOUT; Dal-Tech; Daily Grind; Diamond; Fresh Start B&B; Grad House (Dal); H.M.V.; Hairdressers' Market; Halifax Backpackers Hostel; Halifax North Library; Halifax Library - Spring Garden Road; Jacob Steven Salon & Spa; Kashen Goodman Library; Killiam Library; Khyber Club; Mount St. Vincent University - Rosaria Centre; Night Magic Fashions; Nooks and Crannies; NSCAD - supply store; N.S. Advisory Council - Status of Women; NRG; Planned Parenthood Clinic; Random Play; Read All About it; Robyn's Grocery; Seadogs Spa; Second Cup - Spring Garden Road; Shoe Shop; SUB, Dal and St. Mary's; Tool Box; Venus Envy; Video Difference; Weldon Law Library; X-Citement Video, Quinpool Road; Youth Project

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

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

**Middleton:** Emma Tigerheart, R.S.W.

**New Glasgow:** Pictou County Women's Centre

**Pictou:** Pictou Library

**Port Williams:** Port Williams Library

**Sydney:** Harrison Society; AIDS Coalition

**Tantallon:** Tantallon Library

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

**Windsor:** The Hants Youth Health and Resource Centre

**Wolfville:** Acadia Women's Centre; The Atheneum, Acadia; The Coffee Merchant; The Odd Book; Wolfville Public Library

**Yarmouth:** TOOTS; Western Counties Regional Library

### Prince Edward Island...

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

### British Columbia...

**Vancouver:** Little Sisters

### Ontario...

**Ottawa:** After Stonewall; One-in-Ten

**Toronto:** Glad Day Bookshop; Out on the Street

### Quebec...

**Montreal:** L'Androgyne

## Letters

Dear Editor:

It has recently been announced that Rev. Dr. Eldon Hay, Professor Emeritus, has been awarded the Order of Canada for his untiring work with the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Dr. Hay has been a long-time supporter of GLBT rights and it is so exciting to see him being honoured for his work with our community. It would be nice to see some local press about this wonderful person and this most prestigious honour. Dr. Hay and his wife Ann live in Sackville NB where he was a long-time professor of religion at Mount Allison University.

With intelligence, integrity and compassion, this human rights activist has championed a more tolerant, inclusive society. Professor Emeritus of religion at Mount Allison University and a United Church minister, Eldon Hay has provided determined leadership to PFLAG, a support group for parents, families and friends of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons. The first president of PFLAG Canada, he also leads local chapters in Atlantic Canada, where he is highly

respected for his thoughtful perspective on the issue of human sexuality. A pillar of his community, he has made a lasting impression on the lives of his students, parishioners and the community at large.

Don Tabor

Springhill, Nova Scotia

Dear Wayves.,

Sorry about missing the "Housing Issue" deadline. Before I begin I would like to say how I enjoy reading your paper. Also when I am able to help out, it's nice to sit amongst the layout team. This has been a new experience for me. There is lots to learn and to explore.

In December's issue, I spotted that the next issue would be about "Housing" and thanks to you, you gave me an idea to write.

I must admit I have done a fair amount of moving from Dartmouth to being Halifax bound where I am today. It's been one apartment to another. I have tried to manage but when the rent goes up so often like it does there is always a need to move and find a place where the rent is reasonable.

I always remember a quote

from my mother, "Bill! why don't you put wheels on your furniture so the next time you plan to move you can just them along."

This Christmas reality hit me on my nose when I tried to explain to an aunt of mine why I sent the cards out so early due to another address change. She then pointed out saying that this was the seventh time.

A year ago I lived out in the Fairview area. Actually I lived on my own in the southend for a quite a few years plus it was really convenient for me being close to where I work. Then the rent increased so often. This is why I took the plunge and moved to Fairview.

It's funny how the rent has increased so much over the years. Yet the apartments still remain the same. Some of the bachelors apts. are small. I remember one particular I rented through the South West Apartments. The kitchen was so small I swear if you did a little dance like the jig you could touch the sink, stove and fridge with your butt. There's a price to pay when living in town. Even when finding a nice one bedroom the rent can be quite out of reach.

*continued on page 15*

## Atlantic Gay Business Conference



by Randall Perry

Is Atlantic Canada ready for its own gay and lesbian chamber of commerce? Jim Culbert thinks so. In fact, he's planning and hosting a conference for the region's gay and lesbian business owners to solicit their thoughts on this and other ideas on doing "pink business" in the four Atlantic provinces.

A bit of history, first. Jim moved from Ontario to Prince Edward Island in 1988 and opened Blair Hall, the Island's first gay-owned and operated, out-of-the-closet bed and breakfast. A few years later, during a Thanksgiving dinner get-together with friends, Maritime Rainbow Connections was born. Blair Hall was eventually sold and Jim renovated the small grocery store he operated on the property into the Rainbow Lodge, a colourful fixture on Vernon Bridge's rustic, rural landscape.

An informal association of gay and lesbian business owners throughout the region, Maritime Rainbow Connections has been

growing over the past decade through word-of-mouth. With a major sporting event coming to Montreal in the summer of 2006, Jim feels that now is the time to kick things up a notch and set about the task of organising the members of MRC into a more structured and permanent organisation. To that end, the first, hopefully annual, Atlantic Gay Business Conference will be held during the weekend of April 16-18, 2004, at the Inns on Great George in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

The conference will be an informal event, but it has some specific objectives, the foremost of which is to set up an organisation of gay-owned and operated business throughout Atlantic Canada. A number of guest speakers will be in attendance: Scott Dickieson, a Charlottetown-based lawyer, will speak on legal matters; Wayne Harrison, of Wayne Harrison and Associates, will lead a session as a motivational speaker; his partner, Ross Leavett, will host a question and answer period during an afternoon session. Still to be determined are speakers to cover technology, finances and advertising.

In preparation for this conference, Jim sent out seventy-five letters to people on his extensive list of contacts. He hopes, though, that many more people interested in promoting gay business in Atlantic Canada will attend, and that this first conference will expand and become a yearly event. He hopes that the outcomes of the conference will help draw both more gay business and more gay consumers to the region.

Jim believes that networking is the key to success in all business, and when it comes to gay and lesbian business, this is definitely the rule. Networking comes naturally to gay people, he believes, recalling his own experiences over the years of helping to initiate, and being involved in, small initiatives that take on lives of their own and grow. Safe social spaces for the gay and lesbian community have developed and now flourish through the efforts of dedicated people, and it stands to reason that safe business spaces are also possible, especially since the climate is better for gay business now than it was even a short decade ago.

For more information about the conference, please contact Jim Culbert at or phone (902) 651-2202 (toll-free 1-800-268-7005). To book a room at the host venue, contact the Inns on Great George toll-free at 1-800-361-1118.

# Pension Fight Continues from Truro

By Jane Kansas

Albert McNutt is a solid guy. His solid laugh comes from a big solid chest sprouting salt and pepper hair. He's bald by choice and sports a big ginger blond moustache. His eyes crackle with laughter and his voice sometimes seems to be in two octaves at the same time. He looks like Mr. Clean's gay brother. On a recent snowy and mild morning I meet him at the back door of his Truro home. He doesn't invite me in; he wants to go for breakfast at a nearby café. It's only two short town blocks away but McNutt insists on driving. "I just shaved my head," he laughs. "I don't want to get cold." We jump in his car and toot over.

The Calico Café is a busy, chummy place with snapshots of people's kids and local art on the walls. It's run by Jim Harpell, a local NDP honcho. Truro Pride and Northern AIDS Connection Society meetings are held here.

McNutt is obviously very well known. When he orders up 'the usual' Harpell knows exactly what to get. Once McNutt's breakfast of eggs over-easy, bacon and toast arrives we settle in to talk about his current battle.

It's one of the big battles in the on-going war of equality for gay and lesbian people in Canada: Canadian Pension Plan benefits for same sex spouses. "Every working Canadian pays into the plan," McNutt explains. "We have no choice. So every working Canadian should be able to benefit from the plan—if you retire, become disabled or if your spouse dies."

All widowed spouses can apply for the CPP survivor benefits, but if your spouse was the same sex as you they had to have died after 1998. The federal government imposed that cutoff date when it introduced Bill C-23, which granted a variety of rights to same-sex couples in 2000. McNutt's



partner Gary Pask died in 1993. McNutt applied for survivor benefits and was denied.

McNutt's eyes are the colour of blue winter ice but they turn smoky grey as he describes the situation. "The bottom line is: this is out and out discrimination," he says. "Did they not expect anyone to be alive? The government hoped all surviving partners were HIV+ and would end up dying and not applying."

A nationwide class action suit was launched, seeking to have that 1998 cut-off date moved back to April 17, 1985, the day equality guarantees were included in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. George Hislop of Toronto is the lead plaintiff. McNutt and about 400 others are registered in the suit, but eventually 1,500 gay and lesbian people could be affected. Dawna Ring, QC, is the Atlantic regional member of the national legal team. "I think it's despicable," she says, "for the federal government to continue to force the gay and lesbian community back to court to fight for its rights inch by inch. The Charter decided the date when people were equal in Canada. The federal government does not get to say that for gays and lesbians that date is 13 years later."

In September 2003 the suit went ahead in a Toronto court.

As McNutt talks folks come and go in The Calico Café. Many greet him warmly. "I'm very out in this community," McNutt says. "Both as gay and HIV+. I've gotten a huge amount of support. It makes me feel good. Accepted." There was some more acceptance for McNutt in December 2003 when the court ruled that the federal government had indeed discriminated against same-sex couples by denying pension benefits to survi-

vors whose partners had died before 1998. That is not the happy ending. On January 19 this year the justice department announced it would appeal the decision.

"We will be dealing with an appeal court," says McNutt grimly. "And if the federal government wins the appeal the next step will be going to the Supreme Court. We have to rely on the lawyers and the class action suit. People can't take on the federal government single handedly."

Dawna Ring is the lawyer he is relying on. Ring doesn't like the numbers being bandied about in the press, numbers that say this decision will cost taxpayers between \$100 million and \$400 million. "Not one penny comes from the federal government or the straight taxpayers of Canada," she says, "but from gays and lesbians in Canada."

When McNutt finishes breakfast we drive back to his house and sit in a cozy, matronly parlour stuffed with candles, nesting dolls, lace, afghans, china and horse and royalty mementoes. An ancient cat is in a basket in front of the television and four small birds in huge cages are yelling. Small tables and mantles are festooned with miniature framed photographs of friends and family, some living, some dead.

McNutt says the money he would receive in a favourable settlement is not the point. "It's just about the injustice," he says. "Being HIV+." It's 17 years since McNutt was diagnosed with HIV. "I feel great," he says. "I've just gone on a new group of medications. Sometimes you get tired of medications. Tired of your day being dictated by pills, and every now and then you take a holiday. This past year I've been off medication, and haven't been sick."

Most of the time Al McNutt is quite happy with life. "I'm extremely proud of my two children. I didn't think I would see them get through school and pick careers, and now they're both in Halifax getting on with their lives. My ex wife, my partner, my kids: we all get along and support each other."

The fight for CPP benefits has moved to the Ontario Court of Appeal. It will be there for at least six months while Al McNutt will be living his life. "We have no control over what's going to happen tomorrow," he says. "I could get sick and die." McNutt throws me a squinty grin. "You could get hit by a bus. What we have is today."

## 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 10 times a year, 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.

**Advertising:** Jim Bain, Advertising Manager, e-mail at ads@wayves.ca or call 902-463-0942. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

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How to reach us...

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## Next wayves

April 2004

Deadline: March 5<sup>th</sup>

Theme: Travel! Where do you go when you have to get away? Where would you never go even if you had the chance? Where can you be out on vacation? Tell us at submissions@wayves.ca today!

## brought to you by...

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## in this issue...

p. 2 Letters

p. 3 Al McNutt's Pension Fight

p. 4 Introduction to Transgenderism

p. 5 Eldon Hay Honoured

p. 6 Kibitz & Bitch

p. 6 Healthy Lesbian Relationships

p. 7 Coming Out of the Closet

p. 8 One Woman's Human Rights Fight

p. 9 Queer Camping

p. 10 Stately Homes for Homos

p. 12 International News

p. 13 Interview with George Hsley

p. 14 Events Calendar & Classifieds

p. 16 Groups & Services



## What's the Deal with Beals?

By Ian Crowe

Local Canadian Idol celebrity Gary Beals found himself between a Rock and a hard place as Wayves was going to press for March. The following announcement was found on the website of Focus on the Family: "Dartmouth Sportsplex in Halifax will host a major rally for marriage on Friday, March 5th from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Featured speakers include Dr. Darrel Reid (President of Focus on the Family Canada) and the Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast (Archbishop of Halifax). Music is by Gary Beals, noted Canadian recording artist. Tickets are \$8.00 each. For more info, contact 865-1731."

Some activists took Beals' appearance at the Dartmouth Rally, which is nothing more nor less than a gay bashing fundraiser, to be an indication that he also holds such views. They immediately complained about it to the press and further made complaints to Aliant who recently ran an ad campaign featuring Beals. The Halifax Herald ran a story with the headline "gay group asks Beals to cancel appearance."

Kim Vance, Cam MacLeod and Jim Bain, (representing Wayves past, present and future) were all quoted on the Herald article. Beals, to his credit, promised to look into it. Hopefully, he will represent his generation proudly by taking appropriate action.

Many other activists from EGALE had a hand in providing publicity on this matter, including the phone attack on Aliant. Greg

Daborn, Atlantic EGALE rep, reported that Aliant told him they had received dozens of complaints and further stated that they had never before received so many complaints on a single issue. They ducked the issue by claiming the ad campaign was now over and they did not know if they would be using him in future campaigns. The lesson to learn from this is that your voice counts. When you see things that deserve to be complained about, complain. Sometimes the system does listen.

Focus on the Family, the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church and a majority, it would seem, of Churches across North America, cling to the belief that we are mentally ill, diseased and a danger to society. They are homophobic. They would deny this and use this very accusation to portray my characterization of them as being misguided and against God's laws.

This latest controversy in the battle for marriage will, no doubt, reap a huge harvest of letters to the editor of the Herald as did the Natalie McMaster incident. The gay community will be labelled as whiners demanding the politically incorrect. Many individuals supportive of same-sex marriage will say, "A plague on both your houses"

Talk is being made of a counter-protest but as-of press date it is only talk.

I say it is time to demonstrate that there are many Haligonians who do not welcome the views of Focus on the Family. I hope to see you on March 5 at the Sportsplex.

## Transgenderism, an introduction

By Eric MacDonald

We hear a lot about the GBLT community and that these initials represent the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered peoples within our society. For the first three of these groups defining them is not too difficult as they are all terms referring to one's sexual orientation. Transgendered, however does not have anything to do with sexual orientation, but rather is concerned with an issue of gender.

Often people use the terms "sex" and "gender" interchangeably, which is easy to see because we use the same words to define both terms, male and female. However, sex and gender are not the same thing. Sex is a term which refers wholly to a person's anatomy, and gender is a term used to define what is most often referred to as "brain-sex". The easiest way to think about it is to think of gender as being what is between a person's ears and sex as being what is between a person's legs.

More to the point, a person's gender identity is linked to their intrinsic sense of self, particularly their sense of being male or female. The characteristics that are associated with gender identity include self-image, physical appearance, expression, behaviour and conduct as they relate to gender. Gender identity does not necessarily conform to a person's anatomy or birth assigned sex.

When we are born we are all assigned a gender based upon our genitalia. Society assumes that a child will grow up to exhibit masculine or feminine traits which will correspond with the original assessment. Though this is the case for the majority of people it is not always the case. People whose birth-assigned sex does not conform to their gender identity are grouped under the umbrella term "transgendered." Transgendered persons include transsexuals, transgenderists, intersexed persons, cross-dressers and others.

Transgendered is an umbrella term, it is used to categorize people exhibiting some form of gender variance, however the people in this grouping are very different from each other and have vastly different concerns.

Where transgendered is an umbrella term, transgenderists are a very specific group. When we talk about people who are transgenderists we are talking about individuals who do not fully identify as either male or female

because they feel that their core gender identity is a mixture of both. Some people also use the term "two-spirited", borrowed from Native culture to try to explain to others that they feel they are neither of the sex and gender categorizations. For many individuals in this group the use of only two categories to define sex and gender is quite limiting because they cannot exist in either classification.

*The easiest way to think about it is gender is between a person's ears and sex is between a person's legs.*

Intersexed persons are individuals who exhibit, physically or genetically, characteristics of both sexes. Sometimes when children are born medical professionals cannot clearly define their genitalia to be either male or female. It is standard medical practice to surgically intervene in these cases and assign a sex to these individuals. Since the doctor and parents could not possibly know the true gender of an individual they tend to go with whatever characteristics exist in majority and assign sex based upon that. There were many claims of success in person's having this procedure done being well adjusted and going on to lead successful well integrated lives. However, it has now been revealed that these studies were falsified, and that surgically assigning babies with an imposed gender leads people into life-long problems. The medical community has however not stopped this practice because society feels much more comfortable with assigning people's gender. Just imagine someone coming home from the hospital with a new baby and friends and family asking if they had a boy or a girl to be met with the response, "We don't know, ask us in a few years."

Intersexed traits do not necessarily exist purely in an easy to see physical manner. There are times when people are born looking very much as if they physically fit fully into a sex categorization but genetically are not the gender they appear to be. Genetic sex chromosomes are called "X" and "Y" chromosomes. Genetically, females are XX and males are XY.

If everyone strictly fell into these categories there would be no issues, but as we learn more and more about genetics and human DNA we are discovering that there is often much more to these classifications than was previously thought. In fact, there are individuals who have a genetic pattern of XYX, or XXY and are therefore intersexed.

Intersexed individuals are here in the transgendered community due to very real medical concerns but so too are a group they often overlap with, transsexuals.

Transsexuals are without a doubt the most sensationalized group in the transgendered community, all one has to do is turn on talk shows such as "Jerry Springer" to find evidence of that. Though there is some knowledge of transsexuality in society there tends not to be a factual understanding of transsexuality and the issues involved.

Transsexuals are individuals whose birth-assigned sex does not correspond with their gender and who seek medical intervention to correct this problem. Transsexuals are persons suffering with what the medical and psychiatric community refer to as "Gender Identity Disorder". Gender Identity Disorder, simply put, exists when a person's gender identity is in direct opposition to their birth-assigned sex and in rejecting their birth-assigned sex seek to become cohesive individuals by undergoing a process called transition.

Transition is the process one goes through in order to change their physical appearance to that of their true gender. This process includes the individual undergoing hormone therapy, to start to take on physical characteristics of their true gender (testosterone or estrogen), living fully in society as a person who is recognized as one of their true gender, and undergoing surgical options to alter their physical appearance to that of their true gender by having sexual reassignment surgery (formerly called a sex-change.)

Medical and psychological communities agree that the only cure for an individual who suffers from Gender Identity Disorder is to undergo this process and complete sexual reassignment surgery and to bring the individual cohesion in having a gender and sex which correspond harmoniously.

*continued on page 15*



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# NB Gay and Lesbian Advocate Nationally Recognized

By Daron Letts

Eldon Hay, of Sackville New Brunswick, received a big white envelope from the government last November. Two months later, the Governor General disclosed to the rest of us what that envelope contained. Hay earned membership in the Order of Canada.

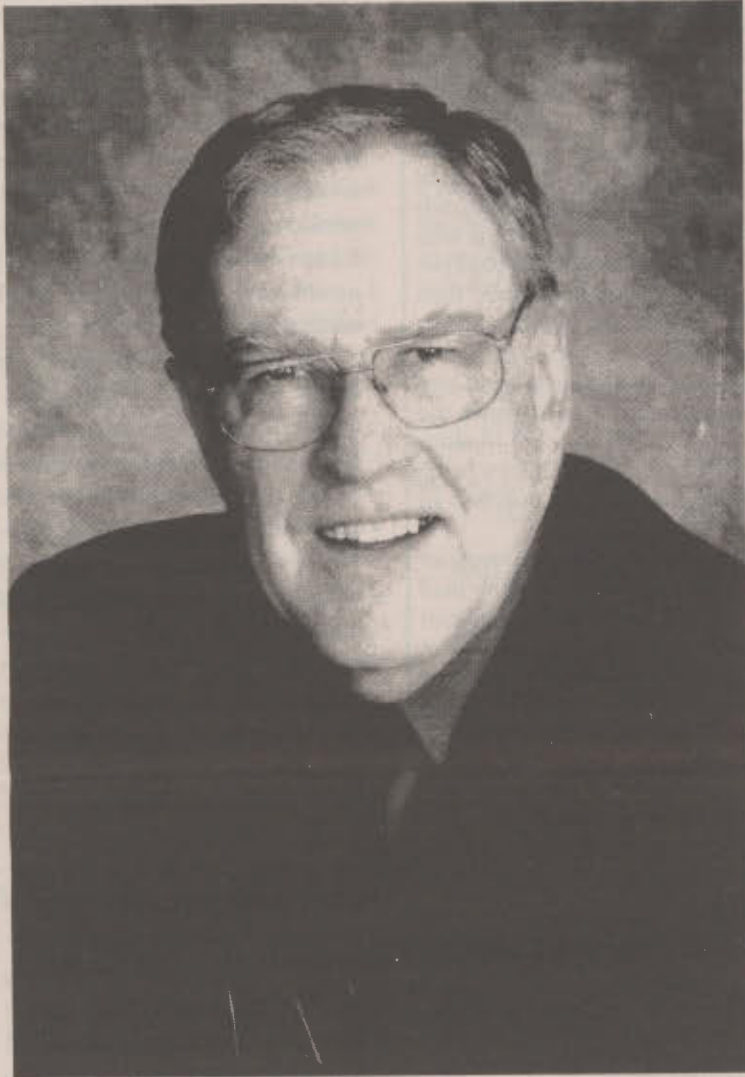
The prestigious honour recognizes Hay's advocacy for lesbians, gays and bi folk, which includes his ubiquitous presence in Atlantic media, organizing at the local and regional levels and a commitment to meeting oppression with strength and pride. One letter to the editor of a local newspaper predictably called Hay's award "obscene." Meanwhile Hay's telephone rings off the hook with interview requests and far flung messages of congratulation.

Hay is married to Joyce, with a grown family of seven children. He is a United Church minister, a professor emeritus at Mount Allison University and well known as a voice for equality throughout the Atlantic region. Before achieving his PhD in Theology, Hay's university career brought him through Carleton, Queen's and Glasgow.

However, when reflecting on the origins of his dedication to the idea and action of equality, Hay revisits his childhood in a small rural Anglophone community near Ottawa. "There were a few French families there and English people didn't like them," he told Wayves. "They thought they weren't as good as English people. My father didn't buy that. I can remember as a child being embarrassed because everybody knew the French weren't as good but my father didn't know that. In fact, he said they are just as good as we are. So that was deeply ingrained in me."

Hay has publicly spoken out about the need for respect and equality for gays, lesbians and bisexuals since the 1960's, opening discussion with intolerant and supportive clergy alike. He has also written in support of women's rights, bilingualism and against anti-Semitism.

In the 1990's, after his son and daughter came out, Hay helped establish PFLAG chapters in Moncton, New Brunswick, and Amherst, Nova Scotia. Hay served Canada and is still involved in the as the first president of PFLAG



Moncton chapter. "I have listened to hundreds of stories from gays and lesbians, parents, straight spouses of gay spouses who had left," he said. "Public mood is changing. It is slow, but it is changing. That gives me real hope."

Despite Hay's close connection and long history with the United Church of Canada, he does not congratulate the institution for steps taken toward achieving equality for gays and lesbians.

"The church, as I experience it, would like to keep it largely silent and not talk about it," he says. "There are exceptions - I know there are persons, I have friends, who support me and who are in the church. But there is not much change in the institutional church. It is still a very homophobic community as far as I experience it. It seems the rhetoric of the United Church nationally is liberal - its rhetoric is in favour of gays and lesbians. On the local level, however, it is not that at all. There is

indifference, silence and hostility." Hay characterizes his relationship with the church as "ambiguous".

"I see it as very important in my own development. Its cry for justice and its belief in the outcast, these are very real to me. On the other hand, it is so slow, as I see it, to move towards acceptance of gays and lesbians, locally. That disconnect is something I carry as a grief. There are positive things like the new Moderator (Peter Short), but I would like to see more change locally in this area where I live, in Sackville. There are a few churches where acceptance of gays and lesbians is happening, but they seem to be few and far between."

The government will present Hay with the Order of Canada during a ceremony in Ottawa this fall. "Gays and lesbians are no longer prepared to be in the closet and they have made a tremendous impact," Hay concluded. "The struggle of gays and lesbians is a tremendous inspiration for me."

By Les Booth

Baths have been around since Roman times, however, Halifax's original all-male sauna turns a mere thirty years old this year. Started in 1974, the Apollo Sauna, located at 1547 Barrington Street, has become a much more visible presence in recent months. A blue neon sign with the words "apollo" and "Open" can be seen each night. Some saunas are cold and impersonal, making first timers very nervous. However, as you enter the front doors of the Apollo, Wayne Lovett, owner since May 2003, greets all patrons with a small and a warm hello.

Although an employee of Apollo since 1996, Wayne and his partner Steven could not wait to remodel and update their two-level facility.

When passing through the reception area you will find to your right a lounging area with a colour TV and comfortable chairs. Past that, a long hallway gives access to three large and four smaller rooms. There is also another

lounging area with magazines of all sorts.

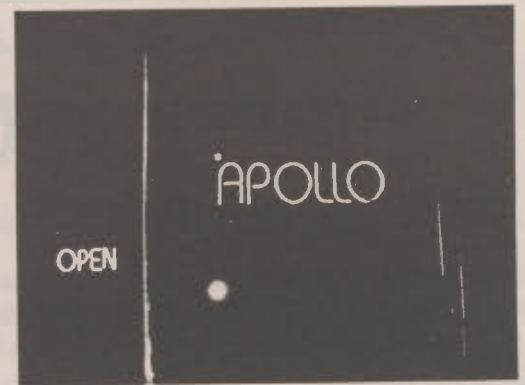
Downstairs you'll find a wash-room, new two-man shower area to clean all 2000 body parts, lockers, and the darkroom. Outside the sauna doors, there's a new feature; located in the corner, there is a television with videos that are sure to get you all heated up on those cold winter nights.

True to its name, Apollo Sauna does have a large dry sauna with three levels of seats. The sauna has dim lighting, so be careful not to bump your head or other body parts on your way to the top level.

Hours of operation are: Monday to Thursday, 6:30pm to midnight, Friday-Saturday 6:30pm - 2:00am, and Sunday 6:00pm to 10:00pm.

Rooms range from \$14.50 to \$16.00 and lockers are \$12.00. Students with valid IDs are 50% off.

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Crawford Hastie's...

## KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hello Tom

As your urologist would say, how are things down under?

Here there has been an unremitting period of snow, snow, snow and freezing cold. Oh yes, and did I mention SNOW!! It can put one's love life on ice. Ever try to go cruising in a parka?

To take our minds off things like wind chill, Mr. Clean, Miss Froggy and I took in the recent production of Figaro given by the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada and it was, to coin a phrase, Fabulous! They are a small company but with wonderfully inventive choreography and powerful performances from all the dancers. The lead dancer is a young Ukrainian with STAR written all over him. I would have liked to have added some handwriting of my own to that trained body. I tried but could not prevent my mind from picturing what those muscular thighs could do in a more intimate situation.

I did have a brief dalliance with a ballet dancer once. Such *pliés*, such *grands jets* and a brilliant *pas de deux* which moved us both to...well, not tears exactly. God, don't you love culture?

I know you have the Sydney Opera House available but, knowing you, you are probably more likely to attend an Australian Rodeo to watch the kangaroo riding and the wombat tossing.

It's Academy Award time once again, Tom, that annual parade of People magazine covers traipsing down the red carpet under the benevolent gaze of Joan Rivers, smiling through her face lifts. It is one of my guilty pleasures to watch the proceedings. I love (and resent - ambivalence is my usual emotional state) the trashy, glitzy over-the-top vulgarity of the whole show.

Along the way I do cheer on a few favourites though it still amazes and thrills me if an innovative, truthful, artistic filmmaker manages to grasp the prize away from the money grubbing moguls and their monstrous propaganda machines. These few gleaming lights are seldom allowed to shine too brightly, however, lest they disturb the profits of the big studios which are intent on mass production of movies which require no thinking and no engaging of the viewer's emotions beyond horror/fear or roller coaster exhilaration. It is the independent film makers who break new ground and try other paths off of the well worn track, while the Hollywood studios are like old men content to fondle their genitals and daydream of previous orgasms.

I worry about the dumbing down which I see occurring in so many areas of current society. I find it offensive to assume that no one appears to be interested in producing anything above the pie-in-your-face, seltzer-down-the-pants humour. I like to laugh. I even enjoy the slapstick and silly oh-my-god-I-

shouldn't-be-laughing-at-this humour. I also like chocolate cake but I don't want to eat it for every meal. And if I did, how much of a treat would it be? Movies are packaged like pet food, which has all the essential ingredients - boy/girl sex, car chase, funny but pathetic sidekick (i.e. homely, gay, or neurotic) and lots of special effects.

Have we now entered the age of the simpleton where intelligence is viewed with suspicion and only the mentally defective may reign unchallenged?

In politics it appears to be a common belief that only the moronic can speak for the public. Doesn't anyone else find this infuriating and offensive? George W. Bush is the obvious example but, let's not be too smug, here in Canada we have the Alliance/Reform/Conservative party. Have you been reading about the leadership race? If traditional, old-fashioned values can be represented by someone who has "earned" her present powerful and well-paid position by having it given to her by her father, then we are in good hands. Maybe we should call her Georgina Bush.

Regular network television has become a sad and empty landscape of regurgitated formulas from the 1970's. For originality and variety, it is left to alternative networks like HBO and Showtime to bring us Six Feet Under, Angels In America and Sex In The City.

Advertising is another example of blatant manipulation. Do we really need an SUV to get the mall safely? And how can you claim to care about your family's health and not purchase one of the many, absolutely essential anti-bacterial cleaning products? Makes you wonder how anyone lived, let alone thrived before. Never was the old maxim: No one ever went broke underestimating the public, so religiously followed.

We need to let the decision makers know that we, the public, are not dumb, not indifferent, and not happy with the mindless pap that is being thrust upon us. We human beings are cantankerous, difficult creatures who require change and progress and diversity. Not new packages for the same bland product (Britney Spears, Ben Affleck or another reality show which reflects no reality I've ever seen!) but real change, real challenging, inventive original movement forward.... or sideways, or in any direction away from what we already know.

With internet access it should be easier than ever to find the right people to complain to, right? Remember that movie Network? We're mad as hell as we're not going to take it anymore.

Got to fly Tom. I've got a letter writing campaign to work on.

Love ya! Crawford

## The Blurred Path to a Healthy Lesbian Relationship

By Cage Gallagher

I have a special place for the lesbian in me. It is out front where I can see it, embrace it and acknowledge it as my true being. This was not always the case. For most of my life, my sexuality was more like a mist that remained contained within my own ignorance. I call it a mist because, like the mist, I could feel its presence yet I couldn't quite touch it.

Coming out to myself and my family was a major step in learning about my sexuality. It allowed me to step free from the restraints of the straight world, but it also left me under-developed. At middle age I needed to grow and whether I liked it or not, I was doing it in some sort of developmental stages unknown to me yet recognizable, to some extent, as chronological. First I was a teenager with raging hormones, flirting my way into the young adult. As part of this process I, more often than not, found myself buying into the moral standards of others, as opposed to my own.

After all, I was still connecting my own standards with the straight world where, for the most part, I had been taught that my feelings were abnormal. Should I act on them, I would be without morals.

After several years and a couple "long-term" relationships, I soon realized that every relationship was filled with many more commitments than I could understand. There didn't seem to be any space for interpretation or consideration before decisions were made, only room for reflection in their aftermath. A mere kiss seemed to signify the beginning of a monogamous relationship. A sexual encounter brought on the arrival of more baggage than I can begin to share with you.

To my horror, at fifty, I found that I had slipped back into the old patterned behavior of complacency. Once again, as it was in my heterosexual marriage, comfort and stability seemed to be all that I was expecting of a partner. Always justifying it by telling myself: that she is a wonderful person, kind and supportive; what more could I ask for?: that we didn't argue, or resent each other's presence.. What more should I expect?

I received no answer because I assumed the answer was, "nothing."

Never being able to remain stagnant for long, I decided to regroup and to begin again. It didn't take me long to realize that redoing my teen years was not for me. The first two weeks after having announced that I was free to explore my options, eleven women asked me out and another couple wanted me to teach them how to be lesbian. This time I was not feeling like a woman going through the rigours of coming out; I was "fresh meat".

Amid the chaos I acknowledged my first unrequited love...so maybe I am doing the teens again, just a bit. But mostly it is a sea of confusion as to intent. For instance, when someone asks you to a movie is it a date? What does going for a coffee mean? For some, it means the possibility of a life long partnership. For me, it means a cup of coffee and hopefully a budding friendship... and yet... more would be nice. Sometimes.

I hear lesbians say to each other, "I just want to be friends", or "I'm not dating right now." I wonder if the true meaning of such remarks comes from the same places that I have been: first an escape from a straight relationship, then sliding full tilt into a relationship where they naively thought they would be safe from hurt simply because they were with another lesbian. Did this leave them in a place where they really mean "I have been hurt very badly. I need to heal and I fear I never will." It is hard to say. As women we have been major targets for abuse in every walk of life. But, in trying to understand and to find my way, I can't stop trying to read between the lines, so to speak.

It is important to read between the lines because so much of who we are as lesbians comes from a place of such vulnerability. We, as women, especially of my age group, are taught from birth that we are the nurturers; the givers; the ones to support and to stabilize any crisis that might come into our loved ones' lives, and we are taught to do this without validation. After all, seeking validation can be misconstrued as prideful and vain.

*continued next page*

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## Blurred Path

continued from page 6

And we wouldn't want that now would we?

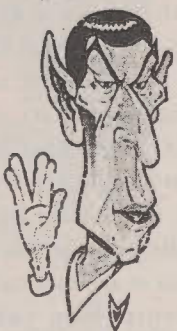
We so often take on the responsibility of what goes on in the world yet we have so often been given the message that we are less than responsible. Many of us retain this message of inadequacy to the point where we no longer need outside input into this. We have trained ourselves to hide this message behind so much of our thinking that we take its presence for granted. These attitudes and messages are changing but many of the lesbians of my age group seem to be in the birth canal in this growth process, coming forth with changing attitudes yet fearful in the aftermath of past abuse. On one hand, we carry all these messages, handed down from generation to generation, often not consciously being aware of their effects. On the other hand, we are sometimes bitter or, at the very least wary, fearing engulfment.

I say to all lesbians, imagine a woman standing before you, full of pride and self confidence, respectful of herself and those around her.... For sure, it is what does it for me. I bet you feel the same way.

No matter what path we take in the discussion of these issues there is an important factor for me to recognize. From my experiences, no matter how confusing they may be, I pull out the knowledge that friendships are important and lovers often come and go, but a partnership must contain the challenges and rewards of a friendship PLUS a sexual attraction that is both healthy and satisfying for both parties.

Now, if I can just get through the blurred and confusing messages, if I can find a kindred spirit while avoiding the senseless and tiring drama!! I don't want to do it the hard way anymore!

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"You may enjoy broadcasting your sexual preference but I happen to believe who I sleep with is my business and not the world's." Arnold in Harvey Fierstein's "Torch Song Trilogy"

by Terry Richard

I began my university life with a renewed sense of self. Leaving high school in rural New Brunswick was like leaving prison for me. Gone were the days of ridicule and harrassment and the nervousness I felt each day as I ventured into the public school classroom; I never knew if someone would find out my "secret" and kill me. That is how terrified I was.

As with most new students, I was excited about the freedom of going away to college. The realization that you're on your own and responsible for your own life is confirmation that you are no longer a child. I was curious to see what new adventures lay ahead for me.

My main purpose in going to university was to do well as I was the first in my family to go to college. However, I was still coming to terms with my own sexuality and try as I might I still found it hard to accept. I was also still very much in the closet. Luckily, my school studies kept me preoccupied and I had little time to think about anything else.

By the time I hit my third year at UNB I was coming to understand that I was missing out on life. I was doing a great deal of research on homosexuality and I slowly realized I was normal. I began to read stories of others who shared the same stories I did while growing up and I also learned that there were many gay people living in Fredericton. I began accepting and loving myself and discovered that God did love me and that He made me this way. Once that acceptance was driven into my head I suddenly became a happier person. My family and heterosexual friends even commented on it, saying they believed being away at school was the factor behind my sudden burst of happiness. I suppose those years of being alone after leaving home were for the best as it gave me time to sort out the mysteries about my life. Although I was lonely during this time I did a lot of soul searching.

Now that I accepted my gayness I felt it was time to live it. I still wasn't ready to come out yet,

but I was ready to meet people like myself, not to mention I was really horny. The first and only time I had sex was when I was 13; I was now 20. I had a lot of catching up to do. I set out to find the local gay bar in town and discovered a support group on campus devoted to gays and lesbians. I went to a few meetings and they really helped me in seeing people like myself. I also remember the night I had enough guts to go to a gay bar for the first time. My heart was in my throat. But after being there awhile I felt it was one of the most normal things I'd ever done. It was a natural progression. The more I went out the easier it became to meet people.

*"When the only people who know you're gay are the ones you're gaying with, that's called 'in the closet'"*

That year at university was a memorable time for me. Finally I had accepted me for myself and I had developed a great support network of gay friends who reminded me that it's OK to be queer even if people think we are freaks. I cannot remember ever being so happy. Not to mention I even had a couple of hot boyfriends that taught me a thing or two about passion and romance.

Then the strangest thing occurred. I realized I was living that double life I so often heard about. If my family or straight friends asked what I had done the previous weekend, I would lie and say I had a quiet evening at home. This went on for a year. I always said honesty was a must, but I felt stuck in this drama. I couldn't even share with my close female cousins the excitement of getting laid properly or the fun I had at the gay bar the previous night. I also realized I was getting caught in my own lies. To make matters worse, a very close uncle of mine found a letter I had written to a former lover. I'll never forget the night when my uncle approached me on the topic. He came right out and asked if I was gay, and I lied to him and said no. He told me no matter what I was, he still loved me. He knew I was lying and it made me feel ill when

I saw him crying. He was emotional over the fact that he thought I didn't trust him enough to tell him who I really was. I knew this all had to change. Here was someone who expressed acceptance of my life, but I was still too scared to come out. I was at a crossroads.

In October of that year I decided that since it was "coming out month," now was as good a time as any to finally do it. I can sit here and say it was easy but it wasn't. Once I made that decision, however, I knew there was no turning back. I couldn't have gone back in the closet. Coming out was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life, but it was the smartest thing I've ever done. The hardest part for me was that tragic fear of rejection, that loved ones would turn their backs on me.

The first person I told was the uncle I had lied to. Knowing how he felt made it that much easier. I knew that he had already accepted me so I knew I would get his support. Just before a person comes out it's important to find those who will be accepting. One can read those who are homophobic and those who are not. I discovered the more people I told the easier it got.

My parents were a whole different story. My father had a really hard time with it. My brother told him all about me which goes to show how scared I was of my father even after I became an adult. My mother ordered a six-pack the day I told her and got completely wasted. After about 6 months she accepted me and had no problem dealing with it, but my father wouldn't talk to me for two years. After all these years I now have a great relationship with my parents. I feel it takes fathers and mothers longer than anyone to deal with a child's sexuality. My advice is that once you tell your parents, give them time to accept it. Time is the key.

I publicly came out of the closet when I wrote a letter to the editor in my student newspaper about gay issues. The feeling I had when I signed my name on the bottom gave me a sense of pride I have yet to experience again. I was telling the world who I was and I didn't care if no one liked it.

The following week two homophobic students replied to my letter in the "Brunswickan" saying they didn't think it was right for  
*continued on page 15*

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# One Woman's Fight for Human Rights

## Surina Khan spends her days freeing people from the kind of oppression she narrowly escaped in her own life

By Saleem Malik

When I thought about writing on the work some great women have done for human rights issues in the world, I discovered a wonderful woman, whose leadership in the human rights front has brought her many blessings.

Her name is Surina Khan. She is a lesbian, a Pakistani American and a Muslim. Not many Muslim women were able to achieve the kind of personal growth that Surina has achieved. Those who know her personally say that she is a loving human being, while those who know her professionally say she is pure genius. No matter how you analyze her, Surina Khan is a respectable human being. She is a woman who worked very hard to retain and attain her identity both as a Pakistani and a Muslim. Her professional success did not fly out of the sky, but she worked and planned very hard to get to the top. As a Muslim and as a queer both, I'm very much proud of her and her work. She is a woman who lives up to her words.

Surina Khan was born in Pakistan in 1967 to a well-connected military family. It was a little too well-connected in fact, and in 1973 she and her family were forced to flee the country when her father was accused of being a CIA spy. The family settled in Connecticut, where Khan happily attended an all-girls boarding school. Like most children, Khan tried to fit in as fast as possible and become as Americanized as she could. Her classmates thought her exotic, and she experienced a little racism. Few people knew anything about her country, including its location. She perfected her American accent and grew comfortable with her peers. So comfortable, that when she found herself at age 18 in a relationship with a woman, she was baffled about how to tell her family.

"I had been told that homosexuality was perverse and disgusting", she said. The message was that it was completely unacceptable. For two years she hid in the closet. Then, following her father's death, she dropped the bomb. "Bad timing," she says. Khan's grieving mother disowned her for two years. "My family's hostility is what truly propelled me into politics," Khan says. Because she felt so estranged, she slowly involved herself in her local community, first as an organizer, then as journalist

ex-gay movement. The result of that work was a definitive study, *Calculated Compassion: How the Ex-Gay Movement Serves the Right's Attack on Democracy*. Deconstructing the rhetoric of the right has continued to be on her agenda wherever she goes.

In 2000 Khan was named Executive Director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) based in San Francisco. The organization monitors violations of queer human rights globally,

solidify its financial footing. Khan is also an active writer and speaker in many gay forums, highlighting issues of human rights and U.S. foreign and domestic policy.

A different arm of IGLHRC also attempts inroads at the government level. At summer 2003's UN first global conference on HIV/AIDS, the organization was at the center of a controversial debate, when some Islamic and Vatican city representatives tried to block an IGLHRC spokesperson from speaking at a human rights roundtable. After two hours of debate and despite boycotts by more than a dozen countries, IGLHRC representative was reinstated. "A major victory," says Surina Khan, noting that her native country was amongst those nations most loudly protesting.

When asked, what she thinks of herself as, she replied that "I think of myself as a compassionate activist" and she explains "more of us are needed in the movement." However needed, Khan's trajectory to compassionate activist was not particularly direct. She says that "the first time I ever voted, I actually cast my vote for George W Bush," which today she admits was a big mistake.

So what does Khan do for fun to lighten her up? She admits a secret affection for People magazine, and an ongoing fascination with the Kennedy family. She is also meeting the local Pakistani and Indian community, enjoying making connections with others who have similar backgrounds. Her work takes her on the road often nationally and internationally for conferences, educational seminars and fund raising events.

Still, one gets the feeling that Khan, though she may be temporarily interrupted by frivolous thoughts of fashion and Hollywood, is never very long distracted from her and IGLHRC mission. She says "we should always be able to live in our own culture. It is a moral issue to be able to live with dignity. No one should be forced to leave their home because it is not safe." Would she like one day to move back to Pakistan? "Yes," she says without hesitation. "But not in the foreseeable future." Clearly she has too much work to do here in US and everywhere else in the world.



and editor for a local gay paper. She felt that through her work she created a supportive base, and something of an alternative family. Her mother eventually came to accept her daughter few years later.

Khan started her work as an activist, as a co-publisher of *Metroline*, then moved on to a job at Political Research Associates, a progressive Boston think tank. Her job was to monitor the religious right and its attack on LGBT people. Her main focus became the

whether they be unlawful imprisonment, denial of access, or laws governing consensual sexuality. The IGLHRC works with other groups like Amnesty International, the U.N., and sometimes even the U.S. government to bring these issues to light and to international justice. During her tenure at the organization, Khan expanded its profile, pressured the U.N. to focus more attention on gay rights, increased the scope of the group's involvement in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, and helped

## Fetish Ball Coming!

Wanna come out and wear that little outfit that you usually save for private performances? On Friday, April 23 a Fetish Ball will take place in Halifax at Club Vortex - 2215 Gottingen Street. Come out to this dress up party and strut your stuff! There will be a 'Parade of Fetish' show, contest for best fetish gear, door prizes and a whole lot more! Fetish dress code not required but IS encouraged. Suggestions include: leather, lace, latex or lingerie; studs, stilettos and steel, goth or glam; corsets, cat suits or cute kittens, bodypaint, bondage gear, fetish wear, formal wear, underwear or just about anything you can imagine as long as it's got imagination (though remember you're still in public in a licensed bar so keep it legal). Watch for details. Coat / clothing check available at this function!!!



## Leather Society Holds It's AGM

The Mr. Atlantic Canada Leather Society Annual General Meeting will take place Saturday, March 6, at 4 PM. For those society members who have not recently been to a meeting and signed their membership forms please come at 3:30. The meeting will take place at Moby's (Club Vortex), 2215 Gottingen Street in Halifax.

The main items of business at the AGM will be: year end reports; and election of new officers (Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Member at Large). There are also several appointed positions to be filled by the executive ASAP after the AGM so anyone potentially interested should speak with a member of the new executive after the meeting. Voting members are anyone who has given 5 hours of volunteer time (meetings, events, etc.) to the society during the past year and signed their membership form. For info contact M.A.C. Leather Society Secretary Chris Aucoin (info@macleather.net).

The M.A.C. Leather AGM will have sign language interpretation available. Wheelchair accessibility is available with assistance - please contact us in advance to make arrangements. New committee members and volunteers welcome.





# The Mermaid & The Cow: Your Queer Vacation Destination

By Bernadine Lapointe

Is the cold getting you down? Can't wait for summer? Imagine you and your lover on a hot summer's day, feeling the warm breeze as you freely relax in a cozy hammock for two, overlooking the beautiful Berichon Hills. Or enjoy a hike along the series of wooded walking trails, engage in a game of volleyball, badminton or horseshoes, or meet and socialize with other campers from near and far — all in an atmosphere not only of acceptance, but of celebrating who you are.

parents can bring their children and enjoy holiday time together with joy and celebration rather than judgment or discomfort.

The campsites themselves are arranged beautifully throughout the property. Some are nestled in the heritage apple orchard, others offer a fabulous hilltop view of the entire campground, and, new for this coming season, Deborah and Jane are working to create several "late-night group sites" for parties of eight or more.

Most kids today are bored when not in front of technology, but not

Folks interested in heading out for a day trip while staying at The Mermaid & The Cow can enjoy the beauty of a scenic country drive. Within minutes of the



campground are countless sights to see and activities to choose from, including salt water beaches, antique and craft shops, strawberry farms, museums, country auctions and picturesque villages to explore.

Not much of a camper? You can still enjoy the beauty, spirit and sense of community created at The Mermaid & The Cow without roughing it. In addition to flush toilets and hot water showers, the campground offers a newly built (2003) and beautifully decorated camping cabin with a screened-in

sun porch, which will sleep up to six people. There is also a small trailer for two.

And if your idea of a vacation does NOT include struggling to make a decent cup of coffee first thing in the morning over an open fire, then relax — Deborah will be serving up hot coffee, tea, fruit smoothies, freshly baked muffins and more on weekend mornings.

The Mermaid & The Cow is not only a haven for queer folks, but it's a "vacation destination" for lots of fun. In addition to regular camping, there are numerous special event weekends throughout the summer that are a perfect mix-

ture of entertainment, nature, and relaxation. Some of these include their popular (adults only) Mardi Gras weekend, writers' workshops, Men-only camping weekends, Women-only weekends, and Family weekends where g/l/bi/t parents and their children come together for fun-packed days and starlit nights by the evening fire.

In the spirit of "fun with a purpose" Deborah and Jane are committed to giving back to the community, and during Special Event weekends they hold contests such as raffles and 50/50 draws, to raise money for worthwhile organizations such as EGALE, NSRAP and



The Mermaid & The Cow is a beautiful, queer-owned campground located on a 57-acre organic farm in Pictou County, NS, which has been welcoming the g/l/bi/t community for the last three years. Hosts Jane Morrigan and Deborah Tupper have made their dream of creating a relaxing camping experience for our community, our families, and queer-positive heterosexual friends a reality.

It is a place where couples don't have to worry about showing affection, and singles can flirt in a safe, respectful and supportive environment. It is also a place where

at this campground. When not enjoying the playground, various outdoor recreational activities or all the books and board games available from the campground's lending library, there are educational tours. Jane holds a M.Sc. in Animal Behaviour, teaches at a nearby agricultural college during the academic year, and also works at the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada during the summer. Her expertise with animals and very friendly demeanour make her tours of the farm animals quite a highlight for children and adults alike. For animal lovers the tour is a must.



the Family Pride Camping Association (organizers of the Rainbow Spirit Camp for Children of Lesbian and Gay, Bisexual and Transgender parents).

Whether you're a writer, nature lover, parent, or you just wanna have fun, you'll love what The Mermaid & The Cow has to offer (which is more than could be put in this article). To find out more, or to view their new season's calendar of special events, visit their website [www.themermaidandthecow.com](http://www.themermaidandthecow.com) or call (902) 351-3377.



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## Mortgages ...what works for me?

by Rod MacInnes

In this day of mortgage options, consumers have much to choose from. It is no longer a case of just accepting what their bank tells them is best for them. It is a decision that must be based on research that determines not only the best product choice but what fits well with the consumer's comfort level.

Not so long ago, most consumers simply accepted the rate their bank offered as being the best. It was common place to choose a 5 year term. In today's market and when they are as low as 4.60% that's not a bad choice. Currently we are experiencing 40 year lows in mortgage rates. Although increases are anticipated in the future it is expected to be a slow process that will occur as economies continue to recover. If finding the best rate is your concern it is best to shop around. The Industry has become very competitive and is often willing to offer discounts for quality business. Your local mortgage broker is likely the best place to turn. They would have access to all the market information you need to make the choice that meets your needs. The fixed rate product ensures long term stability with your mortgage payment and peace of mind that first time buyers find most comfortable.

Increasingly more popular among consumers is the Variable Rate Mortgage. This product is often offered below prime rate. For example, the lender will often initially offer a rate teaser, these days as low as 1.74% for the first 3 months. After the initial period the rate will be set at 0.40 below prime, which, right now, is around 4.25%. Generally the consumer has the option to set the payment to match that of the prevailing interest rate for that period. It is highly recommended that you discuss this with your mortgage broker and set a payment that you are comfortable with that is as close to today's 5 year market rate as possible. This increased payment will have several positive effects on the outcome. It first will create a

*continued on next page*

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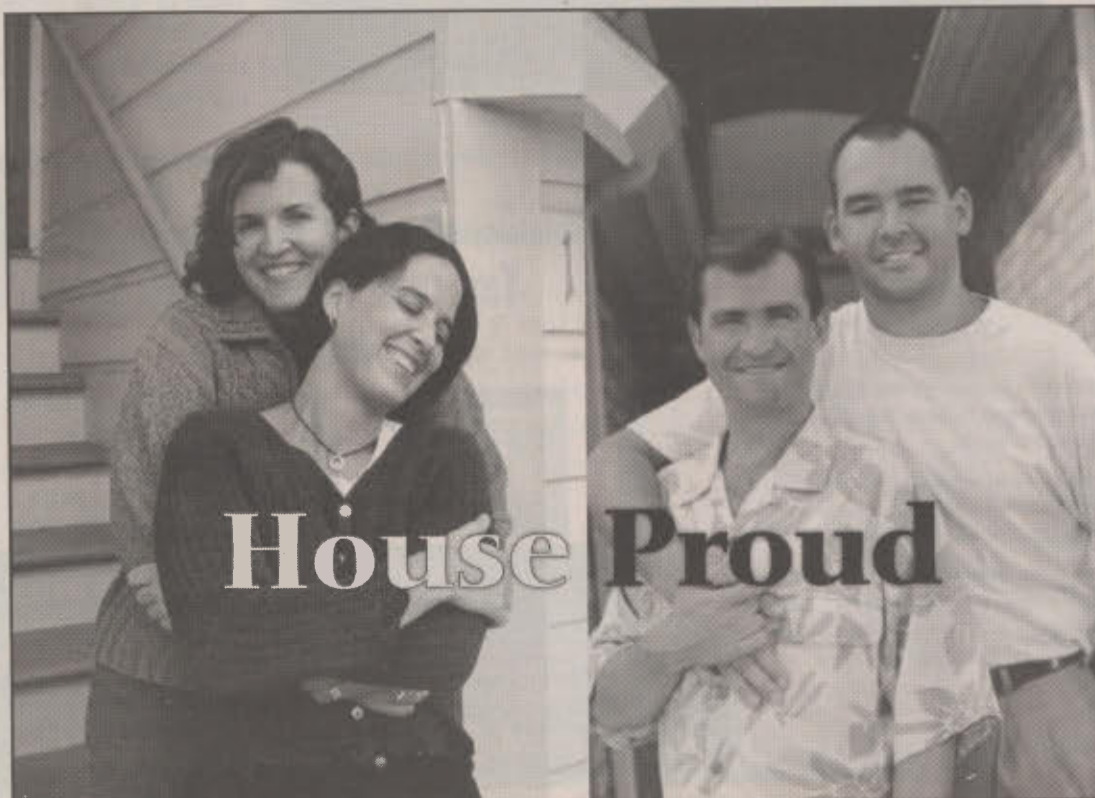
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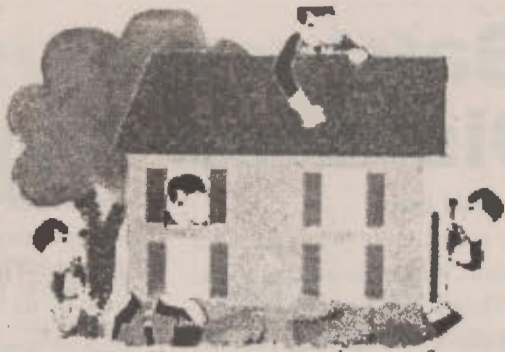
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buffer zone that will offset any minor changes that occur in the market. More importantly the additional payments are applied against your principle and you'll save thousands of dollars in interest costs. This choice seems to be most popular with a more seasoned consumer who will watch the trends in the market as well as stay in touch with their mortgage consultant enabling them to make informed decisions as the market changes.

The final product that has gained a lot of popularity is the secured line of credit. This is often chosen by the matured borrower and offers them complete freedom of their financial needs. It essentially is a line of credit that is secured against the property and offered at prime rate, today that is at 4.25%. Given that it is secured against the property it is best that it be registered for at least 75% of the property value thus eliminat-

ing any future need to change the legal documents in the event you require additional funds in the future. The Minimum monthly payment is interest only on this account and can be paid down or drawn on as your financial needs dictate. There are no pay out penalties involved when you discharge this product. Should you pay it off quickly the funds are always available to you simply by writing yourself a cheque. With CMHC/GE capital insurance secured lines of credit are available for up to 90% of the property value.

With rates currently at 40 year lows and down payments now as low as 0% down, it has become easier than ever for consumers to realize their dreams and purchase a new home. As the markets stand today it is easy to see that rates will certainly increase over time. This appears to be something that will take place slowly and no dramatic increases are anticipated by this broker.

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## International News

### Taiwanese officials investigating whether gay men deliberately spread HIV

Gay men who knew they were HIV-positive and attended a sex party in Taipei could face criminal charges, Taiwan health minister Chen Chien-jen said. Nearly one third of the 92 men detained at the party in a Taipei apartment tested HIV-positive. Police raided the party on reports that the illegal drug ecstasy was being used. "We respect the human rights of people with AIDS, but I hope that at the same time we're respecting their rights each person will take care of him and be concerned about others," Chen said. Chen did not specify what charges the men could face or how the courts would punish those who knowingly infected others with HIV. Of the 28 party attendees who tested HIV-positive, only 14 were on the government's list of HIV-infected people, the *China Times* and *Daily News*, two of Taiwan's biggest newspapers, reported Wednesday on their front pages. TV footage from the scene showed the floor littered with used and unused condoms.

### Philippine Congress Approves Anti-Discrimination Bill

In an unprecedented event in Philippine history, the Philippine Congress finally approved House Bill 6416, a proposed legislation that seeks to criminalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill prohibits discrimination in areas such as employment, education, health services, public service (including military service), commercial and medical establishments, including police and military harassment.

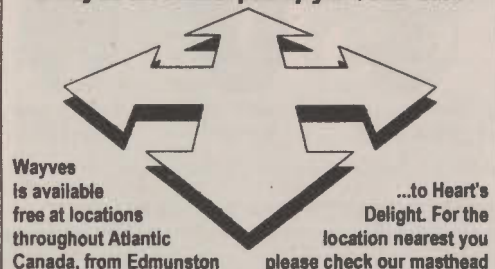
The bill, filed by Akbayan Party-list Representative Loretta Ann Rosales, is a product of a legislative partnership between Akbayan and the Lesbian and Gay Legislative Advocacy Network Philippines (LAGABLAB-Pilipinas, Inc.). LAGABLAB-Pilipinas, Inc. is the only lobby network of different LGBT organizations and activists in the country that fights for the equal rights and welfare of the Filipino LGBT community. The bill, which was first filed in 1998, was drafted by LAGABLAB and underwent a series of consultation with the Filipino lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. In 2001, LAGABLAB, Amnesty International Pilipinas and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) and other supportive organizations launched the Stop Discrimination Now Campaign to support the passage of the bill. It was first approved by the Committee on Civil, Political and Human Rights of the House of Representatives in December 2003.

The bill will be enacted into law if it gets the support of the Philippine Senate and the concurrence of the incumbent President. With the May 2004 elections, the Anti-Discrimination Bill has to obtain the approval of the Philippine Senate and the incumbent President before the proclamation of the winners of the polls on June 30. We wish to thank all those who supported the campaign for the passage of the bill. We would not have gone this far without your support. We shall soon call on your support again to push for the bill's immediate enactment.

### IGLHRC Calls for Global Mobilization

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), along with a global coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has issued a call to LGBT organizations and allies around the world to mobilize in support of the UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Human Rights. This landmark resolution is the first one in the history of the UN Commission on Human Rights that specifically asserts that abuses on the basis of sexual orientation are human rights violations. It recognizes the existence of sexual-orientation based discrimination around the world; affirms that such discrimination contravenes what has been established in major human rights instruments; and calls all governments to promote and protect the human rights of people, regardless of their sexual orientation. IGLHRC calls for its allies to join it in mobilizing support for the passage of this resolution which will be considered at the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (March 15-April 23 in Geneva, Switzerland).

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## Affirming Ministries: Exploration and Support

March 12 - 13, Fri. 7 pm & Sat. 4 pm

Join our annual Affirming Ministries gathering. We welcome both those newly considering the inclusive Affirming Ministries process and those already engaged. While recognizing many ways in which exclusion is experienced in our congregations, we will focus specifically on sexual orientation and identity. Within a safe, supportive community there will be presentations, personal stories, and worship. Those new to this program will gain a thorough introduction and exploration of practical steps to help them in the Affirming process. For those already engaged, there will be opportunities to share wisdom and to be supported to explore ways of working with challenges. Leadership: Jena Brown is a member of Centenary-Queen Square United Church, Saint John, NB, an Affirming Congregation, and serves on their Unified Board. She is a Licensed Lay Preacher in Saint John Presbytery and is a candidate for ordained ministry by Maritime Conference. Gail and Les Carter-Jay, past Co-Presidents of Maritime Conference, live in Winslow, PEI, Wilf Bean, Program Director. Cost: \$100 includes lodging and meals. To Register, contact the Tatamagouche Centre: 1-800-218-2220 [www.tatacentre.ca](http://www.tatacentre.ca)

## Gay Disabled News

by Donald Breen

We're queer, we're here and we're disabled! Why does everyone just talk about same-sex marriage? What about another important issue- the gay or lesbian disabled?

Up until the recent winter issue of the straight magazine, called Abilities, came out last month, very little has been said about about the gay disabled person.

Throughout Canada and the world there are hundreds of both physical and mental people who want to be accepted in society. Not all of us can look or be like someone from Playgirl or Playboy.

*"It is time for the gay community to encourage the disabled to come out, get jobs, volunteer, and participate in things."*

We too are humans. We dance, go to bars, have sex, have same-sex partners, yet in our own gay community we tend not to be accepted. It is hard on many of us when we tell our families about our sexual preference. Many families have a hard time believing that because you are disabled, you can't be gay.

In the Maritimes provinces, stop and think how many of us in wheel chairs, blind, deaf, or whatever our disabilities do you see at such places as Reflections, Seadogs, MCC, Wayves, Pride

Committee or any of the many great gay restaurants we have etc? But why? The main reason for many of us WERE NOT ACCEPTED!

This may be hard to believe but I was born disabled and tried to hide it for years. I was lucky not only to have successful career but have a long time, so called "normal looking", partner, as well I did go through having my family reject me at first, till now they accept me. But trying to get accepted in our gay community, to fit in, many are rejected, feel lonely, left out.

All across Canada many our killing themselves, no counsellor to

turn to, no gay "normal" friends...

It is time for the gay community to encourage the disabled, to come out, get jobs, volunteer, and participate in things.

There are some sites on net the for gay disabled such as [www.chanton.com](http://www.chanton.com) or [www.gaycanada.com](http://www.gaycanada.com) or [www.afqueer.com](http://www.afqueer.com).

When your looking for a partner don't just look at someone who might look like Tom Cruise or Marilyn Monroe, think twice if a a disabled person ask you out go for it or better yet ask them out, my theory will prove your wrong, we as gay and lesbian people make fantastic partners.

Think about it, and just don't say, "I'd date a disabled person," just do it.

"Never criticize someone till you learn to criticize yourself first."

### Call to PHAs in Nova Scotia

The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is looking for PHAs to serve on our board. In fulfilling our mandate of creating a sustainable, dedicated and coordinated response to HIV/AIDS, and in creating a positive, safe and caring environment, we are committed to maintaining a PHA driven and centred organization. Serving on the Board of ACNS is a great chance to participate in skills building and leadership training. It is also an opportunity to meet PHA's from across the province who share common goals and concerns. Our list of new board members needs to be finalized by mid April 2004. Please call (902) 476-6455 or (902) 832-3076 email: [darylharding@hotmail.com](mailto:darylharding@hotmail.com) for more information. All inquiries must be in by March 31st 2004.

New Time !  
7:00pm  
Starting October 2003

**Safe Harbour** Celebrating 12 years Oct 12  
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Metropolitan Community Church  
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# Interview with George Ilsley

George K. Ilsley is the author of a collection of short stories entitled *Random Acts of Hatred* (see review in the recent February Wayves). Originally from Nova Scotia, he has traveled extensively and now resides in British Columbia. His writings have appeared in many anthologies and magazines. Recently he spoke (electronically) with Ralph Higgins of Wayves about his book.

*Random Acts of Hatred* is a tough, uncompromising title and many of the stories present cold, difficult situations but yet I didn't feel a sense of hopelessness. With a couple of exceptions, the reader feels that the characters will survive their less than ideal beginnings; was this a conscious choice you made as a writer or is it a reflection of your own "take" on the world for gay men?

*The collection was not intended to be hopeless or despairing, (despite the title) although some readers do find it a downer. Other readers connect to the sense of humour, which I think is important in the gay world: we use humour to survive. I think a dark sense of Humour is a really helpful tool with which to engage the world, and keep it in perspective.*

*Basically, my sensibilities are Buddhist, and I try to move beyond the binary absolutism of black and white labels and seek to explore the subtleties and paradoxes of the world, where values are more relative than absolute. For example, death. Most people say that death is bad, it is a tragedy, a crying shame. Death bad, life good. But with each baby who is born, that person's death is born too. So maybe life is bad, because it brings death? Or is life good, because it is life? Is life good or bad?*

*Of course, it is both, and I tried to signal that with the dedication in the book (dedicated to the enlightenment of all sentient beings). It was my intention to move beyond the limitations of labels. I wanted the book to be a reflection of life, and that means dealing with difficult and sometimes unpleasant topics, and dealing with paradoxes and shades of gray.*

*Some people do find this collection hard to read. Each reader of course brings their own experiences to what they read. If they find it sad, I see that more as an observation about their own issues, rather than a negative reaction to the book. Then again, I'm probably in deep denial (but I severely doubt it!).*

Nowadays, every gay writer, actor, dancer, architect whatever is expected, by some, to be representative of the "gay community." Have you had any negative reaction to the collection by anyone thinking the stories show too sordid, too pessimistic, too many perceived gay "victims?"

*I'm not sure what the "gay community" is. As a gay man, I'm part of it, but as a writer, I deal with individual characters and personalities. Some of my characters might not be popular in the gay community (such as what one reviewer called "appalling gay tourists"), but as a writer I feel that*



*one has to hold up the mirror and write as honestly as possible, and cannot be responsible for how people react to what they read.*

*In my lifetime I have seen many trends in how the gay community reacts to depictions of gay characters in books or film. For example, do you remember the protests against "Cruising" in the early 80's because as I recall a transvestite was a killer and this was considered inappropriate? (Now Cruising is a camp classic—have you seen it lately? It's the gayest thing ever, and yet at the time it was considered a negative portrayal of what the gay community was.)*

*The biggest contribution being gay had made to me, as a writer is that it has provided an outsider perspective.*

What were your influences as a writer?

*My major literary influences are the big three: Jean Genet, Yukio Mishima and William S. Burroughs. Also influential I think is Kurt Vonnegut Jr., and how he dealt with topics such as the fire bombing of Dresden and used a simple and deceptive irony to do so.*

Any advice to other aspiring storytellers?

*People write because they have to.*

*Aspiring storytellers must have stories to tell. Writing requires perseverance and dedication. My most common advice is read read read, especially classics such as Henry James, or Tolstoy, or Jane Austen.*

I know you're taking part in the Wilde About Sappho tour, launching *Random Acts of Hatred* in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. How is that going?

*Wilde About Sappho this year is Feb 3rd to 6th. It's exciting and a little overwhelming.*

Will there be any Maritime stops later on?

*I might be in NS later this spring or summer.*

How does a small town boy from Nova Scotia become an author on a book tour?

*How does a small town boy ever do anything? This book tour is one of those overnight successes, which are actually ten years in the making.*

*Random Acts of Hatred* is published through Arsenal Pulp Press and is available at bookstores now.

No news from NL!



We Need NL News!

## 2nd Annual ISCANS Winter Carnival

What better way to beat the February blues than by engaging in a bit of playfulness?

Starting February 22nd ISCANS invites you to take part in their 2nd Annual Winter Carnival. HMIGE Baroness/Baron IV Boomboom and Joseph will kick things off with a roast -- nope not a weeny roast but a BoomBoom Lubalicious birthday roast on Sunday Feb 22nd at Club NRG. This promises to be an evening that sizzles...the birthday queen will be just the beginning!

Here is the rest of the schedule:

Monday February 23 - Beach Party at Reflections Cabaret 9pm Your best tropical shirt, summer shorts and sandals (no bikinis without bikini waxing first!)

Tuesday February 24 - Toboggans on the Hill. Facing Gottingen St. BYOT (Bring Your own Toboggan) 9pm

Wednesday February 25 - Kitchen Party at Reflections Cabaret at 12 midnight

Thursday February 26 - Karaoke - Club NRG with Dowager Baroness III (Justin) 10pm. Sing your lungs out, bust a few eardrums.

Friday February 26 - Mock Jail - Club NRG 10pm. Come raise some \$\$\$ for charity and put old friends behind bars and maybe make some new ones while you're behind bars.

Saturday February 27 - Winter Picnic at the Halifax Commons 2pm

So come out to some of the events or all of them and join the

fun! For more information please contact any member of the HMIGE Baroness Boomboom / Baron IV Joseph any ISCANS executive member, email info@imperialcourtns.com or call 229-1211.

## Reflections on rumours of their Death...

...it seems are clearly exaggerated.

By Raymond Taavel

The rumour mill has been going full tilt for the last several months regarding the fate of Reflections Cabaret and this writer thought it was about time to either confirm or dispel them.

I met up with Steven Filek, the new manager of Reflections Cabaret and he recently invited me into his office for a chat.

Steven points out that there are plenty of changes that have already occurred and more afoot to watch out for as Reflections continues to improve its space and service to the community. For example: a new floor has been installed, new furniture bought and others reupholstered to create a new comfy lounge area. TV monitors have also been a recent addition to an already outstanding sound and light system. Lastly the weekend cover dropped back down to \$5 a month or so ago.

Steven is nothing less than enthusiastic about Reflections and the important role he feels the bar plays in the community: "I'm very proud of Reflections being a 'no-labels bar'" Steven says. He stresses,

*continued on page 15*

# IVAN E. COYOTE

STORYTELLING & BOOK SIGNING  
a free event

Sunday, March 14th at 7pm  
Venus Envy • 1598 Barrington Street

LIVE CAPTURE: A WRITING WORKSHOP  
Friday, March 12th, 2pm

Alumni Lounge, Bloomfield Centre • St Francis Xavier U, Antigonish  
preregistration: asdax@stfx.ca or 902-867-5007

AN EVENING OF STORYTELLING  
a free event

Saturday, March 13th, 7pm  
Art Gallery, 1st Floor, Bloomfield Centre • St Francis Xavier U, Antigonish

# - Atlantic Canada Events Calendar -

# Classifieds

## support

Halifax Rainbow Speakers: Project Proud Lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, two-spirited and queer volunteers wanted to participate in public education workshops. No special knowledge or experience necessary - training, practice and support all provided. Let your rainbow shine! Call Ramona at NSPIRG, 902-494-6662 or nspirg@is2.dal.ca

**GAY DISABLED:** Anyone who is, or anyone interested in the gay disabled, and would like information on being both gay and disabled, or if you are and simply would like to chat, please feel free to contact me at: cemetery@hotmail.com or leave your name and telephone number, daytime only before 4 p.m. at 1-902-832-0453 and I'll try to return your call ASAP.

**GAY FATHERS OF HALIFAX** is a peer support group that meets on the 1st Thursday of every month from 7-9pm. For more info on location and other events email GayFathersHalifax@hotmail.com or call Bruce 469-5490 or Doug 446-2705

**PEER SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATORS NEEDED.** The Eating Disorders Action Group offers peer support groups for men and women who experience disordered eating and body image concerns. The peer Support Groups are facilitated by individuals who have experienced and recovered from disordered eating or have experience in facilitating groups. We are now looking for volunteers to facilitate our groups. If You: Are interested in a fulfilling experience; Have experience with facilitating groups; Have recovered from disordered eating; Can volunteer two evenings a month; Wish to expand your facilitating skills. The Eating Disorders Action Group would love to talk to you. 443-9944

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

## housing

Furnished room in 3 bdr townhouse in Bedford, Non smoker, No pets, parking, on bus route, close to amenities \$425 all incl. Doug 446-2705

## groups

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

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

Sappho Above 30 (S.A.T.) Established in 1998, a get-together / talk group for lesbians over 30, in a private home setting, to meet, talk, discuss life issues, relationship problems, or just want a good conversation in a safe environment? Email: emrdphc@hfx.andara.com or call 455-6041 A real chatroom, not a virtual one!

**READING DISCUSSION GROUPS** are meeting - Join! Meet interesting people! Stretch your mind! Contact Wayne Bernath, 423-5314 for meeting locations, dates, and times.

## spiritual

**CALLING ALL ANGLICANS** There is a group for support for gay and lesbian Anglicans in the Maritimes. Call Peter 416-487-7406 (evenings).

**LESBIANS, GAY MEN, BISEXUALS** will find themselves welcome by Quakers, who recognize that there is "that of God in every person." Call (902) 429-2904 for more info.

## wanted

USA lesbian fan of Anne Murray needs Canadian resource person to mail me articles, pictures, record CBC shows on DVD-RAM. I'll pay costs. Contact cdj3@comcast.net

**WANTED TO BUY** used XXX Gay Videos and Magazines. 430-3214.

## HOW TO PLACE ADS

25 words for \$9, 25 more for \$6, 10% off if you run the ad 3+ issues. Ads for non-profits are free AFTER the first paid insertion. All ads must be pre-paid, but EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE! submissions@wayves.ca or Wayves, P.O. Box 34090 Scotia Square, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S1

## Amherst

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

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

## Antigonish

**Mar 12**  
"Live Capture": Writing Workshop with Ivan E. Coyote, 2pm. Alumni Lounge, Bloomfield Centre, St.F.X. Please pre-register by email asdax@stfx.ca or call 902-867-5007

**Mar 13**  
An Evening of Storytelling with Ivan E Coyote, 7pm. St.F.X. Art Gallery, 1st Floor Bloomfield Centre. Free.

## Annapolis Valley

**Every Thursday**  
Valley Gay Mens Coffee House Meets every Thursday evening from 7-9 pm and also on the first Saturday of every month hosts a Gay/Lesbian dance from 9pm-1am. If you need more information please contact 1-902-825-3197 or menembracingmen@yahoo.ca

## Bridgewater

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

## Fredericton

**July 29 - Aug 2**  
FurFest 2004! Don't miss the BIGGEST summer party hosted by New Brunswick's East Coast Bears! For registration and information visit www.eastcoastbears.com

**First Monday of each month**  
GLBTQ Drop-In Initiative, 33 Dineen Dr, MacLaggan Hall, UNB. Rachel Lavigne, 454-5147, piers792000@yahoo.ca

## Halifax

**Mar 11, 25, Apr 8, 22, May 6, 20**  
Anonymous HIV Testing, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia 1657 Barrington St, Suite 321, 5-8pm. 425-4882 for an appointment.

**Mar 6**  
Citizens for Public Justice 40th Anniversary Celebration. Please join us in celebrating four decades of blessings beginning at 7pm at Dalhousie Chaplaincy, 1321 Edward Street (at University). Please contact Steve Martin at 425-5660 or swmartin@ns.sympatico.ca for more info and to RSVP.

**First Thursday of each month**  
GAY FATHERS OF HALIFAX is a peer support group that meet from 7pm - 9pm. For info on location and other events, contact GayFathersHalifax@hotmail.com, Bruce at 469-5490, Doug at 832-7002

**Mar 7, 21, Apr 4, 18, May 2, 16, 30**  
Koinonia Ecumenical Church - Meaning 'community'. Services bi-weekly at 12:30pm at Halifax Feast downtown. Pastor Elaine, 876-8771 or koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca

**Mar 2, 16, 30, Apr 13, 27, May 11, 25**  
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Youth Project Men's Meetings, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick

**Mar 9, 23, Apr 6, 20, May 4, 18**  
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Youth Project Women's Meetings, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick

**Mar 6**  
Leather Harness Night (M.A.C. Leather Bar Night) Toolbox East - 2104 Gottingen St. Time to show off that harness hangin' in your closet (and whatever other cowhide you've got to cover your hide). Contest for best chest plus other fun to be had! Dress code: Leather, leather, and leather's OK too. Promotionalists (check at the bar for details). NEW: Coat / clothing check available at this function!!!

**Apr 3**  
Leather / Cowboy Night (M.A.C. Leather Bar Night) Toolbox East - 2104 Gottingen St. Save a horse... Ride a Cowboy! Cum out in your finest country 'n western gear. Boots, chaps, overalls, vests, ten gallon hats all welcome! Leather of any masculine style welcome as always. Draws, prizes & promotionalists (check at the bar for details). NEW: Coat / clothing check available at this function!!!

**Mar 6**  
M.A.C. Leather Society Annual General Meeting, 4 PM (3:30 for those who have not yet signed their membership forms), Mobeys (Club Vortex) - 2215 Gottingen St. The main items of business at the AGM will be: year end reports; election of new officers (Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Member at Large). There are also several appointed positions to be filled by the executive ASAP after the AGM so anyone potentially interested should speak with a member of the new executive after the meeting. Voting members are anyone who has given 5 hours of volunteer time (meetings, events, etc.) to the society during the past year and signed their membership form. For info contact M.A.C. Leather Society Secretary Chris Aucoin (info@macleather.net). The AGM is open to the public. Sign Language Interpretation will be available for the AGM. Wheelchair accessibility is available with assistance - please contact us in advance to make arrangements. New committee members and volunteers welcome.

**Mar 7**  
Marking International Women's Day at Pier 21, tickets \$20, call 422-5403 for more info.

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

**Every Sunday**  
Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00 pm (new time!), at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St.

**2nd Wednesday of each month**  
Spirituality for Lesbians, 7:30-9PM. We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. For info about the place of the next meeting call 459-2649 and leave name and number. Personal mailbox: confidentiality assured.

**Mar 2**  
VENUS ENVY presents: Sex For One (for women) In this hands-off workshop we will talk about some reasons for masturbating, breathing and other techniques for better orgasms, toys for playing alone, lube and other slippery stuff, anatomy, and books about masturbation as well as good one-handed reads. Workshop fee \$15.00. Please pre-register by calling 422-0004

**Mar 14**  
VENUS ENVY presents: Storytelling with Ivan E. Coyote, at 7pm. Venus Envy, 1598 Barrington Street. Free.

**Mar 15**  
VENUS ENVY presents: Going Down: A Guide to Cunnilingus (for everyone) This workshop will cover anatomy, technique, communication skills and tricks to please your lady with your lips. And tongue, and teeth, and.... Workshop fee \$15.00. Please pre-register by calling 422-0004

**Mar 18**  
VENUS ENVY presents: Reading and signing with Laura Crawford and Jeanette Lynes. 7 pm at Venus Envy. Jeanette Lynes teaches English and Women's Studies at St. FX. She is the author of three books of poetry: Left Fields, The Aging Cheerleader's Alphabet and A Woman Alone on the Atikokan Highway. Jeanette also edited the anthology Words Out There: Women Poets in Atlantic Canada, and is co-editor of The Antigonish Review. She received the Bliss

Carman Poetry Award in 2001. Laura Crawford is a queer performance poet from the Annapolis Valley. She's a Sociology/English major at St. FX and has given numerous talks on social justice. Her poems have been broadcast on the student radio station; her work is available on CD. Currently, Laura is directing a production of "The Vagina Monologues" that will be performed at St.FX in early March.

**Mar 23**  
VENUS ENVY presents: Going Down: A Guide to Fellatio (for everyone) If you're interested in licking boys' bits, but aren't sure where to start or what to do once you get going, this workshop is for you. From basic anatomy to tips for the advanced, this workshop will cover a wide range of information about giving head. Workshop fee \$15. Please pre-register by calling 422-0004

## Halifax Bar Calendar

**MOBEY'S**  
www.seadogs.ca/clubvortex  
Sunday Live Jazz & Easy Listening from 8 till 10:30PM  
Saturday & Sunday - Brunch 12-4 PM

## NRG

www.clubnrgHalifax.com  
Monday Retronite w/DJ Face  
Tuesday Karioke & Wing Night hosted by Troy 20c wings with \$100 prize  
Wednesday Studio hosts Open Drag - \$75.00 prize  
Thursday Karioke&Wings with Justin, 20c wings with \$100 prize  
Friday & Saturday - Dancing all night

**Theme Weekends**  
Mar 5-6 Babylon party weekend  
Mar 12-13 Boyz Gone Wild  
Mar 19-20 Black Light Party Weekend  
Mar 26-27 Gay.com party

**Drag Shows**  
Mar 7 Katina & Friends  
Mar 14 Boom Boom & Friends  
Mar 21 Spring Fling  
Mar 28 The Boom Boom & Joseph Show

**TOOLBOX EAST**  
Monday Queer as Folk  
Fridays Kink & Oz  
Sunday Six Feet Under  
Mar 6 Leather Harness Night hosted by M.A.C. Leather  
Mar 12 Bluenose Bears Night  
Mar 20 Tightrope Leather Party

**VORTEX**  
www.seadogs.ca/clubvortex  
Wednesday "All night dancing" We offer everything from Disco to Salsa to Swing!  
Thursday "All night dancing" Watch for our special events and giveaways!  
Friday & Saturday - High energy dancing with DJ's spinning till 2AM!

**Kentville**  
Mar 11, 25, Apr 8, 22, May 6, 20  
LGB YOUTH AT RED DOOR Support Group at the Red Door Adolescent Health and Support Centre, 28 Webster Ct, in Kentville, 6-8pm facilitated by the LGB Youth Project from Halifax. 679-1411

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

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

**Second and Fourth Mondays**  
SAFE SPACES MEETING, 7pm. Support group for GLB youth, 14-25. For more info, 869-6224 or safespaces@nb.aibn.com

## Moncton Bar Calendar

**TRIANGLES**  
Moncton Pride Colour Parties! If you are dressed in the appropriate colour, you will get a free draft, and a ballot for a chance to win free entrance to Triangles for a year.

Also Molson products on Happy Hour prices all night. And each one bought get a chance to win a Molson jacket.  
March 20 Green April 17 Blue  
May 15 Purple June 12 All colours!

## Saint John Bar Calendar

**CLUB MONTREAL**  
Wednesday No cover, free pool  
Thursdays No cover, Karaoke with prizes  
Fridays No cover, open tumtables  
Saturdays \$5 cover after 10 PM  
Sundays No cover, free pool  
Your birthday - no cover, one free drink, just show your ID!

## Tatamagouche

**March 12-13**  
AFFIRMING MINISTRIES: Exploration and Support, Fri. 7 pm - Sat. 4 pm. We welcome both those newly considering the inclusive Affirming Ministries process and those already engaged. We will focus specifically on sexual orientation and identity. Leadership: Jena Brown is a member of Centenary-Queen Square United Church, Saint John, Gail and Les Carter-Jay, past Co-Presidents of Maritime Conference, Will Bean, Program Director. \$100 includes lodging and meals. To register call 1-800-218-2220 or tatacent@tatacentre.ca

**Sept 27-29**  
Rainbow Weekend at Tatamagouche Centre has had a DATE CHANGE, it will be warmer in September than in November, for information contact Rev. Robert L. Bob Johnson (506) 529-3527 robertj100@hotmail.com

## Truro

**Apr 17**  
Cabin Fever Dance! Lions Club Hall 1100 Prince St. from 9:00 pm till 12:00 am. We hope you can attend after a long, cold winter. Please note that there will be an open bar and attendance is restricted to those 19 and older. For more info call Wayne at (902) 897-6654 or Gina at (902) 895-8363, or email truropride@hotmail.com

**Mar 3, 17, 31, Apr 14, 28, May 12, 26**  
Truro Pride meets every 2nd Wednesday at 6 PM at the Calico Café, 564 Prince Street.

## Wileville

**Third Saturday of each month**  
Dance 9:00PM to 1:00AM. Smoke Free. Contact Gary at 685-3297 or email thoron\_ca@yahoo.ca for more details.

## Woodstock

**March 19-20**  
Woodstock High School Student Council is sponsoring a provincial conference for students and teacher-advisers that will address racism, homophobia and anti-Semitism as well as other forms of religious and secular intolerance. This conference, which has the support of the N.B. Department of Education, will be held at Woodstock High School. For more information contact Richard Blaquiere, Jaclyn Calhoun or Jeff McCormack @ 506-325-4437 or Richard.Blaquiere@nbed.nb.ca

## Wayves Dates!

**Issue Content Deadlines:**  
Mar 5, Apr 9, May 14  
Send your ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

## Production Meetings (Halifax)

**Mar 15, Apr 12, May 17**  
Help us decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

## Layout Parties (Halifax)

**Mar 21, Apr 18, May 23**  
Help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and helping even once helps a LOT! 9:30 AM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

GET YOUR EVENT LISTED - EMAIL THE DETAILS TO SUBMISSIONS@WAYVES.CA NOW!

*continued from page 2*

Then in Fairview I paid less for a huge one bedroom and began depending on the bus system for traveling. In the south end you can practically walk everywhere.

Some days the buses were fine. Other times they could be a challenge especially when trying to get to work in the morning for my early shifts. There are days I get called in to cover for other co-workers. I remember one Sunday I was called into work and was scheduled to be there at a surtain time. Sunday Buses are generally slow. This Sunday Bus number 4..the fairview bus didn't make the connection with Bus number 1 that would take me close to work. Actually The bus 1 pulled out as soon as bus 4 came to a stop. Boy I wasn't happy that day. I was really late that day. With the buses being so unpredictable I began walking after that to get to my early shift for 6:45am.

I work at the QE2 Hospital in the food services. Couple minutes late Hell can get loose.

Living out in Faurview it's easier to walk down Main Ave than walking up. I basically ran down it and it felt like it took me less time than taking the bus .

Another quote from mother,"Bill, Don't expect me to visit you to often . I hate driving there. It's enough to drive me crazy." Actually, she didnt do to bad after a while.

Last year I took another plunge and moved twice to where I am today. Got tired of Fairview and now I am back in the Southend to be close to my work at the Hospital. This time I'm sharing. Sharing cuts the expenses. Its nice to be close to everything once again.

Bye for Now,  
Bill

## Transgenderism

*continued from page 4*

Though the intersexed individuals and transsexual are classed differently there is much overlapping. Intersexed individuals have medical coverage in most places for sexual reassignment due to the fact that doctors have an easy to refer to phsyiological cause for the treatment. Transsexuals however must cover the costs of their own treatment in most places. Because of the prohibitive expenses of genetic testing as well, often times people who are intersexed go through this process as transsexuals, so it's easy to see an overlap between the two groups.

For yet others who do have Gender Identity Disorder but who cannot undergo sexual reassignment

surgery due to medical reasons, but do undergo the other processes involved in transition, they are considered to be non-operative transsexuals. Generally though these people do undergo all of the other medical alternatives to bring some measure of cohesion to their lives.

The last sub group under the transgender umbrella are cross-dressers. Cross-dressers are individuals who dress in clothing of the opposite sex as a form of self expression or as a measure of comfort but who do not do this for sexual gratification. Individuals who dress in the clothing of the opposite sex for sexual gratification are transvestite fetishists and are not generally considered to be a part of the transgendered community.

Cross-dressers can include drag-queens or drag-kings who dress as a form of artistic expression, women who wear men's clothing and men who wear women's clothing. Society is not fully accepting of this type of behavior; however women wearing men's clothing currently recieves much less backlash than men who wear women's clothing. If a man dons a dress in a public venue on any day other than October 31, he will meet with a great deal of censure by society, unless he puts on a manly dress such as a kilt.

There are others who are a part of the transgendered community but who do not fit into the classifications listed above. This includes anyone with any discrepancy between their sex and gender that they cannot fully reconcile.

People in the transgendered community experience discrimination and harassment. Often times the very same beliefs and ideals that they are judged by are based in the same homophobic perceptions and stereotypes that others in the GBLT community endure. While there is some erosion of these stereotypes around issues of sexual orientation there is still little understanding of gender issues in society.

The hatred experienced by the transgendered community is starting to be addressed however. In Ontario the Human Rights Commission reaffirmed the fact that transgendered persons experience a level of discrimination unique to them because of the vehemence of attacks on transgendered persons. The majority of people who are trans bashed die and the overkill involved in their attack is almost unprecedented. Most people have heard of the Oscar-winning movie "Boys Don't Cry" which was based upon the story of a female to male transsexual named Brandon (often

referred to as Brandon Teena) who was brutally murdered. The movie however did not show the full scale of the horror of that crime. There is in fact a website devoted to some of the more notable deaths of transpeople called "Remembering Our Dead" ([www.rememberingourdead.org/](http://www.rememberingourdead.org/)) which aims to illuminate this issue.

Ultimately most prejudice and hatred is often times founded in ignorance. By understanding each other better we can begin to act as a more cohesive community and society which sees each other not based upon which subgroup of society we fit into but first and foremost as human beings deserving of the same rights and opportunities as anyone else. Wouldn't that be nice for a change?

## Reflections

*continued from page 13*

"We feel a strong connection and loyalty to the LGBT community and we also want to continue to bring both the LGBT community and the straight communities together in this space to party and celebrate, to increase awareness and understanding tolerance and respect for each other.

On reflection (no pun intended

from this writer) Steven feels that Reflections has really helped to open those doors of understanding.

Reflections has not however been without its critics regarding this. "Some people may give us a hard time about straights being in the same space as gays, but really what is the difference between a gay person expressing a heterophobic attitude and a straight person expressing a 'homophobic' attitude?" Steven challenges.

I asked Steven how he personally felt about his role as new manager. "I love it!" he grins. "I've been a DJ, busboy, waiter, coat check person, you name it so I feel I understand this business. I feel very passionate about this space," he adds since he has been there practically since it opened.

There are plenty of events that are up and coming such as on the weekend of March 20th/21st. The Grammy awards are coming to town at Reflections Cabaret's and this coincides with the bar's 8th anniversary birthday bash.

For more information about events at Reflections check out their new an improved website at [www.reflectionscabaret.com](http://www.reflectionscabaret.com) or drop by the bar to pick up their monthly schedules.

## Closet

*continued from page 7*

someone who was in education to be homosexual. They went into great detail stating that gays would not make good teachers. The week after that a plethora of letters appeared from straight students opposing these students' views. People from all over campus wrote saying that gays make great teachers and a person's sexual orientation has nothing to do with performance in the classroom. I personally received 20 or so letters of support from people I didn't even know congratulating me for having the guts to come out. At this point I knew that coming out was the right thing to do.

I look back on that time of my life with a feeling of great accomplishment. I'm proud that I finally came out and proud most of all that I'm gay. It took me time and it will take you time too. Remember finding happiness is so important and perhaps you've learned a little from my experience.

*Terry Richard is an openly gay man living in Minto, New Brunswick, outside of Fredericton. A teacher and counsellor of gay issues he can be contacted at [nicksam@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:nicksam@nbnet.nb.ca)*

# Groups and Services

## Atlantic Canada

**AtlanticCanadianLesbians:** email: <http://groups.msn.com/AtlanticCanadianLesbians> web: [groups.msn.com/AtlanticCanadianLesbians](http://groups.msn.com/AtlanticCanadianLesbians)

**East Coast Bears:** adult men who are, or like, masculine, hairy men. 506-455-2856 email: [info@eastcoastbears.com](mailto:info@eastcoastbears.com) web: [www.eastcoastbears.com](http://www.eastcoastbears.com) meets 4th Sunday ([www.eastcoastbears.com/schedule.html](http://www.eastcoastbears.com/schedule.html))

**GAY MEN'S GATHERING:** at PO Box 36054, Halifax, B3J 3S9

**Gender Expressions Atlantic:** peer support online. email: [gender\\_expressions@hotmail.com](mailto:gender_expressions@hotmail.com) web: [www.geocities.com/gender\\_expressions/](http://www.geocities.com/gender_expressions/)

**HEALING OUR NATIONS:** HIV/AIDS prevention in a manner respectful of our native way of life. 1-800-565-4255 email: [hon@accesswave.ca](mailto:hon@accesswave.ca) web: [www.healingournations.ca](http://www.healingournations.ca) at 45 Alderney Dr., Ste. 607, Dartmouth, NS.

**MARITIME LESBIANS:** Online info for all maritime lesbians. web: [www.maritimelesbians.com](http://www.maritimelesbians.com)

**Mr. Atlantic Canada Leather Society:** dedicated to developing gay men's leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: [info@maclather.net](mailto:info@maclather.net) web: [www.maclather.net](http://www.maclather.net) meets 1st Saturday (See webpage for event schedule, location and other details)

**NAMES PROJECT - CANADA (AIDS Memorial Quilt):** panels - helping create, and lending. 902-454-5158 email: [larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca) web: [www.quilt.ca](http://www.quilt.ca) (Call if interested in volunteering) at 3544 Acadia St. Halifax, NS B3K 3P2

**PFLAG Sackville/Amherst, Sackville & Amherst:** Our chapter welcomes parents, families & friends of GLBT persons, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, two-spirited and questioning persons themselves. We are committed to giving support to each other. 506-536-4245 email: [jhammock@mta.ca](mailto:jhammock@mta.ca) web: [www.maritimelesbians.com/](http://www.maritimelesbians.com/) meets 2nd Monday (Please see calendar on our web page.) at Sackville: 165 Main Street, Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

**Pride Guide Publishing:** publisher of community focused maps, directories, event programs and more. 902-423-6999, fax: 902-429-8605 email: [prideguide@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:prideguide@hfx.eastlink.ca)

**Wayves Magazine:** Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine! email: [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) web: [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca) (Editorial meeting one Monday night a month: layout one Sunday a month: see the Calendar on our web page) at downtown Halifax - email us for details. For advertising, contact [ads@wayves.ca](mailto:ads@wayves.ca)

## New Brunswick (506)

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

**AIDS Saint John, Saint John:** improve quality of life, reduce the spread. 652-2437 email: [aidssj@nb.aibn.com](mailto:aidssj@nb.aibn.com) web: [www.geocities.com/aidssj](http://www.geocities.com/aidssj)

**Catalyst, Mount Allison U. Sackville:** support & information for Mount A students, occasional social activities. 364-2255 email: [ktrotter@mta.ca](mailto:ktrotter@mta.ca) (Email for meeting info. Catalyst is not active during the summer.)

**Closet Chat, Saint John:** Discussion space & guest speakers. 693-1145 email: [clstcht@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:clstcht@nbnet.nb.ca) meets every Tuesday (8:00 PM) at Centenary-Queen Square United Church 215 Wentworth Street, Saint John, N.B.

**Disco-bar l'Arc-en-ciel, Dégelis, PQ:** (418) 853-3945 (G/L/B on Sundays 10 pm - 4 am Atlantic.) at Chemin de l'arc-en-ciel, which intersects the TCH 5.5 km west of the Quebec border, about 25 km from Edmundston.

**Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton:** library & occasional social events. email: [jwhiteh@unb.ca](mailto:jwhiteh@unb.ca) web: [www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074](http://www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074)

**Gaies et Gays Inc.:** une association d'hommes et de femmes gays, lesbiennes et bisexuelles de la région de la Baie des Chaleurs et du Nord-Est de la Province du Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada. 783-7440 email: [info@gngnb.ca](mailto:info@gngnb.ca) web: [www.gngnb.ca](http://www.gngnb.ca)

**INTERWEAVE FREDERICTON:** Support group 451-0919, at 874 York St.

**Man-to-Man Peer Counselling:** for men who have sex with men about HIV and AIDS. Toll-free in New Brunswick, anonymous, bilingual, confidential. Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm. (800) 561-4009

**Moncton Atlantiques:** swimming for fitness or participating in Masters swimming competitions. email: [swimming@monctongay.com](mailto:swimming@monctongay.com) web: [www.monctongay.com/swimming.html](http://www.monctongay.com/swimming.html) (a few times a week) at the CEPS pool at the Université de Moncton.

**Moncton Drag Association:** (English-speaking) For all drags old and new. Meetings every week. For more info, contact Jeff.

**Moncton Gay Pride, Moncton:** The Moncton GLBT group that organizes events and promotes as well as puts on Moncton's Pride events! email: [info@MonctonRainbowAlliance.com](mailto:info@MonctonRainbowAlliance.com) web: [www.monctonrainbowalliance.com](http://www.monctonrainbowalliance.com), meets 3rd Sunday

**Moncton Transgender Support Group:** 536-0599 email: [eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca)

**NB Gay Alliance:** uniting individuals and organizations. 863-1888 email: [artgenea@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:artgenea@nbnet.nb.ca)

**New Brunswick Drag Queen Society:** email: [nbdq\\_society@hotmail.com](mailto:nbdq_society@hotmail.com) web: [www.n\\_b\\_d\\_q.tripod.com/thenewbrunswickdragqueensociety/](http://www.n_b_d_q.tripod.com/thenewbrunswickdragqueensociety/)

**PFLAG - Moncton (English):** Parents, families and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans (transgender and transsexual), two spirit, queer and questioning persons. 536-0599 email: [eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca), meets 3rd Monday (every 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm at U de M.) at c/o Eldon Hay, 35 Union St., Sackville, NB E4L 4M6.

**PFLAG Fredericton, Fredericton:** all welcome. Francis @ 454-8349

**PFLAG Saint John, Saint John:** 652-3995 email: [wandr@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:wandr@nbnet.nb.ca), [tiggerj@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:tiggerj@nbnet.nb.ca) web: [www.pflag.ca/saintjohn.htm](http://www.pflag.ca/saintjohn.htm) (1st Friday of each month September - June at 7pm. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

**Port City Rainbow Pride, Saint John:** 693-1145 email: [dannyj@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:dannyj@nbnet.nb.ca) web: [www.portcityrainbowpride.com](http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com)

**Q-Collective, Saint John:** on-campus society at UNBSJ email: [glbtq\\_unbsj@hotmail.com](mailto:glbtq_unbsj@hotmail.com) web: [groups.msn.com/GLBTFriends](http://groups.msn.com/GLBTFriends)

**Safe Spaces Fundy Region, Saint John:** email: [safespaces\\_sj@hotmail.com](mailto:safespaces_sj@hotmail.com)

**Safe Spaces Moncton:** email: [safespaces@nb.aibn.com](mailto:safespaces@nb.aibn.com)

**Saint John Lesbian / Bi Support Network, Saint John:** for women-loving women. 642-1284 email: [sjlesbi@email.com](mailto:sjlesbi@email.com) web: [www.geocities.com/sjlesbi/](http://www.geocities.com/sjlesbi/), meets 3rd Friday

**Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library, Saint John:** over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: [cqsunited@nb.aibn.com](mailto:cqsunited@nb.aibn.com) (Open weekday mornings & by appointment.) at 215 Wentworth St

**SIDA AIDS Moncton, Moncton:** offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: [sidaidsm@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:sidaidsm@nbnet.nb.ca) web: [www.sida-aidsmoncton.com](http://www.sida-aidsmoncton.com) at 165A Gordon St., Moncton, NB, E1C 1N1

**Spectrum, Fredericton:** social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: [spectrum@unb.ca](mailto:spectrum@unb.ca) web: [www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum](http://www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum), meets every Wednesday (7 pm) at Tilley 28 (downstairs Arts Common Room)

**Woodstock GLBT Family Outreach, Woodstock:** Books, movies etc. for the family. 328-4868 email: [richardb@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:richardb@nbnet.nb.ca)

## Newfoundland & Lab (709)

**AVALON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP, St. John's:** 895-0478. (Katie Stein Sather, Minister)

**GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL SUPPORT & INFO LINE, St. John's:** 753-4297 24-hour message service, or speak to a trained volunteer (Tues., Thurs. 7 - 10 pm.)

**GLBT Support, Corner Brook:** web: [www.geocities.com/glbt\\_cbs/](http://www.geocities.com/glbt_cbs/)

**GLBT SUPPORT, Gander:** 256-4395 or 533-2507.

**LGBT at MUN Resource Centre, St. John's:** student run support group and library. email: [lbgtmun@plato.ucs.mun.ca](mailto:lbgtmun@plato.ucs.mun.ca) web: [www.mun.ca/lbgtr/](http://www.mun.ca/lbgtr/) (Weekdays 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM - often until 7:00 PM) at Smallwood University Center, UC-6022.

**Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Support and Info Line, St. John's:** live male and female consultation. 753-4297 email: [ngale@geocities.com](mailto:ngale@geocities.com) web: [www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291](http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291) (Tuesdays & Thursdays 7-10 pm, message system other times)

**NEWFOUNDLAND AMAZON NETWORK (NAN):** at PO Box 1104, St. John's, A1C 5M5.

**NF Gays & Lesbians for Equality:** email: [ngale@geocities.com](mailto:ngale@geocities.com)

**NGALE (NF Gays & Lesbians for Equality):** 753-4297. email: [ngale@geocities.com](mailto:ngale@geocities.com) web: [www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291](http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291) (Check site for regular social, support and business meetings.) at Box 6221, St. John's, NF A1C 6J9

**PFLAG, St. John's:** information or referral to one of our parents. 753-4297 at Box 6221, St. John's, A1C 6J9

**Rainbow Radio:** queer radio show from MUN. email: [michael\\_rossiter@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_rossiter@hotmail.com) web: [www.mun.ca/chmr.ram](http://www.mun.ca/chmr.ram), meets every Tuesday ((broadcast) 3 pm (NF

Time, Eastern + 1.5 hours) )

**The Heterosexism Enquirer:** Canada's first online Heterosexism resource. web: [www.mun.ca/the/Zone 2-1-6:](http://www.mun.ca/the/Zone%202-1-6/) Newfoundland's most prominent alternative bar, receptive to all lifestyles. 754-2492 email: [egc.jade@thezone.net](mailto:egc.jade@thezone.net) web: [http://ggorman.hypermart.net/zone\\_216.htm](http://ggorman.hypermart.net/zone_216.htm) at 216 Water St

## Nova Scotia (902)

**ACADIA WOMEN'S CENTRE, Wolfville:** 542-2287 ext. 2140. email: [womens.centre@acadiu.ca](mailto:womens.centre@acadiu.ca) web: [axe.acadiu.ca/womencentre](http://axe.acadiu.ca/womencentre) (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

**AFFIRM UNITED:** support, action and worshipping community within the United Church. email: [stewarar@gov.ns.ca](mailto:stewarar@gov.ns.ca) at Box 33067, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

**AIDS COALITION OF CAPE BRETON - ACCB, Sydney:** 567-1766 email: [jean@acbb.ns.ca](mailto:jean@acbb.ns.ca) web: [www.acbb.ns.ca](http://www.acbb.ns.ca) at 150 Bentinck St., Sydney, NS B1P 1G6

**AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton Sharp Advice Needle Exchange - ACCB SANE:** 539-5556 email: [chrporter@acbb.ns.ca](mailto:chrporter@acbb.ns.ca) web: [www.acbb.ns.ca/sane.html](http://www.acbb.ns.ca/sane.html) at ACCB rear entrance on Bentinck

**AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia:** email: [acns@acns.ns.ca](mailto:acns@acns.ns.ca)

**Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, Halifax:** 455-9656

**Bluenose Bears, Halifax:** Dinner club for bears and those who like them. 463-4312 email: [bluenosebears@yahoo.ca](mailto:bluenosebears@yahoo.ca), meets 3rd Friday

**Cape Breton Gay & Lesbian Equality Project: CARAS - Churchmembers Assembled to Respond to AIDS:** 473-4055 at c/o Pastoral Care Department, Victoria General Hospital

**DalOUT, Halifax:** LGBTQ Society at Dalhousie. 494-2190 email: [dalout@dal.ca](mailto:dalout@dal.ca) web: [is2.dal.ca/~dalout](http://is2.dal.ca/~dalout), meets every Thursday at the SUB

**Dignity-Canada-Dignite:** email: [dignity.hfx@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:dignity.hfx@ns.sympatico.ca)

**DIVERSITY SOCIETY (UCCB):** Weekly meetings at UCCB. email: [sds@hotmail.com](mailto:sds@hotmail.com)

**GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** 461-1119. (every Monday at 8pm.) at St. Mary's Basilica

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

**GAYFATHERSHALIFAX, HRM:** for gay, bi. and questioning fathers. 446-2705 or 453-6392 email: [gayfathershalifax@hotmail.com](mailto:gayfathershalifax@hotmail.com) web: [groups.msn.com/GayFathersHalifax](http://groups.msn.com/GayFathersHalifax), meets 1st Tuesday (7-9 p.m., a potluck is held on the last Friday of each month.)

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

**GLB YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP, Kentville:** ages 15 - 19. For info, see Red Door entry.

**Halifax Rainbow Speakers, Halifax:** Speakers available, contact us. 494-6662 email: [nsprig@dal.ca](mailto:nsprig@dal.ca) web: [is2.dal.ca/~nsprig](http://is2.dal.ca/~nsprig) (Call for times & locations)

**HARRISON GROUP SOCIETY, Cape Breton:** Dances, socials & support group for Cape Bretoners. 564-6939 at Box 1118, Sydney B1P 6J7

**Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society, Halifax:** Fundraising. 476-4225 email: [comm@imperialcourtns.com](mailto:comm@imperialcourtns.com) protocol@imperialcourtns.com. info@imperialcourtns.com web: [www.imperialcourtns.com](http://www.imperialcourtns.com) (Meeting times vary)

**Intensity Dance, Halifax:** non-profit dance collective. email: [intensitydance@yahoo.com](mailto:intensitydance@yahoo.com) web: [intensity.cjb.net](http://intensity.cjb.net)

**Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Project, Halifax:** support and connection across Nova Scotia. 429-5429 email: [youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca) web: [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca) (1st and 3rd Tuesdays - social/support meeting in Halifax 7-9 pm 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - Drop-in (6-9pm) at 2281 Brunswick St

**LGB Youth Support Group, Bridgewater:** fun social/support group for 25 and under. 543-1315 email: [pplc@auracom.com](mailto:pplc@auracom.com) web: [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca) (every second Thursday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm) at Planned Parenthood, 12 Dominion St., Bridgewater. (Second Story Women's Ctr building)

**MANNA FOR HEALTH:** A special needs food bank for those living with illness. 429-7670

**Northern AIDS Connection Society, Truro:** HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Col., Pictou, Cumb. & E Hants. 895-0931 email: [t\\_o\\_p2000@hotmail.com](mailto:t_o_p2000@hotmail.com)

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

**OUT AND ABOUT WOMYN (OAAW), Halifax:** Social group for lesbians. email: [oaaw@eastlink.ca](mailto:oaaw@eastlink.ca) web: [www.geocities.com/outandaboutwomyn](http://www.geocities.com/outandaboutwomyn) at times and locations sent to members via email

**Outlaw:** email: [dal\\_outlaw@yahoo.ca](mailto:dal_outlaw@yahoo.ca)

**OVER 30's CLUB:** Socials, usually potluck dinners.

431-3748 (one Saturday evening a month) at members' homes, mostly Halifax but occasionally out of town

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

**PFLAG Truro, Truro:** 662.3774 email: [s.r.burns@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:s.r.burns@ns.sympatico.ca)

**QUAKERS:** 429-2904

**QUEER NEWS:** at CKDU FM 97.5, Fri. 12:05 pm

**Red Door, The, Kentville:** 679-1411 email: [reddoor@glinx.com](mailto:reddoor@glinx.com) (Monday through Friday, 2pm to 5pm, Tuesday nights also open, 7pm to 9pm. First Saturday of the month, 11am to 2pm) at 28 Webster Court

**SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment), Truro:** Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. email: [lyoung@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:lyoung@nsac.ns.ca)

**Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax:** A Christian Church with a positive affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome! 453-9249 email: [safeharbour@eastlink.ca](mailto:safeharbour@eastlink.ca) web: [www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4037/](http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4037/), meets every Sunday (7:00pm) at Unitarian Church 5500 Inglis St

**Salaam Halifax Foundation, Halifax:** Queer Muslim Community. 429-5429 email: [salaamhalifax@yahoo.ca](mailto:salaamhalifax@yahoo.ca) web: [www.salaamcanada.com](http://www.salaamcanada.com) (C/O LGBYP 2281 Brunswick St., Halifax)

**Sexual Diversity Society of UCCB:** email: [diversity@stunior.uccb.ns.ca](mailto:diversity@stunior.uccb.ns.ca)

**SOUTH SHORE HIV/AIDS ASSOCIATION:** 667-2285 web: [www.sshaa.org](http://www.sshaa.org) at P.O. Box 171, Mill Village, NS B0J 2H0

**South Shore Pride Social Club, Bridgewater:** for 18 & older. 685-3297 email: [thoron\\_ca@yahoo.ca](mailto:thoron_ca@yahoo.ca) web: [www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Village/2384](http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Village/2384), meets every Monday (7:30PM - 9:00PM)

**Tightrope, Halifax:** leather, denim & uniform brotherhood. 461-9164 email: [tightropehfx@hotmail.com](mailto:tightropehfx@hotmail.com) web: [www.geocities.com/tightropehfx/](http://www.geocities.com/tightropehfx/), meets 3rd Saturday

**TRURO ADULT GROUP:** Wayne at 897-6654 or Gina at 895-8363. (bi-weekly.)

**TRURO GAY YOUTH:** Vida at 897-4366.

**TRURO PRIDE, Truro:** GLBT support group in Central NS. 897-6654 or 897-4366 email: [truropride@hotmail.com](mailto:truropride@hotmail.com) web: [www3.ns.sympatico.ca/greenoaks/Home.html](http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/greenoaks/Home.html) (Every second Wednesday at 6:00 PM) at Calico Cafe @ 564 Prince Street, Truro, NS.

**UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH, Halifax:** an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500

**Valley Gay Men's Coffee House, Kingston:** socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances. 825-6170 or 825-3197 email: [menembracingmen@yahoo.ca](mailto:menembracingmen@yahoo.ca) (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, dances on the first Saturday of the month.) at email or call for locations

**X-Pride, Antigonish:** social & support group at X. 867-5007 email: [xpride@stfx.ca](mailto:xpride@stfx.ca) web: [www.stfx.ca/people/xpride](http://www.stfx.ca/people/xpride)

## Prince Edward Island (902)

**AFTERNOON DELIGHT, Charlottetown:** secure online shopping for novelties, oils, games, lingerie, books and more. 1-877-424-5469. email: [aftermoondelight@eastlink.ca](mailto:aftermoondelight@eastlink.ca) web: [aftermoondelight.net/](http://aftermoondelight.net/)

**AIDS PEI, Charlottetown:** 566-2437 email: [info@aidspei.com](mailto:info@aidspei.com) web: [www.aidspei.com](http://www.aidspei.com) at 10 St. Peter's Rd

**Colours Party Planners, Charlottetown:** Bar/party once a month. email: [colours@colourspei.com](mailto:colours@colourspei.com) web: [www.colourspei.com](http://www.colourspei.com) (10:00pm - 2am, one Saturday a month throughout the winter, please check our website for specific dates) at 136 Richmond Street

**Gay PEI Mailing List, province-wide:** email: [gaypei-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:gaypei-owner@yahoo.com) web: [groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei)

**GLBT Youth group, Charlottetown:** discussion get-togethers. 566-2437 email: [arcyouth@isn.net](mailto:arcyouth@isn.net) web: [www.arcepi.isn.net/youth](http://www.arcepi.isn.net/youth), meets 1st Saturday (call 566-2437 for drop-in times & places)

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Charlottetown:** a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 566-9733 or 1-800-205-8402 (Mondays & Fridays 8:00pm) at 178 Fitzroy St

**PEI Pride, Charlottetown:** Organizing The Island Pride Festival. 894-5776 or 1-888-380-5776 email: [pridepei@isn.net](mailto:pridepei@isn.net) web: [www.peipride.com](http://www.peipride.com) (contact us for dates, directions and details)

**PFLAG PEI, Souris:** Parents & Friends. 687-4520 email: [pflagpei@hotmail.com](mailto:pflagpei@hotmail.com), meets 4th Monday at Ray & Pat Malone's, Bear Shore Rd, RR#2, Souris, PEI, C0A 2B0

**UPEI Rainbow Collective, Charlottetown:** GLBT student organisation at the University of PEI. 566-2437 email: [rainbow@upeci.ca](mailto:rainbow@upeci.ca)



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