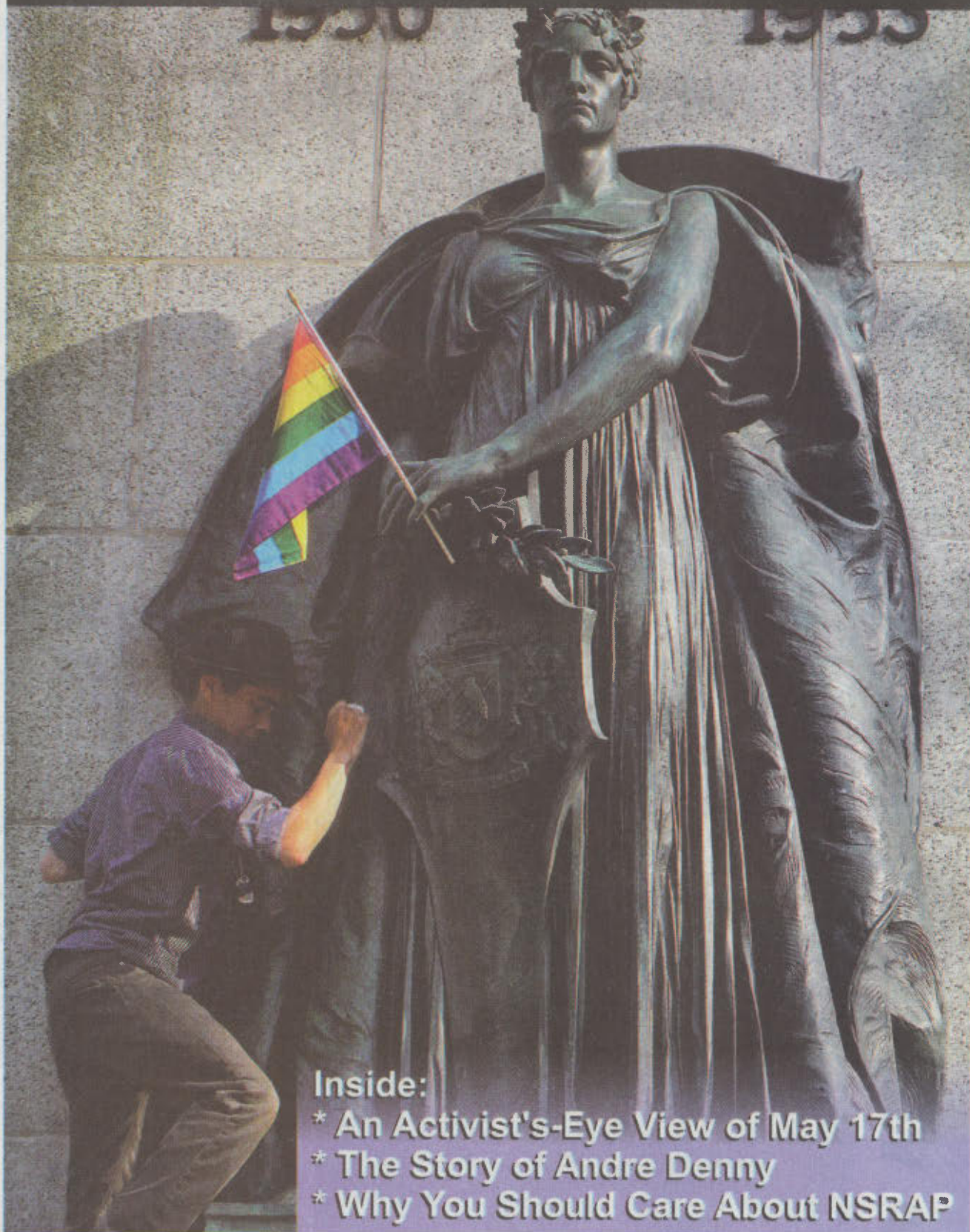


# Waynes

Free!

June 2012



Inside:

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- \* The Story of Andre Denny
- \* Why You Should Care About NSRAP

# Wayves

## Finding No Help At All

by Colleen D'Orsay (reprinted from Coastal Braid)

I sit here writing with a heart twisted in two. I feel terribly for Raymond Taavel, his family, friends and all of us who have been affected by his untimely death in a multitude of ways. I did not know Raymond, but like many I am struck by the fact that he died the way he lived: helping someone in need with little regard for himself. Many news reports say that he was a compassionate man; that this compassion was so entrenched into Raymond's way of living and being that had he lived, he could not help but feel compassionately toward his attacker, psychiatric patient Andre Denny and in extension, Andre's family. Indeed, Mr. Taavel's own family have been quite remarkable in their outpouring of prayer for Andre and his loved ones, even in the midst of their own most terrible grief. Like many others, it makes me wish I could have met Raymond during his lifetime and thank him for the work he's done for so many, even now.

I know Andre. I've known him for years and years. In fact, it was not unusual to find Andre sitting in my easy chair when I awoke and scowled down the hallway still in my jammies, in search of tea. I am not a morning person. Furthermore, anyone who knows me well knows it is pointless to even look in my direction until I've had at least one cup of tea, maybe two. I like routine. I don't like my strict order of things to be messed with; especially in the morning. I don't let many people into my private world. Andre was, and still is my friend. He would sit there so laid back, that he was almost part of the furniture instead of someone sitting on the furniture. I liked that about him. I'd mutter 'hi Andre,' and that would be all that was required. He'd nod, hands folded and I'd go about my business. I have a picture of him holding my infant son. Andre is a massive, giant of a man; so large that except for the glare of my little dictator (aka Donald J.C. Marshall), my infant is almost imperceptible in his arms. The look on Andre's face is one of pure and gentle awe and amazement. He seems unaware or unfazed that the dictator in his arms seems prepared to take him on and go into battle come what may. I remember being concerned that Andre would hold him too tightly or not tightly enough. I remember wondering if Andre was aware that this was a real, live baby so I hovered and stayed close by at his elbow. Andre was

wonderful in that moment and so many other moments before and to come. There were also other moments that were not so gentle and care-free, and for those moments I too grieve. There were times when Andre's medications would be wearing off or not working. You could tell when it was time for Andre to get his 'nutty needle' as he called it, because he would get twitchy, paranoid and weird, making up wild stories of nonsense and relationships that didn't exist. I didn't like being around him in those moments due to his size and unpredictability. I didn't blame him, but caution was prudence. My husband would tell him to get himself together and go get help. I'd tell him we wanted the best for him and the best was going to the hospital. Like so many others fighting mental illness and disease however, Andre found the drugs 'heavy and zombifying.' Finding the 'right mix' seemed to be arduous at best. Like so many others, Andre sometimes would not take his medications regularly or properly, or he mixed them with marijuana and alcohol, of which he abused. When this happened, it was best to stay out of his way. Finding help for Andre often meant police and locking him up in the cells. Finding help for Andre often meant finding no help at all.

Andre comes from a very fine family of very fine people. His grandmother was Sarah Denny, a cultural icon of the Mik'maw world. For many years, Andre lived and was raised by Sarah; a finer role-model could never be found. His mother Janice to this day is someone who always looks out for others, praying for those in need, raising funds and awareness, and offering everyday tidbits and helpful hints and advice on her Facebook page and in the corner store she runs with her husband Lance. As a child, I'm told Andre loved to dance and drum, moving to the rhythm and the 'heartbeat' of mother-earth and his people. When he was 15 years-old, Andre suffered a traumatic head injury. It is thought that this brain trauma also helped trigger his paranoid schizophrenia and episodes of psychoses. The life of this family in the wake of Andre's illness has not been easy. They have had many years of trying to navigate a system of inadequate supports and seek help that was never to be found. Their sorrow, sadness and shock over what has happened at Andre's hands is heartbreaking. They are a family that has spent

generations helping others, yet—though not for a lack of trying—could not find help for Andre himself. Through everything, Andre is still their son, their blood and their loved-one. He is a community member and a human being. He is someone who is so much more than his illness. Yet he is also someone who has caused a tremendous amount of pain and inalterable anguish for so many.

For the record, I never saw Andre as 'homophobic' or anti-gay. He knew of my orientation and it never was of issue. Andre committed a terrible crime and uttered terrible words and slurs in the process; words used against gays, lesbians, and the entire LGBTQ community

to intentionally hurt us. That is not okay, nor is it okay with me. Our culture is layered with layer upon layer of oppressive deeds, thoughts and actions...like a cancer it creeps and grows insidiously through our collective conscious and unconscious acts. Furthermore, I believe the act of murder in and of itself is a hate-crime. I do not believe however, that someone out of his mind on medications, delusions, and illegal drugs is capable of meeting the requirements needed to meet the legal definition of a 'hate-crime.' Our treatment or lack thereof of the mentally ill and oppressed helps to perpetrate further crimes against other oppressed groups,  
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*"Andre is a massive, giant of a man; so large that except for the glare of my little dictator (aka Donald J.C. Marshall), my infant is almost imperceptible in his arms. The look on Andre's face is one of pure and gentle awe and amazement."*

## An Activist's-Eye View of May 17 in Halifax

by Hugo Dann

This year's rally for the International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia (IDA-HoT) was the best in the event's 5-year history. It certainly gladdened this old activist's heart. Even before the rally, I'd determined to step away from being involved again. It's time for others to make it their own, and the unfolding pageant of this year's event, bumpy but beautiful, assured me the future is in good hands. We talked history, GSAs, queer rights, and religion; an inspiring, young Trans activist took centre stage; and it ended with a wild, FUN, manifestation of community; and I got to hold Kevin Kindred's hand!

In 2007, I was at a Wayves meeting, whining about the "good old days" when groups like Queer Nation and ACT UP got our community onto the streets, staging kiss-ins, and mass die-ins (the entire Toronto Pride Parade one year). Jim Bain challenged me to stop whining and do something. Wayves published a pamphlet, and Raymond and I started planning a rally that would see our community out, proud and LOUD in the public heart of our city. Things didn't quite work out that way.

Shortly after we started organizing, a man, suffering from severe mental illness, murdered two members of our community, Michael Knott and Trevor Brewster. We understood that, rather than an angry protest, the community needed to grieve. This year, while it was impossible to ignore the eerie parallel, and Raymond was fittingly remembered by Pride's Krista Snow, we had already come together twice as a community in sorrow. We may talk back on May 17, 2012 as a turning point, when we shifted from mourning to honouring Raymond, advancing the change he lived for. There were opportunities at hand to do just that.



A very enthusiastic and colourful crowd joined together to celebrate and let their voices be heard.

Rainbow Refugees NS was petitioning the Harper government's abusive refugee law; we collected over 200 signatures! Amnesty International had petitions against anti-LGBTQ legislation in Turkey, and the imprisonment of a gay man in Cameroon. NSRAP had a petition supporting M. P. Randall Garrison's federal Gender Identity Bill.

LGBTQ youth and the Youth Project have always played an important role in every May 17 event. The Queerios kicked off the rally this year, purple pom-poms in hand. 2007 was their (as yet-unnamed) debut. They presented their own anti-homophobia cheers then too. I remember one young man, a high school student, who was wearing flip-flops and had painted rainbows on his toenails. He was from Sackville, when I asked him how he'd gotten to the rally, he proudly replied, "I took Metro  
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## Regular Columns



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Deadline for May issue: Friday, June 1 (first Friday of every month!) [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) • Online: [www.wayves.ca](http://www.wayves.ca) • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine Rocks! ... and on Twitter: @WayvesMagazine

# Atlantic News

## Good News at Sackville United Church!



SUC Council member Anne Pirie and PFLAG facilitator Janet Hammock read the revised Bulletin

by Janet Hammock, Facilitator, Sackville NB/Amherst NS Chapter, PFLAG Canada

A few months ago I received an invitation from the Sackville (New Brunswick) United Church asking if I would speak for 15 minutes to the church council about the meaning of gender identity. Discussion had arisen in council about a quite new paragraph in the church's weekly bulletin:

The United Church of Canada and the Sackville Pastoral Charge strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, or sexual orientation.

The council was considering adding the words "or gender identity." Although I am not a member of this church, I am one of the leaders of the Sackville NB/Amherst NS Chapter of PFLAG Canada, and our meetings have been held for many years in the United Church, so I welcomed the opportunity to speak.

After explaining the meaning of gender identity, gender dysphoria, transgender, and transsexual, I spoke from my heart about my first experience of meeting and getting to know a transgender person.

I met "Linda" in 1998 at a PFLAG meeting. She was obviously a man dressed as a woman. I experienced a sudden, strong feeling of compassion, mixed with shyness, and crossed the room to sit by her. Her fear was palpable.

We met at a restaurant for coffee not long after, and I was surprised to see she was dressed as a man. She explained she was not yet comfortable dressing as a woman outside during the day. Linda has come a long way since that time. She no longer self-identifies as trans. She is not "out" as trans because the whole point of her transitioning was to finally be the gender she has always known herself to be. She now takes her place in society as a woman.

Trans people who are in the early stages of transitioning are compelled to go through an extremely awkward, difficult period. They are required by law to dress as the gender they know themselves to be for an entire year prior to taking hormones which will result in major changes to their physical appearance and voice, culminating often in sex reassignment surgery. Their outward appearance during that phase is ambiguous and can lead people to shy away. For me, learning not to gloss over my uncomfortable feelings but to pay attention to them and accept them, has been an important step in my journey to accepting difference.

Because many aspects of society that others take for granted are not available to them, trans people suffer. Family members may cast them out. Their workplace may reject them. Such isolating circumstances frequently plunge trans persons into deep depression and even lead to suicide.

The church, a place where trans people should be able to find refuge, has not had a very good record. But that is changing as people with gender differences find the courage to speak out, and as church goes increasingly question their attitudes towards people of difference.

Imagine how "Linda" might have felt when she was beginning her transition if, when she entered the Sackville United Church, she had read the three little words council is considering adding to the church bulletin: "or gender identity." When the minister asked the congregation to shake hands and greet the persons seated around them, imagine that Linda, perhaps feeling scared and awkward in her dress, felt as warmly accepted as everyone else. Imagine if people in the congregation sought Linda out to serve on a committee, to bring sandwiches, to the tea, to greet people at the door next Sunday, to read the Scriptures during the Christmas service?

Imagine what would happen if a tiny step were to be taken by coura-

geous people in churches all over the land—one small step towards the elimination of all discrimination and non-acceptance based on ignorance and fear, towards understanding, through opening church doors and hearts to all who wish to enter. The end to discrimination begins with individual commitments to look into our own hearts and acknowledge and cast out the fear we find there. The happy outcome of our meeting is that now the Sackville United Church weekly bulletin reads:

The United Church of Canada and the Sackville Pastoral Charge strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity.

### Local lesbian band Perpetual Detour to release debut album

"Sometimes while you're writing a song, you wonder if anyone is going to want to hear it....and if they do, you wonder if they will want to hear it again".

Perpetual Detour, Halifax-based all-female alternative rock band, has been asking themselves this question for the past few years, and is ready for the answer. This summer, they will release their debut album, featuring 10 original songs. Two years in the mak-

we will remember forever".

"The LGBT community has been very supportive to us since we started," notes Jennifer Stewart. The all-lesbian band's first paying gig was in P.E.I. for an event held by M.A.C. Leather during pride in 2010. This was soon followed by two shows in New Brunswick for the now defunct G.N.G. Perpetual Detour has played several shows at Menz Bar in Halifax, including its video release party for "Find the Time". A main stage performance at Halifax Pride in 2011 was the icing on the cake. "We are proud to be a part of this amazing community which has given us some great opportunities. We are very thankful for all of the support and enthusiasm", adds Lanchbery.

This year is shaping up to be another busy one for the girls. It started with a bang in January as they nabbed spot on the Halifax stop of the "This Ain't Romance Tour", sharing the stage with For the Birds, Swaying Tuesday's and Storey Above at The Carleton. On June 24th, Perpetual Detour will open for The Scott Wayward Band at Gus' Pub. Then it is off to Lockport July 27 to 29 for the Harmony Bazaar Festival of Women & Song. "We are very excited about being invited back to play at The Harmony Bazaar! To be able to share the stage with such talented performers as Sarah Harmer and Serena Rider is very humbling and inspiring," says Gionet. Weekend passes are on sale now and are just \$50.00 until July 1.



BKluge Photography

Perpetual Detour.

ing, only finishing touches remain, including artwork, printing and pressing. The girls have already had success with earlier released tracks; "That's too bad", was featured on Live105's Live Underground and "Ran Away" spent 8 weeks on the Radio Café's New Music Countdown. They are hoping for a similar reception with their full length album.

The band formed in 2008 when A.J. LeBlanc and Meagan Lanchbery started writing songs together. After initial efforts proved promising, they realized they had something worth pursuing. Rachele Gionet and Jennifer Stewart joined the project, completing the band and its signature sound. From the beginning, the girls have dedicated themselves to making great music, all while juggling long nights, out of town gigs, and full-time day jobs.

Since they stepped out of their basement studio space and on to the stage, Perpetual Detour has performed shows in P.E.I., New Brunswick and across Nova Scotia. A highlight for the band occurred July 2011 at the Harmony Bazaar festival when it was accompanied on stage by Juno award winner Melanie Doane. "We were asked to perform another original song so she could join us on stage during the artist jam," says LeBlanc. "It was an amazing experience

To preview the album, or for more information on Perpetual Detour's summer schedule, visit [www.perpetualdetour.com](http://www.perpetualdetour.com). The girls also invite you to "Like" them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter @PerpetualD2R.

### Heather Green's Record

Heather Green, a California native who now calls Halifax home has truly embraced the spirit of song writing in her new record "Your Last War". Produced by Halifax's multi-talented Daniel Ledwell (In-Flight Safety, Jenn



Grant, Kathleen Edwards and The Weakerthans), it is without a doubt the most motley series of songs yet by this emerging East Coast artist.

"Your Last War" is a true representation of the community Green has carved out in Halifax. Ledwell is not the only haligonian to put a stamp on this record; there are many

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other contributions by talented East Coast artists, including Erin Costello, Rose Cousins, Ria Mae, Naomi-Joy Black-Hall Butler, Don Brownrigg, Margot Durling, Heather Gibson, Rick Edgett, and Jenn Grant.

From the sultry and sexy track "Dirty Love", to the humble whimsical feel of "Sweet Little Something", Greens songs tangle the fancifulness of traditional love songs, with the overwhelming power of incredible rhythms and bewilderingly beautiful melodies. Ledwell plays countless instruments on the record, furnishing the vocals with heartfelt sentiment, while avoiding clouding the honesty and beauty of the strong concise lyrics. Green initially commands the stage with an endearing bashfulness that quickly disappears when the first notes are sung. Shifting from cordial conversation to witty wisecracks her live performance is as multifaceted as her music. For more, visit [www.heathergreen.ca](http://www.heathergreen.ca)

## New Group: Out & About Fredericton

Out & About Fredericton's mission is to create an open & fun atmosphere for the overall queer community including all gender and sexual minorities & their allies in the Fredericton area.

Over the summer, Out & About will be planning group events/outings such as picnics in the park, kayaking, queer soccer-baseball, visiting art galleries, going to the movies, BBQs, bike rides, and participating in many other activities offered in the Fredericton area!

Follow our Facebook group for the upcoming program. There will be a little bit of something for everyone!

You can also write to us at [outandaboutfredericton@gmail.com](mailto:outandaboutfredericton@gmail.com) to get more information and/or send us your ideas!

## New Chair of Fredericton Pride

by Gene Campbell

If things go the way Jon Blanchard hopes, we could see a bigger and better Pride in Fredericton (August 5 through 12), as well as more daytime activities appealing to a wider age group. Blanchard has been involved with Pride for several years. Last year he served as Vice-Chair, while the year before he was the 'Jewellery' Chairman. He succeeds Bruce Dionne as Chair.

"I just wanted to be more involved in the City. I was always busy working, then just staying home, so, I wanted to get involved in a city-wide thing, and Pride was it!" Although



Jon Blanchard.

Pride Week is still several months away, some events are already underway, such as a monthly fund-raiser, a 50/50 draw held at Boom Nightclub downtown. A dance has been held at the Crowne Plaza, and another dance is being planned. "Possibly a spring-fling!" said Blanchard, a mid-20's guy who hails from Saint John.

The major event of Pride Week is the Parade. Last year, because of street construction, the march-along took place on the Walking Trail, beginning on the grounds of the Victoria Health Centre, along Limpert Lane, and ending at Officers Square. "We are going to try to hold the Parade along the street this year. We still have to get all the paperwork done for that."

This year, Pride is making moves to hold more daytime activities, "so we can get more people out and involved. We have always wanted greater involvement from the entire community," Blanchard said. "We want to get more younger people involved." He is quick to add, "But we still want to have the older generation in there, as well. We certainly don't want to cut them out!" In the Committee's steps to involve more young people, the Chairman said, "We have already been in contact with GSAs in some of the local schools."

Other plans include a calendar, jewelry sales, drag-shows, etc.. "If anyone out there has any ideas, we would love to hear from them. As well, we are always on the lookout for volunteers. If anyone wants to volunteer, send us your name. If there is anything you would like to do, let us know. Even if you don't have any ideas, but would still like to become involved, give us a shout!"

The Committee is going one step further this year and applying for Charitable Status. "Hopefully, it will go through smoothly." Blanchard

### Our Cover

Our cover was designed by Cam MacLeod, while waiting for a train to start moving again. We assume that it did.

also hopes the weather will hold out. "We had a good turnout last year, but hopefully, we will have an awesome turnout, this year."

Sponsors for this year's Pride Week include Ginger Design, Unitee Designs, Picaroons, CHSR, Signature Sounds, Crowne Plaza, Boom Nightclub, QTC, and Pinzilla Buttons; "All of which are local sponsors," Blanchard proudly adds. He paid special tribute to Picaroons and Boom Nightclub. "Picaroons was an immense supporter last year, and they are gung-ho to help us again. Boom is also a big supporter."

He added, "Anybody interested should simply go to our Website [[frederictonpride.org](http://frederictonpride.org)]. You can find out about what is happening, about upcoming fundraisers. Pride can be reached by email via the website—click on the Contact link. They can also be found on Facebook and Twitter. Both sites contain a collection of pictures taken last year.

## Moncton AIDS joins Youth Group

AIDS Moncton is excited about the newly formed partnership with the Greater Moncton YMCA to provide Safe Spaces for LGBTTTQ youth aged 14 – 18 yrs. The youth meet weekly in the Y's Youth Zone; the group is led by a volunteer team of LGBTTTQ adults & allies. This Safe Space is a place for youth to socialize, learn and provide support to each other. AIDS Moncton will be coordinating a prom for LGBTTTQ youth in June. Space is limited. Further details to follow. For more information, call AIDS Moncton at (506) 859-9616 or e-mail at [sidaidsm@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sidaidsm@nb.aibn.com)

The RBC Amazing Chase in support of AIDS Moncton will take place on Friday, June 22nd. Teams of 5 people from businesses or groups of friends compete in a battle of speed,

strength, wit and cunning. Group fundraising or use the on-line fundraising option. To register a team or for more information you can call AIDS Moncton at (506) 859-9616 or visit the website at [www.thebcamazingchase.myevent.com](http://www.thebcamazingchase.myevent.com)

## News from Northern AIDS

Plans are under way for the 2012 BASH for AIDS Auction to be held at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel in Truro on Friday, June 8, 2012. The BASH for AIDS Auction is one of the key fundraising activities held by the Northern AIDS Connection Society to support programming of the organization. "This year we are expanding our silent auction component to include more lifestyle product or items that are not necessarily all art items," says event founder Al McNutt.

The Northern Region of Nova Scotia includes Pictou, Cumberland and Colchester -East Hants. "This region has high rates of teen pregnancies, STIs and Injection Drug Use. "There is a lot to be concerned about and our programming such as our clean needle exchange and Hepatitis C Aware Project in addition to outreach work and youth programming are helping make a difference. "I'm proud of the Direction the organization is heading," says McNutt. In 2012 NACS will be taking its popular Colchester Youth PhotoVoice Program to Pictou and Cumberland Counties and will

expand its partnerships within the GLBTQ communities.

The BASH for AIDS Auction will also display many pieces of art created by some very talented local artists in the Northern Region of Nova Scotia. The evening will begin with a 6pm viewing and at 7pm the Auction will begin. Also during the evening you can put bids on silent auction items. There will be refreshments and a cash bar. The BASH for AIDS promises to be a fun filled night so come and enjoy. For more information call the office at (902) 895-0931 or via email [nacsed@eastlink.ca](mailto:nacsed@eastlink.ca).

## Port City Rainbow Pride Gearing Up For Pride Week.

by Brian Boyd, PCRP President

After last summer, and the entire Port City Rainbow Pride committee quitting simultaneously, once again the LGBT community stood together and put Pride on with great direction from Troy Morehouse and Michelle Petite. With elections held in October after Pride, an entire new committee was formed.

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, the president of the committee resigned in March. On April 3, at the monthly meeting, nominations were held to fill the vacancy. Brian Boyd, who was the current vice president, was the only name offered and he is now the new president. Richard Hill then took over the vice president

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## Wayves

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

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

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## Important WAYVES Dates!

**Issue Content Deadlines:** Fridays: June 1, July 6, August 3; that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to [submissions@wayves.ca](mailto:submissions@wayves.ca) any time!

**Production Meetings (Halifax):** Mondays: June 4 July 9, August 6; help decide what goes in the next issue, 6:30 PM, at a Place to be announced in Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

**Magazine Layout (Halifax):** June 10, July 15, August 12; help build the paper—no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours, helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

We're on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month!

## Wayves On Line!

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

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With the new committee in place, discussions resumed on Pride celebrations and putting special emphasis on it being Saint John's 10 year Pride Week. With plans on working with the Saint John Theatre Company, PFLAG, AidsSJ, Gay/Straight Alliances of the local high schools and much more, it will shape ten years of Pride in Saint John to a fantastic week.

If you are interested in volunteering for Pride or becoming a member of Saint John Pride Committee, please contact me through email (brian\_boyd1@hotmail.com) or facebook; our Pride website will be up and going as quickly as we can get it done.

I hope everyone has a great Pride week in their cities. Let's remember to support each other and nothing can hold us back.

## ARCPEI & Pride 2012: New Board and New Plans

Over the past couple of months, there have been several questions about ARCPEI. With so few board members and volunteer numbers waning, could the non-profit organization continue to be a valuable asset to PEI's LGBTQ community? Was there even a future for ARCPEI? Thanks to a successful AGM, and two productive board meetings this month, ARCPEI is well on its way to reinventing itself and becoming a solid organization. Under Co-Chairs Eric MacKearney and Shawna MacAusland, the new board is working well and everyone is pumped up and excited for the upcoming year. First up on our agenda is planning and hosting PEI Pride 2012 (see below). Some great things are in the works. Like our new board, Pride 2012 will be a wonderful mix of old and new.

**ARCPEI, Board of Directors:** Eric MacKearney, Co-Chair; Shawna MacAusland, Co-Chair; Georga Dawn Moase, Secretary/Volunteer co-ordinator; Gloria Aghdasy, Treasurer; Colleen McKie, Media Liaison; Danny Evans, Pride Coordinator; Don Graham, Pride Coordinator; Amanda Glydon, Director; Amanda Jendrick - Director; Alice MacPhee, Director; Michael Chipmen, Director; Tye Shannahan, Director; Shameen Aghdasy, Youth Rep.

**Pride PEI:** July 1 - 7, 2012 Presented by ARCPEI, Pride PEI 2012 is fast approaching. Planning is well underway, so mark your calendars for July 1st to 7th, to celebrate LG-BTQ Pride in PEI. If you wish to sponsor an event, enter a float in the parade, perform in the variety show, volunteer, or show your support in some other way please contact info@arcofpei.com. This is your chance to get involved and show your support. Here is a list of the 2012 PEI Pride events (locations and times TBA).

- Sunday, July 1: Potluck at Primrose and church service; Fireworks at Victoria Park.
  - Monday, July 2: Flag raising; Youth Dance at Stratford Town Hall.
  - Tuesday, July 3: Family night potluck, karaoke and games.
  - Wednesday, July 4: Coffee House at Beanz.
  - Thursday, July 5: TBA
  - Friday, July 6: Family BBQ
  - Saturday, July 7: Pride Parade, marshaling at 12 Noon, Parade at 1 pm, starting at Shaw building. Followed by BBQ and Variety Show at Confed Landing; Pride Gala at the Guild
- If you would like to volunteer for Pride, have a float in the parade, or showcase your talent at the variety show, or if you would like to contact ARCPEI, please email: info@arcofpei.com.

## Never mind what your mother told you—acting out can be a good thing.

DaPoPo Theatre is presenting a two-week intensive workshop in theatre and performance for youth age 16-21 who identify with a queer perspective. Acting Out! will be led by Garry Williams and Richie Wilcox and include skill-building workshops in multiple disciplines including: acting, voice, movement, political theatre, improvisation, singing, dance and physical theatre. All genders, orientations and perspectives will be welcome.

Acting Out! runs June 8 to 10 and 15 to 17 in Halifax. Workshop participants will be invited to continue with the second phase of Acting Out! working with mentors to develop an original work which will be showcased in Halifax, July 19-21, as part of the Queer Acts theatre festival during Pride Week. Registration is now open; Tuition is \$225 and scholarships are available for youth who require financial assistance. More information, including how to apply, is at actingoutdapopo.blogspot.ca/.

## TransMasculine Camp Out

TransMasculine Camp Out is a safe place for people of the whole transmasculine experience to come together and talk about some key issues we face in Nova Scotia, and to strategize solutions as a community. This camp is a three day workshop-filled weekend event for folks that identify as FAAB transgendered, transsexual, trans men, FtMs, genderqueers, intersexed, two-spirited, and questioning folks, as well as anyone that feels that they belong to this spectrum regardless of label. The cost is yet to be determined; we hope it will be on a sliding scale, or if we can raise the funds, free for everyone. For more information please check out Transmasculine Camp on Facebook.

## The Sanctuary Garden

Three times over the last month, I have heard, "I don't feel safe on the streets," "walking at night," or "walking in certain areas," from men and women, of various ages, sexual orientation, and cultural backgrounds. One felt this way immediately after Raymond's death, while the others were in unrelated conversations. My immediate response was to minimize their fears and speak about avoiding risk areas, or unlighted parks, and lonely stretches of the big wherever. My gut reaction took me to an earlier time, when as women/girls we needed to prepare ourselves for the transition into what was considered a 'man's world.' Hearing these expressions of feeling unsafe plunges me back into a place I fear to return to: the closeting of women/girls, not just by others, but by ourselves.

Fear is an unkind emotion: heart racing; breath shallow; wind rushing in the ears. It hurts to be afraid, limited in action and choice, awareness and emotion, thought and voice. Yet fear is an ally too. It tells us, as anger does, that something is, or might be, wrong. Fear shouts, or sometimes whispers quietly, "Be alert, look around, check out what's going on." Maybe it's a home based fear, hearing your partner's voice raised in anger; a first alert from your auditory memory bank, that something bad happens after that, in word, in deed, or both. Or maybe you've been robbed, or attacked on the street, and the sound of hurrying footsteps behind you evokes that knife of fear, plunging in your gut.

In today's world there are a diversity of ways to address our fears. Responses range, as they often do, from therapy, support groups, workshops, and readings; to social and political change, through demonstrations, education, social justice and community groups; learning through research that addresses the socio-economic factors that underpin our fear response. The connectors here are change and diversity. Change speaks to the human drive for becoming, it doesn't mean never feeling fear again, or that bad things don't hap-

pen, or that being safe is an absolute. Diversity is not just about race or religion, gender or sexual orientation; it is about choice, and about direction too. How one chooses to address a fear response, internally and externally, will align with one's personality, stage of life, current abilities and/or fear itself. Choice is in the moment and fluid, at least in my humanistic, immanent, transformative, quantum, interconnected understanding of life. Diversity gives us choice, much more so than when I was a child, a young woman or even in my 40's and fifties. What the choice is today will, and ought to, change over time. Isn't that an exciting and fearful thought!

After this labyrinth walk through the topic of fear, I return to thoughts of those who shared their fear. The reflection that drove this article speaks to my own fear, that if we don't address the internal and external environments that grow into walking monsters, we will all suffer the chains of restriction and suppression. If one person's fear is not heard, that fear seeks other outlets.

I have often said that fear-based actions or beliefs only grow more fear, and keep us shallowly rooted. But ignoring fear as a map for understanding, choice and action also restricts our growth. Composer Virgil Thomson (Pulitzer Prize for Music, 1949) wrote, "Try a thing you haven't done three times. Once, to get over the fear of doing it. Twice, to learn how to do it. And a third time to figure out whether you like it or not." Mythologist Joseph Campbell wrote, "The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek."



## Andre Denny

...continued from page 1

such as ours. I actually did a spiritual care internship at the forensic facility where Andre is now housed. I have watched first-hand a series of dedicated people work together as a team in an attempt to rehabilitate and treat their patients with dignity. I have seen them fail miserably. I have also seen them do tremendous and remarkable things in an environment that would make most people cringe. Forensic mental health care professionals walk a very fine line trying to balance the health and rights of the individual against the safety of the community at large. They often do so under the stress and strain of too few staff members, money and resources. To be clear, there is no doubt in my

mind that community and individual safety is paramount. However, throwing patients away and locking the key is not a solution that has been found effective for public health or safety in the past when such measures were routine. We need to support all members of our community and put our money, thoughts and actions where they are needed most to create and make the individuals in our community healthy, safe and happy.

In the movies, it is easy to tell who the 'good guy' is and who is bad. The 'good guy' is the 'cowboy' clad in all in white with the big brimmed hat. The 'bad guy' can be identified through his villainous garb of black and attitude of stark darkness with no redeemable qualities. If this were a movie, there is no doubt in my mind that Raymond would be clad

in a white satin and silk fringed outfit with a white wide-brimmed hat on the finest of white stallions. In real life, Raymond deserves every fine bit of attention and admiration that such an outfit would engender and entail. I support Raymond and the life he led as an activist of the oppressed. I have nothing but the utmost respect and sorrow for a man who deserved so much better. Raymond is a man who deserves to be with us now and for a long time to come. Raymond did nothing wrong. The man dressed in black however, did not dress himself.

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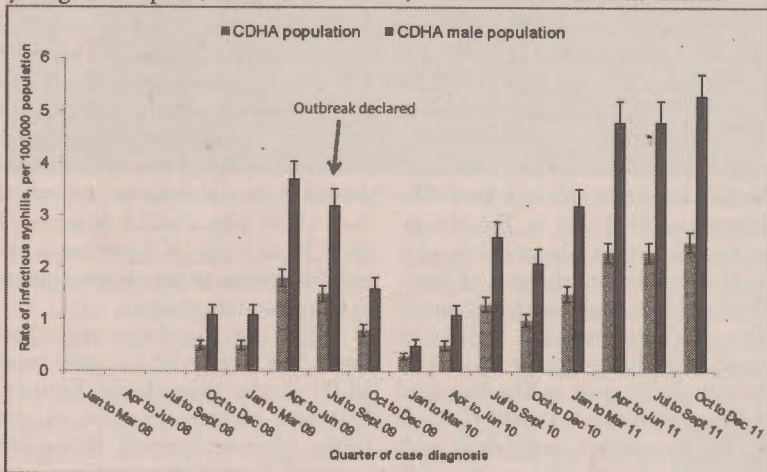
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## Syphilis Cases Increasing in Halifax

by Angus Campbell, Executive Director, Halifax Sexual Health Centre



Reported rate of infectious syphilis, Capital District Health Authority, January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2011 (n = 66)

Prepared by: Holly D'Angelo-Scott, M.Sc., ROH, Senior Epidemiologist, CDHA Public Health Services

NB: This graph does not include the 20 new cases in the first quarter of 2012 as staging is pending.

From mid-2008 to the end of 2011, there have been a total of 66 cases of infectious syphilis in Halifax's gay, bisexual and queer community. In the first quarter of this year, an additional 20 new cases have been detected. There are many possible reasons why the numbers continue to rise.

For one, syphilis is a tricky infection and the symptoms are not always obvious. During the primary stage, a painless sore or 'chancre' may occur on the penis, anus, scrotum, lips, or inside the mouth, throat, or rectum, which can be infectious and transmitted from one person to another. The chancre can then heal but the infection will progress to the secondary stage.

Syphilis has been dubbed "the great imitator" as many of the symptoms are indistinguishable from other infections. During the secondary stage, skin rashes may appear on the palms of the hands, bottoms of the feet, or other parts of the body, and

often resemble rashes from other diseases. Sometimes the rashes are so faint that they are not noticeable. If left untreated, the infection will progress to the next stages which may result in serious complications and permanent damage.

Antibiotics can cure syphilis and condoms help reduce the risk.

Testing is done by a blood test, and can be requested by your medical professional. The Halifax Sexual Health Centre ([www.hshc.ca](http://www.hshc.ca)) provides this option as part of the Anonymous HIV Testing program. See their website for further info or call 455-9656 ext 0. PrideHealth also offers testing by calling 220-0643. The STD Clinic at the VG Dickson Centre ([www.cdha.nshealth.ca](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca) or call 473-2272) provides drop-in clinical services on Mondays and Thursdays. If you do test positive, Public Health (481-5824) can inform your sexual contacts on your behalf without revealing your name.

## The New New Glaswegian

by Gerard Veldhoven

Life has lots to offer, and I will tell you that the transformation I am currently experiencing is ample proof that life can begin again at 71. Most of us who have lived through the decades will recall the many experiences in whatever form have been educational, in that we gain insight into the many facets of life. We are born, go through childhood, get an education, have a relationship, perhaps a few times, maybe we have children and grandchildren. You may say, well, this is the straight world in action. I beg to disagree and a certain transformation is taking place that would have astounded our grandparents and indeed our parents if we are of an older generation, such as I am. I'm speaking about the queer aspect of life. Even as we encounter continual problems with our government policies, our churches, our schools and yes, within our family units, we see the tremendous gains within the queer community. That translates into a transformation within our society that must be recognized and celebrated.

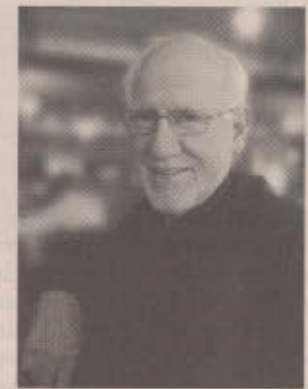
We must remember that life is short at best and therefore as we fight for queer rights and all that it encompasses, we certainly must embrace whatever gains we have accomplished. I have had my share of disappointments and regrets, but as I look back over the last decades I am grateful for the many phenomenal changes that have occurred. My parents immigrated to Canada with four teenage boys in 1954. As Europe was rebuilding I was in turmoil about my sexual orientation, except I did not have the slightest idea what it was really all about. All that I realized was the fact I was attracted to other boys and up to that point at age fourteen I had two sexual contacts with boys in The Netherlands.

Negative feelings and panic suddenly set in as we were about to embark on this long voyage to Canada, a country that we knew very little about. I had one question that could not be answered until a few years later. As I could not identify myself I found it difficult to understand these internal feelings. The panic had to do with the question if there were other boys in Canada like me. Of course as time progressed I was pleasantly sur-

prised at the wide-spread queer population. Another form of transformation took place and that was the fact I suddenly realized I was not alone.

I married, had two wonderful sons, one queer and one straight with a wonderful daughter-in-law and two delightful granddaughters. This was a transformation that was a positive part of my life. Then I came "out" in 1974 and thus my life changed direction again when I met my future husband Norman. He passed away in 2010. This was a transformation difficult to grasp. However, the fact is we transform ourselves on a regular basis; I learned to move on. A few attempts at romance failed. Last fall I met this wonderful loving man who has taken me on as his partner and now we begin again in a new town, new friends to mingle with the old and then our families who have embraced this relationship as a positive beginning to more years of happiness and contentment. So, transformation is a human experience that will allow us to move on and embrace life. I will again in the town of New Glasgow with a wonderful human being at my side. As we age it does not mean we give up on romance or anything else that we are passionate about, such as rights and opportunities for members of the queer community. This adventure may differ for various individuals, but look at the bright side of life and live it to the fullest.

American Author Napoleon Hill's quote: "First comes thought, then organization of that thought, into ideas and plans; then TRANSFORMATION of these plans into reality. The beginning, as you will observe, is in your imagination."



## Why You Should Care about NSRAP

By Hugo Dann

On June 23rd at 2 PM, the members of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) will gather at Veith House for their Annual General Meeting. They will present activity and financial reports and elect a new Board of Directors. This should be an important event for all LGBTQ Nova Scotians and yet, I suspect that, for most of our community, it is barely a mote to trouble the mind's eye. I'd like to change that perception. I want to convince you that NSRAP is an organization that can make a real difference in the lives of LGBTQ Nova Scotians, but it needs to be accountable to you, and it needs your help. If I can borrow from a master, my name is Hugo Dann, and I'm here to recruit you!

In the interest of full disclosure, I resigned as the Executive Director of NSRAP last spring because of a grievance between myself and a Board member. I've tried to keep that grievance confined to the individuals involved and not make it a conflict with the organization. I've tried to keep doors open but it's been challenging; it wasn't an easy breakup. I'm sure that to some in NSRAP I must have seemed like a tiresome old crank!

Watching NSRAP over the last year as a not-so-disinterested observer has been difficult. Some projects that

had been important to me received what, I thought to be, short shrift. I believed that, for all its flaws, the Community Development Conference that NSRAP hosted last spring deserved more attention than it got. I was concerned about the lack of progress on the Elders Project, a project to help make nursing homes safe and welcoming places for LGBTQ Elders, and others in need of long-term care. While nothing seems to have done over the last year, I still believe that NSRAP is the best organization to guide this work forward.

Some things about NSRAP fill me with hope. On April 3rd, I attended an open meeting of NSRAP's Health Committee. It was great to hear that Committee Chair Lucas Thorne-Humphrey has been effectively working with Canadian Blood Services to change the lifetime ban on blood donations from men who've had sex with men. It was even more commendable that NSRAP was once again engaging directly with the community, especially with regards to Transgender rights and health care.

When NSRAP succeeds, it can be brilliant. Their work in facilitating the Vigil and Memorial for Raymond Taavel was terrific. We needed them and they were there. We could not ask for a more thoughtful or effective

spokesperson than Kevin Kindred to serve our community. There have been some communications misfires this year, but they have been redeemed by NSRAP's caring and capable performance through those dark days of late April.

But I still have one major, abiding concern, bringing me right back to the pivotal importance of NSRAP as our flagship LGBTQ community organization; namely, that the Board decided not to hire a replacement Executive Director. Kirk Furlotte is doing a fine job in the role of part-time Office Coordinator, but that is not the same as having a full time, proactive E. D. Let me be clear, I am NOT angling to get the job back! I swear by the Goddess, I wouldn't take it if it were offered. It's time for someone new. Along with the LGBTQ communities' increased growth and visibility have come increased challenges. NSRAP needs a full time staff person. Why? Because we need an organization that is proactive, professional, provincial in its scope, accountable to the community, and (as near as can possibly be) on the job 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Take a look around our province. We are the largest minority group in Nova Scotia. We are also the least recognized, and the least served by

our government. When it comes to health care, Capital Health funds Pride and I part-time Coordinator. Is that really sufficient to meet the needs of the as many as 30,000 LGBT citizens of HRM? Still, at least we have PrideHealth! Where are the similar programs in South West Nova or Guysborough County? The Youth Project is having to fund raise like crazy to keep two Education Outreach workers on staff. How much of that program is funded by the Department of Education?

Truro, Antigonish, Pictou County and Cumberland County all passed "No Flag" policies so they wouldn't have to fly the Rainbow Flag during local Pride Weeks. Those laws were passed FIVE YEARS AGO! My admiration and gratitude go out to all the activists and allies (X Pride, Rainbow Proud, Northern Aids Connection, and many others) who continue to ensure that LGBTQ people are visible in all those communities. But those laws are still on the books and that does matter!

It has been 21 years since the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act was changed to include sexual orientation; to me that means 21 years of invisibility and exclusion for Transgender Nova Scotians, not an

anniversary to celebrate. NSRAP has been working for years to get fully insured Transgender Health Care, and yet Jessiah MacDonald has had to launch a Human Rights complaint against MSI for a procedure that the Department of Health itself has said should be covered.

We need NSRAP to keep working on all these things. But NSRAP also needs us. Before I was their E.D, I served on the Board of NSRAP between 2007 and 2009. I remember people asking me, "What do you guys do anyway?" I remember thinking it myself. If you think that, or if you think more needs to be done, then go to NSRAP website, become a member. It's free! Make a donation, by all means, if you can. Even better, come to the AGM. Raise your voice. Ask questions. Offer ideas. NSRAP has started reaching out again to the community, and that is so good! Let's keep our eyes on the prize together. We may not be there yet, but look at how far we've come. We have changed the world. Together, we can change it again!

Hugo Dann has been involved in Queer Community activism since 2005. He's supported his activism by working as an actor, a dishwasher at Mollyz, and a Towel Boy at SeaDogs; but he started by volunteering with Wayves.

*Crawford Hastie's*  
**KIBITZ AND BITCH**

Hi Tom,

Well, we thought it would never get here but the lovely warm weather has finally arrived with robins, peepers, shrubs in bloom and students wearing those short shorts made of silk that make my sap rise like a maple tree. Spring and summer aren't just seasons in Canada; they are accomplishments. It means we made it through another endurance test. Who needs Survivor when we have slush and sleet and snow? Well, actually who needs Survivor period, or any of the other so-called reality shows? Did you read where recently Jon Hamm made headlines by denigrating the "accomplishments" of Paris Hilton and the family who is in love with the letter "K"? Delicious! But that's a rant for another time and I am trying — seriously trying — to lower my blood pressure and my stress levels. I'm even trying meditation. They say you should let your thoughts drift like a school of fish or a graceful flight of birds, just letting them be and not trying to control them. It is much more difficult than it sounds, Tom. I keep picturing gold fish moving around the well-muscled thighs of a Tahitian swimmer or a flock of songbirds chirping encouragement to that nearly naked mutant with the wide, white wings in X-men. Remember him? Maybe I shouldn't have chosen "libido" as my mantra, but they say you should pick a word that has meaning for you.

Along with my mindfulness practice, I've become quite taken with the notion of ritual: You know, bringing meaning to small actions that we make every day. For example, when I have my cup of tea with my breakfast, I make a point of making a pot of tea instead of just throwing a tea bag into a mug. And then I use a cup and saucer that an old friend gave me and I sit down at the table and consciously take a breath and slow down, because even at that early hour of the morning my mind is already racing towards what awaits me at work, wondering what the traffic will be like and the weather and whether I'm prepared for the meeting that afternoon and so on. So, I take a measured breath and I intentionally slow down and focus on the moment, and the tea, and the aroma, and the kindly warmth of the steeped liquid. It works roughly half the time but it's a process.

The other day while folding clothes at the Laundromat - another ritual - I began thinking about my relationship with briefs. Many of the pairs I own came to me through the hands of other men. I have a black and white pair with a west coast aboriginal design (I was going to make an obvious joke about totem poles) a gift

from a travelling friend, a gray pair of boxer briefs which accidentally found themselves in my laundry basket instead of that of the hunky blond man who foolishly left his washer unattended in New Zealand, a satiny pair with a design of Michelangelo's David obtained in Italy, a gold tiger-striped pair offered as a token of esteem from the women in the neighbouring office at my work place, a royal blue thong (A gentleman caller wore them to please me, then gave it to me as a memento), a pair of white Calvins sent as a present from a pen pal friend in Whitehorse, a soft blue pair of boxers left behind by an online acquaintance (he said he needed a drink or two to relax and then got so bloated he fell asleep, woke up in a panic in the morning, grabbed a few clothes while hurriedly calling for a taxi), two pairs given by a friend who likes to watch me model them and a pair of sports briefs made of some space age material that wicks moisture away from the body, thereby keeping the boys comfortable on those rare occasions when I partake in exercise. Oh yes, and the jock strap left by the ballet student from a few summers ago. You could still see the teeth marks in the waistband until after the fourth washing. My underwear drawer is full of memories, Tom, which makes getting dressed in the morning an emotionally rich experience.

Speaking of memories, The Queen of Disco, Donna Summer, has now gone to that glitter ball club in the sky. Ms. Summer had a kind of bumpy relationship with the queer community. Initially, it was the gay dance clubs that embraced her disco rhythms and soaring vocals, but that changed when she was reputed to have said that AIDS was God's punishment for the homosexual lifestyle. She later denied saying this. Whatever the reality, I remember fondly dancing beneath shimmering coloured lights while she sang "Hot Stuff" and "Bad Girls" and it seemed those carefree nights would go on forever. An era when I believed that that cute man in the tight white tee shirt and even tighter black pants really would call the phone number I had written on the match book cover and maybe leave his briefs as a souvenir.

Love ya!

*Crawford*



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**Rainbow Refugees NS**  
**Urgent! Stop Bill C-31**

by Hugo Dann

By the time you read this, Bill C-31: The Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act may have already passed 3rd Reading in The House of Commons. The Harper Government will use its majority in both Houses to rush it through both The Senate and final vote in The House, so the Governor General can give royal assent before the end of June. They are in a real hurry, because if they don't succeed, the legislation passed by the previous, minority Parliament (known as The Balanced Refugee Reform Act) will become the law by which Canada deals with refugee claimants. The previous bill moderated the Conservative's draft legislation, with input from refugee organizations, legal authorities, and M.P.s from all federal parties. It received the near unanimous support of both Houses of Parliament. Now they have a majority, the Harper Government wants to scrap all those amendments and reforms. Bill C-31 does that, and more. It is even worse for refugees than their previous attempt. C-31 has set alarm bells ringing amongst refugee and human rights groups around the world. It has been condemned as unconstitutional, and it poses a particular threat to queer refugees.

Bill C-31 would give the Minister of Immigration extraordinary powers to intern in detention centres refugees and deport them summarily, with almost no oversight or accountability. Under C-31, if two or more asylum seekers arrived together at our border, the Minister could order them detained for a year (at a cost of \$70,000 per refugee!). Children under 15 could be separated from their parents; placed in foster care, or locked up in detention centres. Most alarming for

LGBTQ refugees, under the proposed legislation the Minister will have the sole power to designate a country as a "safe country of origin." Refugees from "safe" countries will have barely a month to prepare their claim. They would have no right of appeal, if their claim were denied. Nor would there be any stay of deportation for judicial review, or for compassionate or humanitarian reasons.

What can you do to stop this? Lots!! You can write or email your M.P., or the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Immigration, or the Prime Minister himself. If the Bill is in the Senate, then write to one of your Provincial Senators. Letters such as this are always better when they express your own thoughts, but the Rainbow Refugees Association of Nova Scotia is ready to help you with suggestions and addresses of Members of Parliament and Senators. You can reach us at rainbowrefugee.ns@gmail.com.

We welcome your interest at any time. We are a small group of dedicated volunteers at present, but we're growing steadily. We will be taking part in the Halifax Pride Parade and we will have a table at the Community Fair. Please drop by and say hello. We're very friendly. After all, working with refugees is all about creating a safe and welcoming environment!

Remember, it is absolutely free to mail M.P.s and Senators, you don't even need a stamp. We all know that many countries around the globe are actively persecuting their LGBT citizens. It can be a dangerous world for our community. Working together and holding our government accountable, we can make sure that Canada continues to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

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After the speakers had spoken, the singers had sung and the crowd had cheered, they joined their hands together and circled the block, coming back together where they had begun.

...continued from page 1

Transit!" The exuberance of youth can be heartbreakingly beautiful, and that kid broke my heart in the best way. That spirit will change the world. In 2007, there were only a handful of Gay Straight Alliances in Nova Scotia, most of them in HRM. Five years later, they are in every region of the province. That fact alone leads me to believe that we might really see the eradication of homophobia and transphobia in our lifetimes!



Love All Around The Square.

Artists have also always been prominent in Halifax's IDAHO events. Ryan MacGrath, Tanya Davis, and Ria Mae have all performed, along with DaPoPo Theatre and actor, singer-songwriter Stewart Legere. This year, Leona MacDougall sang a reflective piece of her own, and puppeteer Sebastien Lebel brought one of his giant creations, a beautiful tropical bird that suggested both the liberation of flight and the vulnerability of endangered things. Dez Adams performed the label/barrier-challenging spoken-word piece, Straitjacket. Other speakers at the rally included J.J. Lyons on religion, and Kevin Kindred once again hosting gracefully, and drawing connecting threads of ideas between speakers.

We've been including transphobia in the title of our Halifax rallies since at least 2009, and trans issues were particularly resonant this year. Trans rights in Nova Scotia are being courageously affirmed by the rally's

last speaker, Jessiah MacDonald. Jessiah has launched a human rights complaint against MSI for its refusal to cover his physician-ordered hysterectomy. Jessiah spoke softly, but the force of his conviction shone through in his declaration that he just wanted to be treated equally, that he should have the same rights, the same care, as a cisgender person receiving the same, medically-ordered procedure. I saw some people I knew, members of the trans community, at the front of the crowd when Jessiah was speaking. It was powerful to see them there, so well represented. But we were all united as we cheered Jessiah, all in solidarity with this humble warrior for LGBTQ equality. The future of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia looks safe in the hands of a younger generation.

And finally, after 5 years, I got to see my longed for demonstration. Rebecca Rose, part of the

team that organizes Pride week's Dyke and Trans March, led us all in a human chain. In my speech this year, about the rally's history, I quoted Oscar Wilde, "Where there is sorrow, there is holy ground." We have certainly hallowed Grand Parade over the

years with our remembrances, but in 2012, under a bright blue sky with the Rainbow Flag flying overhead, we reclaimed it for our joy! Hundreds of us joining hands, filling out of the square onto Barrington Street,



As Des speaks, ASL interpreter passionately translates

circling around St Paul's, until we had made an unbroken human link from the square's Barrington entrance to its opposite on Argyle, as Kevin said "around the heart of the city I love." Lesbians, gay men, bi folk, trans people, queers, allies: fighting ignorance and fear by laughing, chanting, singing, shyly giggling, all connected, hand to hand to hand.

Then filling the square again; a joyful, empowering, expression of our humanity. It wasn't anything like the anger-filled protests I'd been imagining; it was so much



Jess & Des both spoke, both were extremely inspirational.

better. We're here. We're queer. We're stickin' around. And I got to hold Kevin Kindred's hand. Yup, the best rally ever! Just sayin'.



Dalhousie Allies.



Dawn Sloane & Leonard Preya are always there to support the Community.



As Des Adams speaks, friend and pet proudly listen.

Photographs by Anita Martinez



Kevin Kindred addresses the large turnout. People of all ages, from all walks of life and from all over, joined in.

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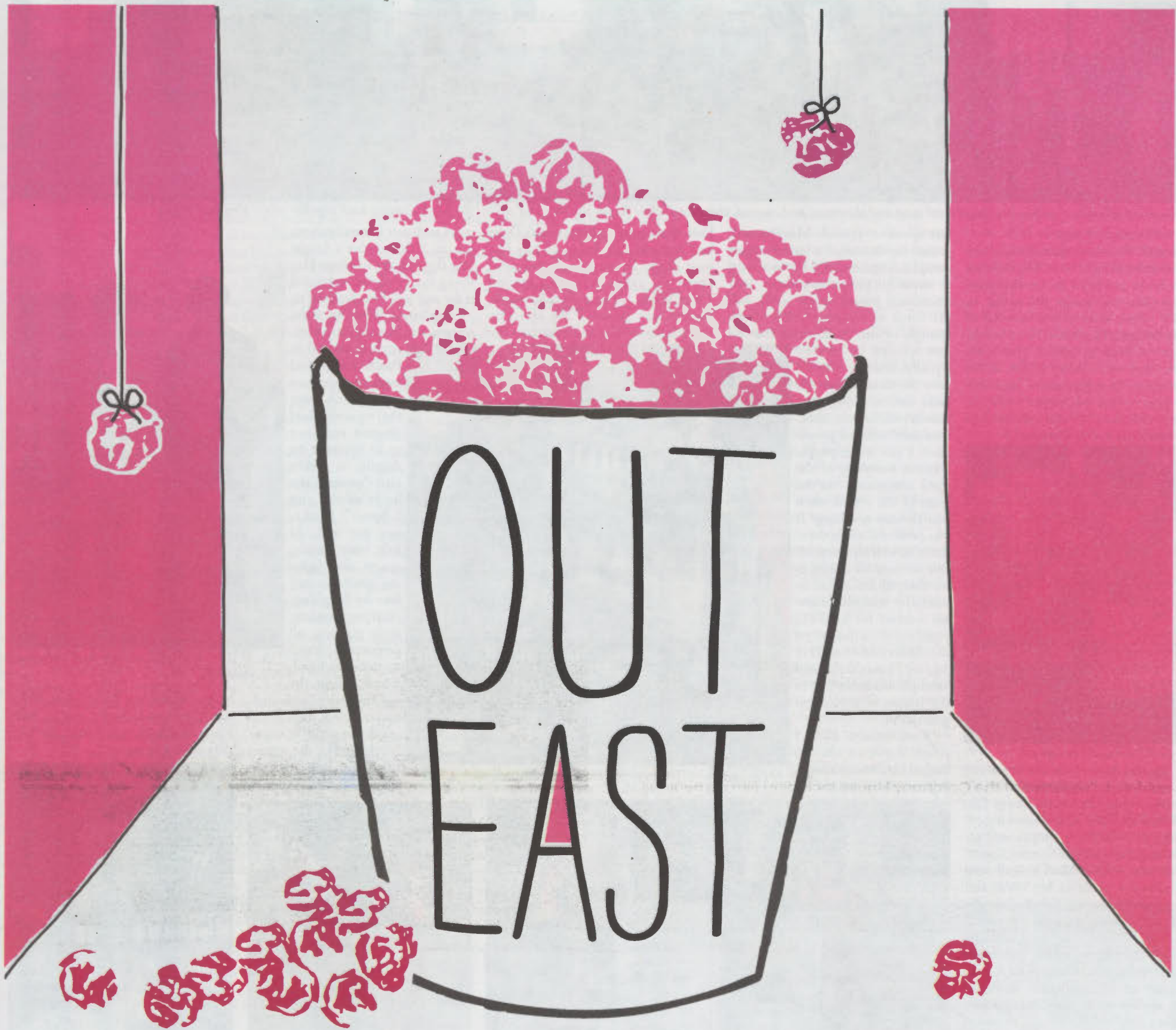
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QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

June 14-17, 2012

[www.outeastfilmfest.com](http://www.outeastfilmfest.com)  /outeastfilmfestival  /outeastfilmfest

# OUT EAST

## Ticket / Pass / Box Office Information

TICKET SALES GO LIVE ON JUNE 1, 2012!

You can purchase online anytime at [www.neptunetheatre.com](http://www.neptunetheatre.com). All screenings are \$10 each. See the festival guide for event pricing.

## The 2012 OUTeast Queer Film Festival

The inaugural OUTeast Film Festival will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia from **June 14-17, 2012**. A four-day celebration of queer film and culture, OUTeast is the only event of its kind in Atlantic Canada.

## The Program Launch

Join us on **Friday, June 1 @ Neptune Studio Theatre @ 5:00 PM** to raise a glass and get a sneak peek at the official lineup of the 2012 OUTeast Film Festival. You'll be the first to see the full schedule of feature films, shorts, and parties that will make up this year's OUTeast Film Festival.

## Do I know you from somewhere?

(WHAT OUTEAST HAS DONE SO FAR)

### OUTeast came out on April 8, 2011, at Come OUT East

A sold-out, live event at the Company House including film screenings, music, and comedy.

### In September, 2011, we hosted That's so Gay-la

A partnered event with the Atlantic Film Festival featuring a sold-out screening of Sundance darling *Circumstance*, paired with a gala party at Niche Lounge.

### In October, we brought the OUTeast peepIN to Nocturne

A video installation at the Nocturne Festival, which drew thousands of attendees for a one-night-only presentation.

### All year long, we've been running Work-in-Progress

A unique mentorship program for student film maker Morgan Strug, funded through the Nova Scotia Cultural Opportunities for Youth Program.

## Wanna see it all?



Get the limited edition All-OUT, All Access Pass for only \$50. Visit [www.outeastfilmfest.com](http://www.outeastfilmfest.com) to purchase online! Includes access to all 2012 Festival screenings and events. Passes are non-transferable and non-refundable.

## The Work-in-Progress Program

AN EMERGING FILMMAKER MENTORSHIP

Don't miss this special screening on **Sunday, June 17 @ 3:00 PM**. OUTeast Emerging Filmmaker-in-Residence Morgan Strug will premiere highlights from the year's work.



Since 2011, Morgan has been exploring the Halifax drag community and capturing lives, performances and behind-the-scenes portraits. Join us for the afternoon to get a sneak peek at this documentary work-in-progress, and to hear from Morgan about the journey of making the film.



## IDAHA in Wolfville

On May 17th, the Town of Wolfville observed officially for the first time the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia with the raising of the rainbow flag in the town's waterfront park. Mayor Bob Stead remarked that the proclamation had the unanimous support of the town council, several of whom were in attendance. Deputy Mayor David Mangle, read aloud the proclamation (see attached) which was received with whistles, applause and shouts of approval by the crowd which had gathered in the bright May sunshine. MP Scott Brison was unable to attend but sent his support and approval of the event in a letter which was



The Rainbow Flag flies over Wolfville.

read by Mayor Stead, in which Brison evoked the activism and example of Raymond Taavel, the human rights activist who died recently. Ramona Jennex, Minister of Education, declared herself proud to represent such a diverse and socially-conscious region and also announced that she had sent a memo to all school boards in the province stating that any school where students wished to establish a Gay Straight Alliance, that school was mandated to support such a group. Long time activist and retired lawyer, Bruce Walker, gave a brief history of the struggle for queer rights in Canada while the Raging Grannies provided musical humour with songs that gently satirized fears of queer people and trumpeted their support for diversity and inclusion under the rainbow flag snapping proudly in the breeze off the Minas Basin.



David Mangle



The Raging Grannies

### Transgender Monologues

## Should use of the term "Transgendered" or "Transsexual" become passé?

by Sara Mukherji

In this day and age, when we have so much information about people who are born or "trapped" in the wrong gendered body, there should be no need to label people or place them into neat little categories or subcategories.

Political Correctness has been in place in North America for the past two decades. Its purpose was to eliminate discrimination, not hide it. If an individual with a wrong gendered body approaches me and identifies as a woman or a man, then that person in my mind is a woman like any other woman or a man like any other man. I do not like to call this person as "trans" person. Though a certain amount of effort must be made to present oneself as the gender with which this person identifies, if the person has put in enough effort to present herself or himself to look like a person of the identification gender then this person is a woman or man and nothing else must be asked or said about this person.

Many of the so-called "trans" people may experience health problems such as a liver disorder or kidney disease which may prevent them from taking gender appropriate hormonal pills to feminize or masculinize their bodies, and gender reassignment surgery is something such people will never be able to pursue because of their pre-existing conditions. Are we as a society going to discriminate against such people just because they are not able to undertake medical procedures that

allow them to possess bodies of the gender they identify with?

If we have made any social progress in the past two decades as far as equality with gender identity and sexual orientation is concerned, then we will call these people men and women like all other men and women. People who live in and identify with their birth genders do not have to disclose that they are heterosexuals on legal forms and in their everyday lives. So the "trans" women and men should be allotted the same courtesy by both government and society—they are men and women who wish to lead ordinary, everyday lives just like their counterparts who are satisfied with their birth gender.

Every human being should have the right to live full, meaningful lives without hatred, harassment or ridicule from anybody. We should no longer use terms like "trans" or "homo" regardless of what the psychiatric profession says and thinks. People are people and should be able live as they choose, when they choose and how they choose. Therefore the term transgendered or transsexual should become an archaic archived term like "thou" and should only be used to make historical references and no longer be used for discriminatory identification purposes. Effort in presenting as their identification gender and identification should be the sole criteria in identifying an individual as female or male and nothing else.

### The Town of Wolfville

Official Proclamation for May 17th, 2012  
International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

Whereas diversity is essential for a healthy community;  
And whereas, it is important to recognize, support and promote diversity in our community;  
And whereas it is important to raise awareness of the costs and consequences of homophobia and transphobia in particular, and prejudice in general, in our community;  
And whereas it is essential to provide hope, positive action and role models for LGBTIQ youth, along with others, to thrive in our community;  
And whereas the use of rainbow flags as a sign of diversity, inclusiveness, hope and determination has a long history throughout the world;  
And whereas the Town of Wolfville hereby acknowledges that May 17th is International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia;  
Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Wolfville will join with other communities in Canada and raise the Pride flag in recognition and support of International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

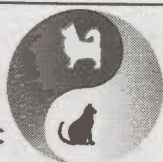
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## Nominations for NSRAP Community Contribution Awards

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project is accepting nominations for awards that will be presented during NSRAP's Annual Gala Fundraiser, on Saturday October 20, 2012 at Halifax's Marriott Harbourfront Hotel.

This year's gala is being held on "Spirit Day," a movement started in 2010 to wear purple in order to raise awareness LGBT bullying in schools. Our keynote speaker will be the Honourable Darrell Dexter, M.L.A. and Premier of Nova Scotia. Tickets for the gala are \$125/ticket or \$1,250 for a table of ten. Contact nsrap@nsrap.ca

### Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award

NSRAP created this award in 2008 as a means of recognizing those who have made significant contributions to the LGBT community in Nova Scotia. It is named after the late Reverend Darlene Young, a former NSRAP board member and pastor of the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church.

### Additional Recognition Awards

NSRAP is also accepting nominations for a variety of awards created in 2011 to recognize other individuals and organizations for achievements that produce a positive impact on the LGBT communities of Nova Scotia. Unlike the Hero Award, the NSRAP Board of Directors and Gala Committee are not obligated to select a winner in any of the following categories every year. Organizations may nominate themselves for awards, whereas awards for individuals require a separate nominator.

### Raymond Taavel Media Award

Recognizes an individual or organization for work in the traditional or social media educating the public on news or issues affecting the LGBT community. This award has been renamed in honour of Raymond Taavel—a community activist who worked in the media as a Wayves editor and contributor and as an employee of the **\*\*Shambhala Sun\*\***.

### Allies Award

Recognizes the contributions of an ally to the LGBT cause. Corporate Stewardship Award Recognizes a corporation or non-profit organization which embraces and values its LGBT employees

### Nominations Procedure

Nominations should be sent by e-mail to nsrap@nsrap.ca by 6pm AST, Wednesday August 8, 2012. Nominations must clearly state the award for which the nominee should be considered and include an essay (of no less than 500 words but no more than 2,000 words) explaining

why you feel the nominee is worthy of receiving such an award. It should include:

- Background information
- Key accomplishments
- Impact of contributions to the Nova Scotia LGBT community

Remember that winners are selected based on the strength of the submission; provide relevant and compelling information.

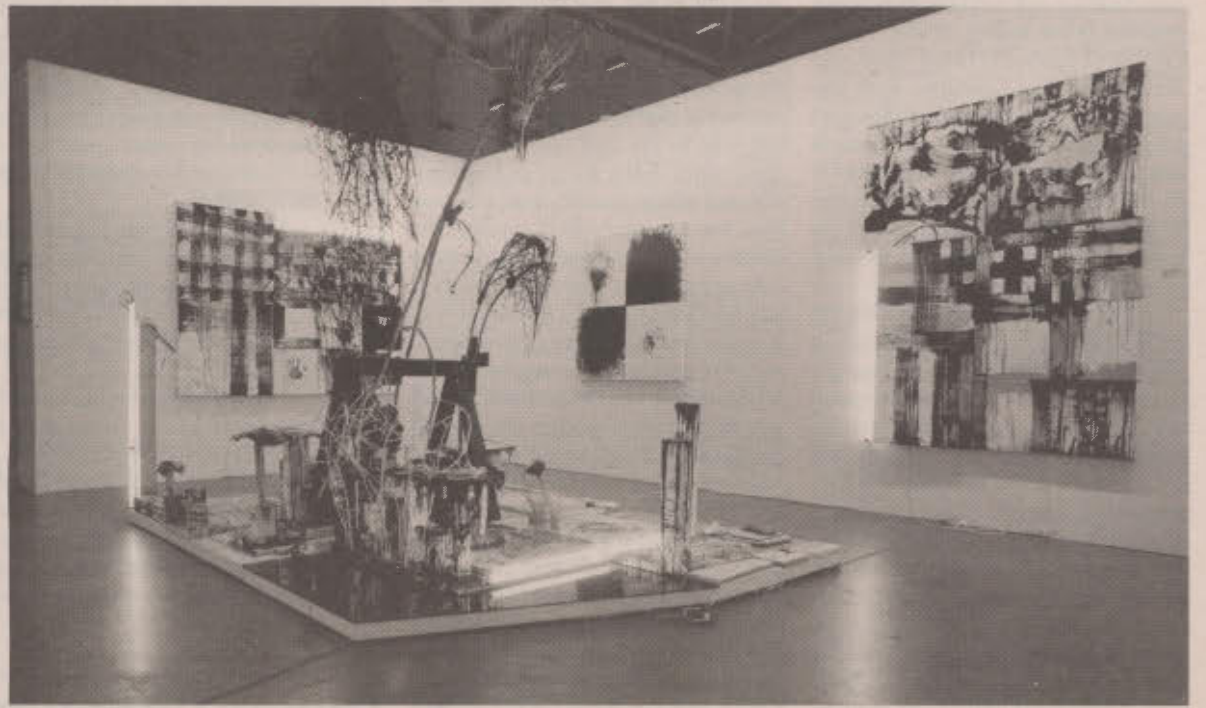
### Nominations should also include the following:

- Nominee Information – Name, Phone, Email
- Nominator Information – Name, Address, Phone, Email

• References – Name, Phone, Email, Website, and relationship between nominee and reference. References are not required, but if you decide to include them please include no more than three.

The winners will be selected from nominations received by deadline at a meeting of members of both the NSRAP Gala Committee and the NSRAP Board and announced to the public in September or October. All awards will be presented at the NSRAP Fundraising Gala. For more information, visit nsrap.ca/gala

## Halifax Gets Big Gay Artwork



The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS) has received a significant gift from BMO Financial Group, a major installation by queer Canadian artist Attila Richard Lukacs, as well as a collection of video art representing a career retrospective from artist. "Attila Lukacs is one of the most important Canadian painters of his generation and we are delighted to be the first major art museum in Canada to receive a large scale installation from his new body of abstract work," said Ray Cronin, Director & CEO of the AGNS.

Lukacs, originally from Edmonton, is probably best known for his romanticized, epic paintings of Berlin skinheads, dating from the 1980s. The AGNS installation features three-dimensional work as well as abstract paintings, all thematically linked. Black and White Faggot, 2011 is a large multimedia construction installed on the floor, two walls and from the ceiling. BMO's financial support includes sponsorship of the AGNS's free admission on Thursday evenings. Mark Bursey, Chair of the AGNS Board said "BMO Free Access Thursday Nights will enable [us] to provide free access and educational programs to the public, as well as to under-served community organizations from across Nova Scotia."

## Everything Really Bad Happens Around My Birthday

by Ti Hadley

It was just my blood brother, Dad and I. That's how it should have been ever since my birth mother walked out on us. But Dad always had to have a woman. He was always working. He never spent any good time with us unless he was made to.

When it was just the three of us, one time we went into Mulgrave and we all ordered the same thing. Then we drove to the camp to fix it up and ate more food. Another day, after a big storm came through, we went swimming in the six foot waves. Dad and I went hunting for deer and ducks and rabbits.

In grade eight things got bad at home. I felt so low. One day Dad and I were going into Mulgrave. I don't remember word for word what I said, but I was trying to find out what was going on. I guess I must have said the word fuck, 'cause Dad leaned over in the truck and hit me so hard with his fist it hurt for weeks.

One day in class my teacher leaned over and said, "Sheryl, you're not yourself today—what is wrong?" I flat out said, "Dad hit me right here." The class stopped doing math.

Cops came to the house, Dad said he was going to have the cops take me away. Good. Let them! I was done being hurt in every way a person could hurt. Someone called my Grandma. They had no idea where I was; Dad never told them. Grandma was scared for me because she had been in foster care, but not because her Dad was an asshole like mine was. I told Grandma I was happy to be away from Dad's and I really didn't want to go back.

Right up to the end of high school,

I was so not a fan of girly things. I tried, but only for the family. I never really had any friends or best friends. Once at foster care, a girl there and I were going to the school dance. I asked her to put makeup on me and pick out a dress for me for the night. She did me up so fine as a young woman.

I walked into the school and they had no idea who I was until later when I changed into my pants and basketball T-Shirt. I gave them the old head fuck. I loved it! They could see then how unhappy I was being dressed up as a woman. It's not for me even though I got the body parts of one.

Everyone downs me. I got this done so many times it is really hard not to think anything else of me. But I was at my aunt's because there was no yelling and no one being mean to me. I could do my school work okay. I came out with a 70 average.

I really didn't want to go to prom. But Megan told me I had to go. It sounded like I was going to get hurt if I didn't. So, I said fine but I wasn't going out to buy anything for it. So Megan lent me her sister's old prom dress and shoes. Fuck My Life!

The day of prom my art teacher took me back to her place to get cleaned up, have supper and get on that purple fucking dress.

Canada Day 2003, I got someone to chop off all my hair. I felt free. I loved it, but my family did not. At the end of the summer I went back up to the valley to go to NSCC.

Yet again I was as happy as hell to get away from family. I took ACAP and Graphic Design. In October an

old friend and I started chillin' out together. One night we went to the bar, had a few drinks and I asked her to come over to my place. That night was the first time I made love to a woman. She and I were together for two years. I asked her to marry me. She said yes but later on I felt I was doing this for all the wrong reasons.

Graphic design is a one year program, but I had to do it in two years, because of the way I learn. In my second year I wasn't doing so well. The class that was killing me was History of Graphic Design. Come October I was dying so I took the little bit I had from my loan and moved to Dartmouth.

I stayed in Highfield Park. The person I was staying with kicked me out because her girlfriend was coming back. I found a little place over on Jackson Road. It was my very own little place, only \$400 a month, with heat, lights and power to boot. In November I got a job at the A&W in Mic Mac Mall. I was there for a year and it paid for my little home.

I left A&W and gave myself a month off. Found a job over in Burnside working at a Lawtons warehouse. I was there for a year when they let me go with no explanation and I could get no answers. I think it all happened because I asked a few friends to start calling me Ti. They let me go at five in the morning when the buses hadn't even start up yet. When the sun came up I called my sister up to let her

know what happened and she put in a good word for me where she was working. By Monday, I was working nights cleaning. I was there for only two weeks; I just knew I was better than that. I found another job. I went to work at Scanwood in Dartmouth.

In 2008 I moved in with friends in Clayton Park. They had a townhouse and I was paying them \$500 for rent, power, heat, hot water and internet. There was no room for my food. The townhouse was a mess. I was there for two months. This time I moved to Dartmouth with an old friend of mine who ran a group called Club 200.

When I came to the city, I helped out with Pride every year. Joined groups like Club 200, Out and About Women and BLT. I joined the Rainbow softball team and played for Coho/MenzBar and Venus Envy. First time Pride had a float in the Parade of Lights, I helped put it together. It was rainy as hell but we all made it through.

The worse thing that I could ever have done in my life was to get my leather sofa. I was working at Scanwood. Something happened to me and I had to go to physio. Across the street was a furniture shop. There I got locked into a six months-no payment deal. I will never go through that again.

I loved working at Scanwood. They put me in the manliest areas. I could outwork a lot of the young

guys coming in. I started work there as Sheryl. After a few months, I had my name changed to Ti Shawn Hadley. The superintendent pulled me into the office and was asking, "why Ti?" I didn't hold back. I told him why I was doing all of this. Why did I enjoy Scanwood? Because they saw me as a person and as a hard worker, never mind my gender. I had questions from the other workers and I was okay by that. You're not going to know something until you read about it or ask about it. I worked for Scanwood for three years and few months. Scanwood closed its doors in April 2012.

Since then, I have been jobless. Rose moved out and I moved to Halifax with my girlfriend at time. We were together for seven months until my birthday and then she ended it with me. She was the only person who got to see most of my change over.

I had nowhere to go, so I made a call to Sam over in Dartmouth and stayed with him for a few months until I started chatting with this girl down in Bridgewater. Paying off my sofa was hard, then these people paid off my sofa and I had the loan of a few dollars. A friend got me thinking about having my own wheels. I found a truck that was good to me for a year, then I traded in the SUV and got a Ford Ranger. Bad idea, I now know. The bank took my truck and I lost my leather sofa down in Bridgewater.

### Lay Chaplaincy Services

Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax  
5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1J8  
uuchurch@eastlink.ca  
902-429-5500

Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw Lay Chaplains  
sstephen57@gmail.com ♦ armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca

weddings ♦ memorials ♦ child dedications ♦ other rites of passage

# Looking Back

## The Club (The Turret) Circa June 1977

To commemorate 25 years of Pride, in June, July and August Wayves will be running segments of Reg Giles' forty thousand word story cycle, "Peanut Butter And Jam Sandwich. The full story cycle is published in the Halifax Rainbow Encyclopedia and can be found by googling "gay halifax peanut butter."

By Reg Giles

It was a warm Halifax night with a cool breeze and I was standing in the doorway of the Green Lantern Building, looking up across the street at the four flashing red and blue floodlights pointed at the ceiling of The Turret. Gloria Gaynor's Honey Bee and Never Can Say Goodbye mix was pounding its way out the window and filling the Barrington Street air with disco madness. You could see the DJ in the booth, which was the turret on the building; slip mixing was the order of the day because of the lack of a mixer for beat mixing.

I had already had my first blowjob at this point, from a guy I had met in the army. I met him on The Triangle cruising area; I was a security guard and was doing a patrol in a van on road construction sites, which had oil pot lights (I had to make sure they stayed lit.) I didn't realize this was a cruising area until I met him walking by. Anyway, we talked for a while about old times and finally it got down to what he was actually doing there. His hand finally slid over to my crotch. My mind just said "oh well" and it happened and to my surprise seemed quite matter-of-fact.

I finally crossed the street and went into the door of the Turret Club. On the ground floor was a store called the Bean Sprout (a bulk health food store). As I climbed the stairs, my heart started racing. I still don't know if it was because of the beat of the music, or being a little afraid, or just plain excited. The second floor landing held the coat check and sign-in guest book. I noticed that I was getting strange looks from some even (to my mind at the time) stranger looking people. I realized that I was still in uniform, police were not very welcome and some could not distinguish me from them. I was eventually allowed in and asked not to come in uniform

anymore.

At the top landing was the entrance to the club itself. As I peered in, all these faces and eyes were leering back at me, my head pounding and heart racing even more. It was like a scene right out of Magnum PI, moustaches and all. As I stepped across the doorsill, a queen pirouetted over to me and curtsied saying, "enchante." Miss Kitty, as I eventually and affectionately came to know him, was a former school teacher cum hairdresser, a mad queen with curly hair and a big semi muscular body (I was told that he was a swimmer too) was the first really gay person that I met. He and his entourage of friends hung around The "Meat Rack" which was between two pillars on the left going in the door. To the right was a wide set of stairs which led up to an area of tables, chairs and a makeshift bar. You could stand at the top of the stairs and look back over the whole bottom floor, the dance floor at the front lined by high gothic windows and the turret enclosing the DJ booth. At the very front and to the left was a 12x12 area known as Dykes Corner, I guess it had become their spot like a pair of comfortable shoes!

As the night heated up and more boys after boys came in, the place became shoulder to shoulder. I started feeling like the strawberry on the top of a fruit salad. I was the new meat and I started to love every flirtatious moment of attention that was bestowed upon me. By the end of the night I had made my first pickup (or was it the other way around?).

This was it; I had found where I belong!

*Reg is a longtime Halifax resident and was involved with the gay community starting about when this story opens, to the latter days of GALA in the mid-1990s.*

# Jenna Talackova: Making an Impact Across Canada

by Jennifer McCreath

Well, it just wouldn't feel right to have a major LGBT Canadian periodical publication this month, without at least one story about the most-covered transsexual news story, perhaps in the history of Canada. As I am sure many of you are already aware, British Columbia native Jenna Talackova made news all over the world when she was outted as a post-op transsexual woman who was initially disqualified from the Miss Universe Canada pageant when it was revealed that she was not supposedly a "natural born woman." Rather than taking this disqualification lightly, Jenna enlisted the help of famed lawyer Gloria Allred, and within a matter of days, pageant owner Donald Trump decided to reverse the decision and allow Talackova to compete.

What does this have to do with Eastern Canada, you ask? Well, this story has stimulated conversations all over Canada, including right here in our neck of the woods. While there is a clear division of opinions in terms of whether or not having a transsexual entered in a main-stream beauty pageant adds value to the various fights of the trans community, is debatable, but what it has done is open the door for many other trans advocates to gain attention to speak about the issues.

While mainstream media in Newfoundland has generally ignored trans issues, I was among the first in the country to be contacted for a lengthy interview on province-wide television. Not only did I get a chance to speak about the pageant, but I got the opportunity to discuss trans issues in general, including the challenges we

## NSRAP Report

# NSRAP wants you!

by Kirk Furlotte

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) will hold their annual general meeting (AGM) on Saturday, June 23 at 2 p.m. at Veith House (3115 Veith St, Halifax).

During our AGM, our members are presented our annual report and financial statements. We also elect our 2012-2013 Board of Directors who will serve one-year terms until the 2013 AGM.

NSRAP has always benefited from the diversity of the communities we serve and hope to continue to do so. We are actively encouraging members of the LGBTQ\* communities to consider how they can invest in NSRAP and help shape its direction. We want you to be involved so that we can ensure that we accurately represent the diversity within our many communities.

There are three stages of potential involvement with NSRAP:

Stage 1: If you haven't already, become a member/supporter. We accept new members year-round. Membership is by a suggested annual donation of \$20 but is also available at no cost. Our membership form is available at <http://nsrap.ca/join>.

Stage 2: Once you're a member, NSRAP also has various action committees on which you can volunteer. Our projects include the Elders Project focussing on elder care, Health Committee focussing on queer health issues and various special event planning groups (such as the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia). You can find out more about our committees at

<http://nsrap.ca/committees>

Stage 3: The highest level of participation would be to become one of the Board of Directors. The Board is the legal authority for NSRAP and guides its growth and progress. Our directors should expect to volunteer a minimum of six hours a month to NSRAP both in their role as a director and a member of one of our committees. As a director, you would fulfil many roles including consultant (using your experience and expertise to advise NSRAP), ambassador (representing NSRAP in various venues), and champion (demonstrating leadership in the community). Our board is made up of 15 members; six members sit on the executive and the remaining 9 make up our directors. Our executive includes the Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Member-At-Large.

All our directors are encouraged to chair one of our committees relevant to their interest and experience. The most important roles directors play is determining the future direction of NSRAP and being an advocate for the queer community members of Nova Scotia.

If you would like to self-nominate for our 2012-2013 Board of Directors, you can download the application form at <http://nsrap.ca/board>. Please include a brief (one-page) letter indicating your interest and relevant experience. Attendance at the AGM on June 23rd is encouraged (but not required) to be elected as a director.

Kirk Furlotte is the administrative coordinator for NSRAP. To find out more about NSRAP, visit [nsrap.ca](http://nsrap.ca), [facebook.com/nsrap](https://www.facebook.com/nsrap) or [twitter.com/nsrap](https://twitter.com/nsrap).

## Queer Chamber of Commerce Formed

by Madonna Doucette

(Reprinted from Coastal Braid Blog)

It was with some trepidation that I entered Pipa's Bar and Grill on Thursday, March 22, to attend the first meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Expecting to know no one and most definitely expecting to be the only Caper there, I put on my big girl pants and walked into the private room rented for the occasion. The room was full of people, standing around in their own little circles, chattering and laughing at each other's stories. Confirmed—I don't recognize any one—deep breath—I can do this.

What followed was pure heaven for me—lots of flirting, laughing and golden network opportunities. I met and talked to pretty much everyone in the room. I gathered business cards like I was harvesting food for the winter. I talked up the Braid and Cape Breton in general. I kissed so many



Everyone gathering at the initial meeting of the gay chamber of commerce.

gay men who instantly loved me based on my name alone—Madonna. Mom and Dad had no idea that they were giving me such an instant ice breaker into the gay community 37 years ago when they named me.

I am grateful for the opportunity to meet with all these beautiful people. A gay and lesbian Chamber of

Commerce would be an excellent way for us to connect, support and celebrate each other's success. This is something we should all get on board with. Cape Breton, let's make sure that this Nova Scotia group really represents all of the province—we need to ensure that Cape Breton is loud and proud at the table.

all face with regards to stereotypes and myths about our transition being a medical condition, as well as the challenges we face in society gaining acceptance and fairness in terms of access to health care, housing, employment, safety, and overall human rights recognition.

The story couldn't have come at a better time, given that federal private member's bill C-279, is in the process of being moved through the House in Ottawa. This Bill, if passed, would provide human rights protection to trans people, by virtue of having the words "gender identity" and "gender expression" added to the Human Rights Code. In addition, it would include the same terms under the grounds for hate crimes in the

Criminal Code of Canada.

Finally, the Talackova story has stimulated so much interest, both in and out of the trans communities, that it is literally bringing more trans people out of the closet and into social media discussions. Not only has this allowed me to find and communicate with trans people in all four Eastern Canadian provinces, it has led to several strangers stopping me on the streets of downtown St. John's to talk about trans issues. Additionally, this has opened the door for me to develop some personal rapport with Talackova herself.

Ultimately, regardless of what you all think of beauty contests, and regardless of whether or not you feel Trump is just using Talackova as a

pawn in his game of chess to attract media attention to his business, it's hard to disagree that having Trump express trans acceptance, and change his company policy, within a matter of days, doesn't make a major statement to society at a global level. Accepting trans people as equals is now good for business. Trump knows this, and so do I.

I can only hope that more and more examples of trans acceptance in the private sector, will occur, and that this will eventually put pressure on Government entities to move faster in terms of amending their policies to ensure rights for trans Canadians in the East Coast

*Editor's note: The competition was held May 19th; Jenna came in 12th.*

# WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

## Atlantic Canada

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

**Atlantic Canadian Lesbians:** Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces

**AtlanticPoz:** A new discussion group is for individuals living with HIV in Atlantic Canada. web: [health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/)

**Egale Canada - Atlantic:** (888) 204-7777 email: [egale.canada@egale.ca](mailto:egale.canada@egale.ca) web: [www.egale.ca](http://www.egale.ca)

**Healing Our Nations:** Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. 1.800.565.4255 email: [ea@accesswave.ca](mailto:ea@accesswave.ca) (Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 31 Gloster Court, Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X9

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

**Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society:** Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: [waydo7@hotmail.com](mailto:waydo7@hotmail.com)

**Names Project (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 or making a panel) at 3544 Acadia St. Halifax, NS B3K 3P2

**Narcotics Anonymous:** a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 1-800-205-8402 web: [centralnovaarea.ca](http://centralnovaarea.ca) At the phone number or visit the web page for meeting times and places.

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

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

## New Brunswick (506)

### Fredericton

**Fredericton Pride:** Organizers of Fredericton Pride Week! web: [frederictonpride.org](http://frederictonpride.org)

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

**Fredericton Lesbians and Gays:** Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: [jamesw@stu.ca](mailto:jamesw@stu.ca)

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

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

**Spectrum:** Spectrum is a social/support group celebrating the diversity of the GLBTQ community and gay-friendly peoples at UNB and STU. Weekly meetings are open for both students and non-students to attend, and may feature various 'theme' nights from fun and games to more serious current event discussions impacting the GLTBO community. email: [spectrum@unb.ca](mailto:spectrum@unb.ca) web: <http://www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum/> (Group Meets Fridays at 5:30 pm (subject to change, see webpage for

updates)) at University of New Brunswick - Fredericton Campus, Marshall D'Avry Hall, Room 235

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

### Moncton

**AIDS Moncton:** offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness 506-859-9616 email: [sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com](mailto:sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com) web: [www.sida-aidsmoncton.com](http://www.sida-aidsmoncton.com) at (506-859-4726 fax) 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

**PFLAG:** Supporting all people with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues 382-7145 email: [monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html](http://www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html), meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday - please call) at YMCA, 30 War Veterans Avenue.

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

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

**Un sur Dix - University of Moncton Association for the LGBT community and their allies (not only for students):** The mission is to ensure the well-being of the community and to end homophobia (mainly a french association, but also organizes some bilingual activities). For more information, please visit the website. email: [unsurdix@umoncton.ca](mailto:unsurdix@umoncton.ca) web: [etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix](http://etudiants.umoncton.ca/umcm-unsurdix)

### Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

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

### Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

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

**PFLAG:** Support and education for GLBT2IQ persons, friends & family 506-536-4245 email: [jhammock@mta.ca](mailto:jhammock@mta.ca), meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street in Sackville, NB

### Saint John

**Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church:** invites you to worship! 506-634-8288 email: [cqsunited@nb.aibn.com](mailto:cqsunited@nb.aibn.com) web: [www.cqsunited.ca](http://www.cqsunited.ca), meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

**AIDS Saint John:** To improve the quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the spread of HIV through education and a needle exchange program. Call the office for details. 652-2437 email: [aidssj@nb.aibn.com](mailto:aidssj@nb.aibn.com) web: [www.aidsaintjohn.com](http://www.aidsaintjohn.com)

**Gay Men, A&S Supper Club:** web: [www.portcityrainbowpride.com](http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com), meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St. Saint John New Brunswick

**PFLAG:** Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (506)648-9700 or 648-9227 email: [saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn](http://www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn),

meets 1st Friday (1st Friday of each month September - June from 7:00-9:00 p.m. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

**Port City Rainbow Pride:** Pride Celebrations Committee

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

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

### Woodstock

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

## Newfoundland & Lab (709)

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

### St. John's

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

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

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

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

**PFLAG Canada - St. John's NL Chapter:** Monthly Chapter meetings, support and information for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons and their parents, families and friends. 699-0509 email: [stjohnsnl@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:stjohnsnl@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://www.pflagcanada.ca) (We will aim to hold Chapter Meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Please check [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://www.pflagcanada.ca) for schedule and any changes.) at Community Connections, 9 Cathedral Street, St. John's NL.

**St. John's Pride Inc:** The officially-registered non-profit Pride company for St. John's email: [stjohnspride@yahoo.ca](mailto:stjohnspride@yahoo.ca) web: [www.stjohnspride.org](http://www.stjohnspride.org)

## Nova Scotia (902)

**Hepatitis Outreach Society:** Since 1999 the Hepatitis Outreach Society has been providing support, education and prevention information for those infected and affected by hepatitis in the province of Nova Scotia. 420-1767 in HRM or 1-800-521-0572 email: [info@HepatitisOutreach.com](mailto:info@HepatitisOutreach.com) web: [www.HepatitisOutreach.com](http://www.HepatitisOutreach.com) at Our office is located at 2973 Oxford Street,

between Liverpool and Cork streets. Please call to make an appointment or email [Program@HepatitisOutreach.com](mailto:Program@HepatitisOutreach.com).

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

**Venus Envy Bursary Society:** An annual award open to all women studying in NS. web: [www.venusenvy.ca/halifax](http://www.venusenvy.ca/halifax)

### Amherst

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

### Annapolis Valley

**Valley Gay Men's Coffee House:** Meets Thursday evenings at 7pm for coffee and socializing and host a gay/lesbian/bi and all genders 19+ dance on the first Saturday of each month from 9pm-1am. No Dance in November in lieu of two dances held in October. 825-3197, 363-2055 email: [menembracingmen@hotmail.com](mailto:menembracingmen@hotmail.com) (email or call for locations or special events or themes)

### Antigonish

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

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

### Bridgewater

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

### Halifax

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

**AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia:** non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. Provides direct service and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and also offers various prevention programs across NS. You can reach us locally to HRM at 425-4882 or across the province at 1-800-566-2437. (902)425-4882 email: [acns@acns.ns.ca](mailto:acns@acns.ns.ca) web: [www.acns.ns.ca](http://www.acns.ns.ca)

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

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

**Bedford United Church:** An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome 835-8497 email: [bedfordunited@eastlink.ca](mailto:bedfordunited@eastlink.ca) web: [www.bedfordunited.com](http://www.bedfordunited.com), meets every Sunday (9 am service: Casual and contemporary, with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service: Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. During the summer months, we have one 10 am service but occasionally during the year we change our service times for special occasions, so please call to confirm service times) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

**BLT-Womyn of Halifax:** Bi Sexuuls, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group Online Sue's # 499-0335 email:

[sueandrews1964@hotmail.com](mailto:sueandrews1964@hotmail.com) web: [ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynof-halifax/](http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynof-halifax/) (No Meetings at Present! Please call if you have any questions, 499-0335 sue) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Cancelled at the present time.

**DalOUT:** DalOUT is the award-winning LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University. We pride ourselves on hosting fun, engaging and educational events for the entire Halifax community. email: [dalout@dal.ca](mailto:dalout@dal.ca) web: [www.dalout.ca](http://www.dalout.ca), meets 2nd Thursday, and 4th Thursday (from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.) at the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave., Room 321)

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

**Gay Men's Prostate Cancer Support Group:** Prostate Cancer Canada Network is launching a support group for gay men and their families. Our meetings are informal and provide a forum for personal discussion with prostate cancer survivors, those newly diagnosed and their caregivers. For more information or to become a member contact Peter Mallette at 902-420-9449 or [peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca](mailto:peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca) 902-420-9449 email: [peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca](mailto:peter.mallette@prostatecancer.ca) at Prostate Cancer Canada Atlantic 5121 Sackville Street Suite 101 Halifax B3J 1K1

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

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

**Girl-ish Productions:** Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. web: [www.girl-ish.ca](http://www.girl-ish.ca)

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

**Halifax Sexual Health Centre:** Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. Everyone welcome. Confidential and non-judgmental. 455-9656 web: [www.HSHC.ca](http://www.HSHC.ca)

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

**Integrity:** Integrity is an organization of GLBT Anglicans and their friends, to encourage Christian gay men and lesbians in their spiritual life; to support the Church in its commitment to seek and serve Christ in all people; and to reach out to the GLBT community in Christian love and service. (902) 425-8383 web: [www.integrity-canada.org](http://www.integrity-canada.org), meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at All Saints Cathedral

**Koinonia Ecumenical Church:** Meaning 'Aðecommunity, Aðecoinonia' is an ecumenical faith community offering open membership, equal marriage, practicing bible, church, religious and soul freedom, as well as open table communion. Koinonia offers Spiritual Care, Crisis support visitation and counselling for an honorarium. ALL are Welcome who celebrate God's Covenant to Love All of God's Creation. We are a registered charitable organization accepting donations from all who believe in the promotion of our all-inclusive community of faith. Contact Rev. Elaine @ 902-876-8771 for more information, or mail your contribution to 2410 St. Margaret's Bay Road Halifax N.S. B3T 1H1 with your name and address so we can issue your tax receipt, 876-8771 email: [koinonia@eastlink.ca](mailto:koinonia@eastlink.ca) (we gather bi-weekly at 12:30pm - 1:30 followed by a time of fellowship) at Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre, Maritime Centre - entrance on the corner of Barrington & Salter Streets

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

**MomSquared:** CALLING ALL LESBIAN MOMS. I know you're out there! A group for lesbian moms to connect and provide support and friendship to each other as well as friendship and interaction

# Open, Engaged, Active!

by Bryn Jones-Vaillancourt

The untimely death of Raymond Taavel brings to the forefront a series of questions. Raymond was a champion of being honest, open, educated and knowing your opponent. He embodied the importance of acknowledging and understanding perspectives from the other side. Through education, activism and compassion he worked to foster a better world for the LBGQT community—indeed for the world as a whole. Raymond was a bright, compassionate light in a sometimes dark world. He showed us how to live our lives in peace and compassion: we must honour him by bringing those values to our own lives as a legacy to him.

At the vigil held after Raymond's death, Kevin Kindred referenced three defining ways to combat homophobia in our own lives: Be out, be informed and be compassionate. These are pillars on which we can bring a strong sense of identity to our community. I am thirty-two and I have been out since I was sixteen. I am open about my sexuality and I have never felt the need to hide the

fact that I am gay. I have lived across Eastern Canada; regardless of the city or town I was in I was always out. While living in Saint John, NB in my early 20s I was a victim of a crime because of my sexuality. At the time, it shattered my whole view of my world. I am, and have always been, an idealist. I believe in the goodness of everyone. Some people at the time said I should have not been wearing what I wore, that I should have not acted so "gay". Some people in my life at the time attempted to convince me that I was in the wrong for being myself. Looking back, I now know that I did nothing wrong and that no one should ever be called out for being themselves. I strongly believe that regardless of age, if you are gay, bisexual, lesbian or transgender, be out and be open about your sexuality and gender identity/expression. Being open and honest to yourself and to others in your world is the path to control hate and light the dark areas of our world.

It is irrelevant if it is 1945 or 2012. We as individuals and as a

community need to try harder at being out and open about ourselves. We need to re-discover our communities' history of mentorship: to support the young LBGQT persons coming behind us. If you are in a relationship, hold your partner's hand in public; tell your co-workers you have a same-sex partner. I urge you to not shy away from water cooler talks about each other's significant others. Yes, there are risks with being out and open, but the alternative of letting hate flourish is no longer an option. As a community, we need to immediately work hard on stopping internalized homophobia and transphobia. We need to respect everyone's differences, and not use terms such as twink, queen, bear, etc. with any negative connotations. However you feel comfortable presenting yourself within our LBGQT community you are welcome. I want to continue our community's history of giving hope, solidarity and openness.

Another way to continue Raymond's legacy is to re-engage ourselves in our community: not just

our LBGQT community, but within our community in a larger sense as well. There are many opportunities to engage ourselves in our respective communities: volunteer for charities, offer your time to be on a community board, become involved in the political process, just to name a few. By becoming immersed in our community, we can educate ourselves about different perspectives. It will enable us to build bridges and perpetuate understanding between our community and others. It provides the opportunity to find the common bonds that tie us all together, and to work to improve the life of the whole community. Pride Week is a great way for the rest of our city to support our community and I strongly support the benefit of Pride Week. However, we also need to support our communities in HRM. We can accomplish this by being engaged and showing people that LBGQT people are in every walk of life.

By making contributions to our community as a whole, it will foster a sense of respect, admiration

and enable strong ties between our community and others in HRM. Additionally, I encourage everyone to become re-engaged in what is happening politically at all levels of government. Knowledge is power and we as citizens in a democratic society have the responsibility of being aware of government legislation, political party positions and the positions of your local representatives. We have the power to affect change on various concerns, and need to be aware of the mechanisms to do this. Harvey Milk, the first openly gay politician who was elected to public office in San Francisco in 1978 always spoke of giving people hope. I think it is time to bring hope back into our communities. We need to help our transgender brothers and sisters achieve equality. Also, we need to ensure we give hope to youth across all communities to believe in who and what they are. Finally, we must be ever vigilant that the rights we have won remain and that we work hard to pressure our nations to extend the same equal rights to our foreign brothers and sisters.

## Groups & Services continued

for our children. email: [iloveyou2moms@gmail.com](mailto:iloveyou2moms@gmail.com) web: [momsquared.weebly.com](http://momsquared.weebly.com)  
**Mount Pride:** LBGQT group at Mount Saint Vincent University email: [mountpride@mountstudents.ca](mailto:mountpride@mountstudents.ca), meets last Monday (at 2:00pm.) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Roseria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LBGQT community events to be involved with and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join. Also, join the "Mount Pride" Facebook group!

**Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project:** NSRAP, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: for 15 years the leading advocate for Nova Scotia's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community. Fostering change in our communities through education, outreach, and political action. 444.3206 email: [nsrap@nsrap.ca](mailto:nsrap@nsrap.ca) web: [www.nsrp.ca](http://www.nsrp.ca) at TBA

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

**PFLAG:** Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. These meetings are open to all. For more information please feel free to contact Michelle Malette by phone or email. Hope you'll join us! 431-8500 email: [halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca), meets 1st Thursday (We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month from 6:30 -8:30 pm 902-431-8500) at Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St, Halifax

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

**Pride Week:** Producers of Atlantic Canada's largest LBGQT cultural festival. 431-1194 email: [info@halifaxpride.ca](mailto:info@halifaxpride.ca) web: [www.halifaxpride.ca](http://www.halifaxpride.ca)

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

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

**Queer Play:** A Queer performing arts group in Halifax NS email: [queerplay@gmail.com](mailto:queerplay@gmail.com)

**SMU-Q:** A student-driven society that provides positive support, advocacy, activities, and education through the dissemination of information to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersexual, and ally persons of Saint Mary's University and the LBGQTIA community at large. 902-496-8216 email: [info@smuq.ca](mailto:info@smuq.ca) web: [www.smuq.ca](http://www.smuq.ca) (See our facebook group <http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarysUniversityQ> and website for details on upcoming events) at Saint Mary's University  
**Spirituality For Lesbians:** We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. 459-2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

**Team Halifax:** All GLBT over 18, athletes and performance artists, as well as anyone willing to help out. 422-9510 web: [www.teamhalifax.com](http://www.teamhalifax.com) (No fixed schedule at this time, look on website for further details.)

**The Masculine & Gender Spectrum:** Gender Spectrum is an online group for Halifax, Nova Scotia's transgender community. We can be found on Facebook.

**The Youth Project:** Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and Health nurse on site. 429-5429 email: [youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca) web: [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca) (Please see our website for an up-to-date calendar of events.)

**Trans Family Nova Scotia:** Trans Family is an open & supportive space welcoming families, friends and allies as well as trans and genderqueer folk themselves. If you are unable to join us at a meeting for any reason, we can you help source resources and refer you to other appropriate organizations to help meet your needs. For more information, please feel free to call or email Michelle. 902-431-8500 email: [transfamily@eastlink.ca](mailto:transfamily@eastlink.ca), meets 3rd Monday (6:30 to 8:30 pm) at The Youth Project 2281 Brunswick St., Halifax

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

### Kentville

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

### Lunenburg

**Second Story Women's Centre:** We offer a meeting space for women, support counselling, programs, and referrals.

(902)640-3044 email: [secstory@eastlink.ca](mailto:secstory@eastlink.ca) web: [www.secstory.com](http://www.secstory.com) at Second Story Women's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

### Middleton

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

### New Glasgow

**Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health:** Providing comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in a safe, confidential and non-judgemental manner for women and men of all ages. PCCSH is affiliated with the Nova Scotia Association of Sexual Health and the Canadian Federation of Sexual Health. They are a pro-choice and GLBTQI friendly organization. 695-3366 email: [pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com](mailto:pcsexualhealth@hotmail.com) web: [www.pictoucountysexualhealth.com](http://www.pictoucountysexualhealth.com)

**Pictou County Women's Centre:** Offering Individual Support Counselling and Crisis Intervention, Information and Referral, Advocacy and Accompaniment, Programs and Community Education 755-4647 email: [pcwc@womenscentre.ca](mailto:pcwc@womenscentre.ca)

### New Minas / Annapolis Valley

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

### Sydney

**AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton:** Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms! Queer Advocacy and Education, Needle Distribution, Food Bank, Coffee, Safe Space for those infected or affected. (902) 567-1766 Toll Free 1-877-597-9255 email: [christineporter@accb.ns.ca](mailto:christineporter@accb.ns.ca) web: [www.accb.ns.ca](http://www.accb.ns.ca) (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Monday and Tuesday each week from 8:30 to 4:30 and Thursdays from 8:30 to Noon. Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 1G6

**Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre:** We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: [sdcc@cbusu.com](mailto:sdcc@cbusu.com) (Monday to Thursday 8:30-5 or by appointment) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

**PFLAG:** Peer support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender

identity. email: [sydneys@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:sydneys@pflagcanada.ca), meets last Sunday (of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. No meetings for June, July or August.) at Family Place Resource Centre, 714 Alexandra Street

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

### Tatamagouche

**Tatamagouche Centre:** We are an affirming centre, welcoming all gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. 1.800.218.2220 email: [tatacentre@tatacentre.ca](mailto:tatacentre@tatacentre.ca) web: [www.tatacentre.ca](http://www.tatacentre.ca)

### Truro

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

**Colchester Sexual Assault Centre:** Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: [trurosexualassault@hotmail.com](mailto:trurosexualassault@hotmail.com) (Centre Hours Mon-Thurs 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive, Truro Nova Scotia

**Hepatitis C Aware:** a project of Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) working to educate members of the communities in Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants and Pictou counties on Hepatitis C. 1-866-940-AIDS email: [nacs@eastlink.ca](mailto:nacs@eastlink.ca)

**Northern AIDS Connection Society:** HIV prevention education initiative serving Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants & Pictou counties. We are located at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, NS. Phone 895-0931 email: [nacs@eastlink.ca](mailto:nacs@eastlink.ca) web: [northernaidconnectionsociety.ca](http://northernaidconnectionsociety.ca) (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See webpage for contact information and upcoming events.)

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

**RESPECT:** Students Making Healthy Decisions 893-6300 email: [respect@nsac.ca](mailto:respect@nsac.ca)

at P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3

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

### Wolfville

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

### Yarmouth

**South West Nova Pride:** We are a social group for SW Nova Scotia. All GLBT people of any age and in any stage of coming out are invited, we have a monthly gathering at Sobeys community room on Starrs Rd. in Yarmouth at 7:00 PM on the 2nd last Wednesday of each month. We create a monthly calendar of events for such things as pool, potluck parties, day trips or what ever members like to do. So come join us have fun and meet other GLBT people. 645-2914/749-0977 email: [jackanddan@eastlink.ca](mailto:jackanddan@eastlink.ca), [diannefcc@eastlink.ca](mailto:diannefcc@eastlink.ca) web: [SWNovaPride.com](http://SWNovaPride.com) (Check out our our facebook at South West Nova Pride.)

### Prince Edward Island (902)

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

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

**PFLAG Canada - PEI:** Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI 902-887-3620 email: [pei@pflagcanada.ca](mailto:pei@pflagcanada.ca) web: [www.pflagcanada.ca](http://www.pflagcanada.ca) (Meetings take place on an as needs basis.) at Check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.

### Charlottetown

**AIDS PEI:** AIDS PEI offers HIV prevention and support services to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: [info@aidspei.com](mailto:info@aidspei.com) web: [www.aidspei.com](http://www.aidspei.com) at 375 University Ave, Unit 2, Charlottetown PE, C1A 4N4

**ARC - Abegweit Rainbow Collective:** Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: [info@arcofpei.com](mailto:info@arcofpei.com) web: [www.arcofpei.com](http://www.arcofpei.com), meets 1st Monday (6:00pm) at 375 University Ave, Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)

# A Vigil in Sydney



Photo by Gabriel Doucette

On Friday, April 20th, more than 100 people gathered together to celebrate the life of Raymond Taavel in Sydney's Wentworth Park. The event, organized by activist Evan Coole, was an opportunity for some to remember Raymond personally and to share their memories with those of us who only got to know him the moment he died.

Words of love and healing were also sent to the family of Andre Noel Denny as his role as a victim was not forgotten in this tragedy. It was a reaffirmation of the work that needs to continue in Raymond's honour as well as a calling of accountability that this tragedy ever happened in the first place.

The following are just two of the speeches delivered at the vigil and some photos that captured the feeling of heartbreak and love seen on that warm sunny day when Cape Breton said good bye to Raymond Taavel.

**Michael Gillis:**

Raymond Taavel's loss has been felt throughout Atlantic Canada and beyond due to the many contributions he's made for Queer Communities in such roles as editor of Wayves Magazine. Although Raymond and I were not close friends I like many people who knew him will miss his presence through the venues that our paths crossed. He was like the paint on the walls in many of the circles I've traveled and anytime I return to such circles there will always feel like there is something missing. What I remember best of Raymond is of a beautiful individual who could make friends with anyone and shared so much care and thoughtfulness in each conversation he had with someone. It is through these feelings of loss that I write this present article.

In many ways it breaks my heart that Raymond had to die so tragically and that as result of his death we have become subject to a number of oppressive claims. These claims have included dismissing the role that homophobia could have played in his death despite an investigation still proceeding, that people living with mental illness in some ways use their disorders to alleviate themselves of responsibility for their actions, and that of course Andre Noel Denny must have been from Membortou'. Raymond would be deeply disturbed to see that as a result of his death

can become a catalyst in increasing more extreme forms of violence against people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The history of violence against Queer people lives within us and makes it perfectly understandable how in Raymond Taavel's homicide many responded in outrage and fear in how homophobia appeared in his death.

While I attended a fundraiser for Raymond's funeral it was pointed out to me that a comfort we can take in his death is that he died doing what he did best, helping others, by intervening in an altercation that involved his killer. Through his memory I hope that we can learn to be more understanding human beings and take greater responsibility in peacefully altering discriminatory relations that compromise our feelings of safety and security in this world. Rest in peace my friend.

**Matt Campbell:**

"It is my honour and privilege to have been invited to take part in today's vigil. I met Raymond Taavel exactly four times in my life and I remember each one of them. I called him Ray whenever I saw him but a lot of people called him Raymond. If he preferred one over the other he never said so, but as many of you have learned in recent days, that was Raymond's nature. He was a peacemaker. There is a great deal to say about Raymond, and none of it is bad, but, as Ray would do, I'd like to direct our community to the work ahead - looking forward, not behind.

Andre Denny did not "fall through the cracks" at Capital Health in Halifax. He had proven to be a danger to himself and others at least twice prior to his encounter with Ray. In both instances, Andre was found "not criminally responsible"

for vicious assaults during previous unaccompanied passes. This leaves the responsibility upon those people charged with his well-being and, by extension, the well-being of the surrounding community. How many times must a mistake be repeated before a lesson is learned?

Halifax Capital Health is looking at potential strike action in the coming days. Now, organized labour has a right and responsibility to ensure the well-being of their collective workforce. But, if they strike, we cannot let time allow us to forget that we must demand accountability. It is up to each of us, advocate, activist, and

citizen alike, to carry on the work that Raymond Taavel held dear to his heart. I urge you to carry Raymond's torch forward and honor his legacy by helping to ensure that tragedies like this cannot happen again.

Don't hate. Educate. Don't give up. Live up to your community's potential. Define your community through positivity. Define your community through consideration of us all. Make Raymond proud by making yourself proud. Take positive, heart-felt actions that protect and embrace the very diversity that we represent."

*Reprinted from Coastal Braid, coastalbraid.com*

## From Raymond's Family

*The family of Raymond Taavel sent The Chronicle Herald the following open letter to the people of Nova Scotia.*

WE ARE overwhelmed by the people of Halifax and Nova Scotia and your explosion of compassion and love for our son and brother. We are so grateful for what you have done and are doing in Raymond's memory. We do not mourn alone when you mourn with us. You will never know what this meant for us.

The vigil on Gottingen Street spoke of Raymond's work for people, not the slaying. It was a beautiful example of respect for Raymond both in life and in death.

Raymond loved Halifax and all those who lived there; his only sadness was that his family was so far away.

You embraced him and his gentle nature, and gave him so many opportunities to do what he lived for, helping those who needed a helping hand. You saw the real Raymond for who he was and respected him for what he believed in.

Raymond died helping someone and had he lived, would have forgiven his assailant. He truly practised the teachings of Jesus through his simple lifestyle and generosity.

We are not mourning alone when we see the pain of his friends in Nova Scotia. You accepted him as he was without judgment. Your support and encouragement created the environment for Raymond to achieve all the

hopes he had for all people.

Despite the psychiatric release system failing Raymond, you accented his life's work and not the tragedy. Even the accused has received compassion, and Raymond would have liked that. It is easy to be angry, but your kind words wipe away the anger. "Forgive them Lord, for they know not what they do." Raymond would have hugged the accused and his family.

Your community should be proud that you are an example to Canada of tolerance and acceptance. A lady called to offer her home to us if we were to come to Halifax. Your positive message is a credit to Raymond and justice to his work.

Your tribute in the Nova Scotia legislature was so welcome to us as we mourn. Your police and medical examiner were compassionate, helpful and professional. We will always appreciate the staff of Shambhala Sun for their love and support.

Raymond died the way he lived, helping people. He is our hero, and you are heroes for what you are doing for him, and also for us. Nova Scotia is a good place to be. Our hope is that all the "Raymonds" of the world can someday find their own "Nova Scotia."

such disenfranchised groups have had to experience such undue re-traumatization. He would ask us all that instead of blaming one another we should be kinder human beings and to take personal responsibility for the ways we can prevent tragedies like his from reoccurring.

An issue I would like to further comment on in this article because I have not heard it being given enough discussion as of lately is the role that homophobia has played in how Raymond's death has been constructed. I read an article in the Chronicle Herald indicating that Halifax should not be considered a homophobic city that left me with some mixed feelings. Although I think it is important to appreciate the complexities that led to Raymond's homicide and Halifax should not be sensationalized as a particularly unsafe place for Queer individuals, I believe we must be careful not to dismiss the role that homophobia continues to play in our lives everywhere. Homophobia is embedded in our social relations and although political gains and increasing intolerance for its overt expressions have buried this system of oppression, it remains active as an insidious role in how we relate to one another. In many cases homophobia acts discretely as rational for how individuals can be excluded, ridiculed, and it

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Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.  
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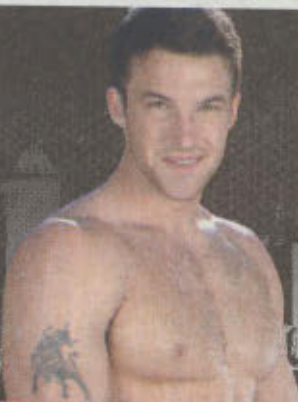
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