



2009 PRESS REVIEW

The NOVA SCOTIA RAINBOW ACTION PROJECT...

... seeks to foster change in our communities and our society at large so that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are valued and included. We will achieve this through community development, networking, outreach, education, and political action.

NSRAP is open to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities who are supportive of our mission and objectives.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following news articles and press-releases are presented as a sample of the press coverage NSRAP has received between July 2008 and June 2009. The material presented does not include all the issues that were of interest to NSRAP during the year.

Every effort has been made to ensure an accurate transcription of the material from its original source(s). Where there are questions of accuracy, please check the original source(s) provided after each entry.

Nova Scotia Legislature Declares International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia

HALIFAX, MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008
Sixtieth General Assembly
Second Session

RESOLUTION NO. 2630

To recognize May 17th as the International Day
Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

MR. LEONARD PREYRA: Mr. Speaker, I
hereby give notice that on a future day I shall
move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and
Freedoms and the Nova Scotia Human Rights
Act recognize the rights of all to be free from
discrimination; and

Whereas Nova Scotia is a society open to
everyone regardless of sexual orientation or
gender identity; and

Whereas in Nova Scotia, gays, lesbians,
bisexuals, transgendered people and others
face discrimination, violence and intolerance
because of their sexual orientation or gender
identity and there is a widespread general
agreement that homophobia and transphobia
should not be tolerated;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of
Assembly recognize May 17th as the
International Day Against Homophobia and
Transphobia and commend the Nova Scotia
Rainbow Action Project and other community
groups for their hard work to eliminate
homophobia and transphobia.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for
waiver. Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please
say Aye.

Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Source: *Wayves* – July 2008

See also:

Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia. (May 12,
2008). Debates and Proceedings (Hansard 08-
29). Retrieved June 2, 2009, from
[http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/han60-2/house_08may12.htm#H\[Page%203006\]](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/han60-2/house_08may12.htm#H[Page%203006])

Amherst raises pride flag

'Never in my 67 years did I think that I would see this day'

By TOM McCOAG Amherst Bureau

AMHERST — Gerard Veldhoven shed tears of joy as the Rainbow flag, the gay movement's symbol of diversity and equal rights, was raised in front of Amherst town hall Monday.

"It's an extremely historic day," Mr. Veldhoven said moments before he pulled the rope that raised the flag.

"Never in all of my 67 years did I think that I would see this day because change and acceptance has been so slow in coming."

The chairman of Cumberland Pride was proud of his community for erecting the flag without the controversy that dogged Truro town council after it refused to raise the flag last summer. That community has since agreed to raise the flag.

"The mayor, councillors and staff at Amherst town hall have been very supportive of our

efforts to raise the flag here," Mr. Veldhoven said. "It's wonderful to know that we live in such an understanding community."

People in the town have accepted Mr. Veldhoven and his partner, Norman Carter, since they came out 34 years ago.

"Back then, it was rather scary. We didn't think we'd be accepted as a couple, but to our surprise the community took it quite well," Mr. Veldhoven said.

"That's right, the heckles and jeckles and the nasty phone calls we expected to get never happened," Mr. Carter interjected.

The couple were the first in the Maritimes to be officially married four years ago and the flag raising is just another step in society's recognition of gays and lesbians as equals, the two said.

Amherst Mayor Jerry Hallee, after helping to raise the flag, read a proclamation declaring the upcoming week Gay Pride week in Amherst to a small crowd of about 50 people who came to the event.

The week will include a dance, a picnic and a forum on advancing a positive relationship between Cumberland County's gay and straight communities. The forum will be held July 12.

One of those attending the flag raising was Eldon Hay.

He couldn't wait to shake hands with the mayor and tell him how proud he was of the community.

"I'm a straight person, but I believe that having this flag raised in a small town like this is fantastic," Mr. Hay said.

"It shows that people are finally understanding that all people, no matter the colour of their skin, their religion or their sexual orientation, are equal."

(tmccoag@herald.ca)

Source:

McCoag, Tom. (July 8, 2008). Amherst raises pride flag. In *The Chronicle-Herald* [Online Edition]. Retrieved July 8, 2008, from, <http://www.thechronicleherald.ca/NovaScotia/1066325.html>

Halifax Pride Week 2008: Pride moves forward

As part of a series of inter-generational conversations making The Coast's 15th anniversary, three LGBT activists from across the decades discuss where the movement has been and where it's going.

by Jessica Linzey

Bob Fougere spent the better part of a decade working with the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, and was instrumental in bringing same-sex legislation to Nova Scotia.

Benjie Nycum was a co-founder of Young Gay America and the associated YGA Magazine, promoting community among gay youth. He is currently working as an architect.

Daniel MacKay has been promoting gay culture since 1984. Currently the publisher of queer magazine Wayves, he is also the publisher of a local gay historical encyclopedia (gay.hfxns.org/HistoryProject).

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BF: What was it like 15 years ago? Living in NS was not easy. were contemplating retirement, which was pretty difficult at that time because we didn't have all the benefits of opposite-sex couples. When you identify the kinds of things that are needed and there's so much work to be done, then you have something you can get your teeth into and do it. Fortunately, there were other people around that were similarly minded. We did all kinds of good stuff.

BN: I remember being a march, which would have been about a decade ago, and that had a certain sense of meaning to it: expressing one's existence and identity through the solidarity of others in a very public forum. But as a celebration, it maybe feels less like that, although just as important. My recollection of anything militant would have to do with the community getting together around AIDS and HIV and fighting for a certain kind of progress. I'm not sure if we've ever witnessed anything quite like that, before or after.

DM: I totally agree. Being HIV-positive was a death sentence. That much has changed a lot. I can remember getting ready for the Pride Parade, collecting chants that were along the lines of 'We're here, we're queer, we're not going shopping.' We just don't do that anymore.

BF: Now we have all the legislation and all the protection that you could want. That was mainly the work that I have done in the community,

around the legislative piece and getting that in place. We told what we wanted and they were ready for it. And at that point in time we had the best legislation recognizing same-sex couples in the country. There was excitement around that, that we could really make it happen.

BN: One of the blessings and the curses of activism is that the mandate is to fight to change something for the better, and the obsolescence of that battle is actually the goal. So, probably what it changed for my generation is the sense of entitlement to that right without ever having fought for it.

I think that activists who have accomplished amazing things have to be able to look back and say, 'Well if no one recognizes me for it, that's a good thing, because I've accomplished the goal.' I recognize that those have been made available to me and I can translate that into anything else, which is where, going forward, the LGBT community needs to focus---less on itself and more on those desperately in need---because we have the legacy, the knowledge, the skills, the tools to rally together as a community and fight for something that we believe in.

The social things will take care of themselves. I think policies, especially around things like mental health---that would start to encompass LGBT issues in a more comprehensive way- (...)

Halifax Pride Week 2008: Pride moves forward

by Jessica Linzey
(continued)

we really need to work on that here. Education is way behind where it ought to be. We still have principals and school boards that are willing to say that they don't need policies to protect queer kids in the school.

BM: The legislation is one thing, it sets the rules, but it doesn't set the culture, the moral standards of the community.

BN: But to that point---I mean, if the mayor of Truro happens to have a son or daughter who is gay or lesbian, that son or daughter can survive with that homophobic parent in ways that could not have survived 15 years ago, because that child can access the internet, can access peer support, can find a teacher in the school, knows that there are programs that exist. There are phenomenal resources that just wouldn't have been available.

BM: Once you have the policies in place, then you can get the cultural change. But policy not going to solve the problem. You have to have the whole picture to make it work.

That's what the community has to fight for. That's what Benjie has to fight for---because old guys like me can't do it anymore.

BN: I think it is true that the energy and probably the will to fight and succeed for the things that need to be fought for, but I think they need the support and guidance and love and care that come from people who've come through it as well. So it is up to us to inspire and say 'you know, here are some of the priorities you need to address, here's how we define what is right.'

The other aspect is continued mutual support. This sense of community is something we fought to attain. Does this new generation have what it takes to take on some new battles? Absolutely yes.

DM: I hope that we will somehow consolidate a notion of queer culture that is built on our history, in the same way that people celebrate all kinds of other cultures. I'm thinking that 15 years from now we will be moving in the direction of having a more or less defined culture---we'll still have a Pride day but it will be much of a cultural festival.

BN: That's quite an idea. Eat the food, dance the dance and celebrate the day---a cultural celebration as opposed to a political movement.

BF: Here's my challenge to the next generation, to the next 15 years. One, the gay community is going to integrate into the rest of the community so that it kind of fades away into the fibre. The other thing is that we have a cultural centre, a physical plant.

BN: I think those are very realistic and worthy aspirations.

Source:

Linzey, Jessica. (July 24, 2008). Halifax Pride Week 2008: Pride moves forward. *The Coast* [online edition; Halifax website]. Retrieved March 24, 2008 from <http://www.thecoast.ca/halifax/halifax-pride-week-2008-pride-moves-forward/Content?oid=963243>

Come Out At The Grawood

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

Following the format of past successes, the night will feature a drag show, music by a live DJ, and some fantastic prizes. It is a guaranteed good time, so be sure to bring your friends. The cover charge is \$3.00 with \$1.00 going to the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project.

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

Source: *Wayves* – October 2008

Who Will Fill Alexa's Chair?

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

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

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

Megan's websites at www.meganleslie.ca and meganleslie.ndp.ca.

Liberal Catherine Meade may be best known to readers for her involvement in LGBT sports, as a lawyer, as a Safe Harbour person and for her overall activism. Catherine is currently Co-president of the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA) and has been involved in queer sport since the Vancouver Gay Games in 1990. She is an Associate at Boyne Clarke, Barristers and Solicitors, specializing in areas of estate and real estate law. For more information, check her websites www.votemeade.ca and www.glisa.org/web_page/BOD_Catherine_Meade.php.

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

Dalhousie University professor and media man Darryl Whetter threw his hat into the ring as the contender for the Green Party. His first collection of short fiction, "A Sharp Tooth in the Fur," published by Goose Lane Editions, was chosen by the Globe and Mail as one of its top 100 books of 2003. His first novel, "The Push and the Pull," was recently released, also (...)

Who Will Fill Alexa's Chair?

(continued)

published by Goose Lane Editions. Let's look for some interesting creativity from this one, should he succeed. Check out his websites, www.darrylwhetter.ca and ridings.greenparty.ca/index.php?module=article&view=15.

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

Source: *Wayves* – October 2008

Rally for the Arts

Dear Friends in the LGBT Community:

There is more at stake here than cuts to federal arts funding. If you care for freedom of expression and the rights of LGBTQ artists to tell our stories, I urge you all to attend this rally on Friday. Our voices, our history, our freedom to speak are all at stake in this coming election.

RALLY FOR THE ARTS
THE GRAND PARADE
BARRINGTON STREET
OCTOBER 3, FRIDAY
12:30 GATHERING

Bring Friends. Bring Family. This is a gathering of ALL those in the arts, ALL those who love the arts, ALL those who say the arts are part of my life and I want my voice to be heard!! We create the face of Canada. We are a force to be reckoned with!

Please show your support!!

Also, for those of you on Facebook, we invite you to join the group Rally for the Arts!
03/10/08.

--

Hugo Dann
Chair, Halifax Pride 2008

Halifax Grieves Loss of Reverend Darlene Young

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

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

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

By Bob Fougere

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

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

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

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

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

A Celebration of Darlene's life was held on Tuesday September 16, 2008, St. John's

United Church Halifax with The Reverend Elder Diane Fisher officiating and several other church leaders notably The Rev. Elaine Westcott of Koininia Church Halifax and Metropolitan Community Church Toronto's The Rev. Brent Hawkes.

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

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

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

Source: *Wayves* – October 2008

Greetings From Halifax Pride

By Hugo Dann

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

From there we headed across the "old bridge" for the gentlest of Pride events, the family BBQ on the Dartmouth Common. The boyfriend started decorating immediately, and soon Rainbow flags were everywhere, fl uttering from trees and bushes. A dozen extended families joined us for hot dogs and ham burgers, ably prepared by a few hardy members of the Pride Board. Under the bluest of skies, the harbour sparkling, and the laughter of children in the background – it was impossible not to feel a deep sense of accomplishment with the outcome of Pride 2008. Oh we knew there were things that would need improvement, and we'd certainly experienced what seemed a greater-than-normal number of challenges, but so much had gone right! The boat cruise, the ball game,

Reading Out Loud, the Youth Project's events, all had done well. Attendance at the TimeOUT lectures was terrific, kudos and thanks to Kevin Kindred and NSRAP! Angels & Heroes had a sellout crowd for their tribute to Elton John and DaPo Theatre's DaPride Café at Menz Bar was terrific. Newer events like the Pride Paddles from East Coast Outfitters did well, and our first ever Songwriters' Circle was a marvellous evening. Many, many thanks to Ryan MacGrath and my new songwriting/ poet hero, Tanya Davis!

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

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

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

Halifax Pride AGM Nov 19

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

Source: *Wayves* – October 2008

Community Hero award handed out in Halifax

Nova Scotia queer group honours Dan MacKay

Ralph Higgins / National / Friday, October 17, 2008

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) recently awarded its first Community Hero award to Dan MacKay, a well-known member of the Halifax queer community.

While, in future, nominations for the award will be sought province-wide, the first recipient was selected by the executive of NSRAP. Kevin Kindred, president of NSRAP, explained to Xtra.ca why the board chose MacKay.

"Anyone who has done any work on LGBT activism in Nova Scotia knows that you can't go too far without bumping into Dan MacKay," says Kindred. "He's one of those people with a finger in every pot. Some of the public work he's done has involved serving on the Pride board, coordinating the [Rainbow Encyclopedia and wiki](#), being one of the driving forces behind Wayves and supporting our arts community with the launch of Punoqun [a queer literary supplement to Wayves].

"Less publicly, activists in the community know him as a source of incredible knowledge, sound advice and, when necessary, loving and passionate criticism. He has shown a deep commitment to building our community, keeping us in communication with each other, reminding us of our history and planning our future."

MacKay first came to Halifax, which he describes as "a pretty wonderful place to live," in 1981 and quickly became involved in the queer community. In an acceptance speech full of tongue-in-cheek humour, he explained his motivation. "I am sure that you have noticed that I'm always on a team with smart, funny, well-read, hard-working people," said MacKay. "Well, that's one of two selfish reasons that I'm involved with the community. The other totally selfish reason... is in the interest of making my beautiful city a better place for me. Fortunately, that benefits a few other people too."

The idea for the award was inspired by the passing in September of a key figure of the Halifax gay community, Darlene Young. From 1991 to September of this year, Young was pastor of the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, and she also served on the boards of NSRAP and the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

Kindred speaks highly of Young's contribution to the community. "I met and worked with

Darlene during her time as a board member of NSRAP. At her funeral I was struck by the direct and personal impact she had on so many members of the community, during good times and bad. To me, she's the true embodiment of a community hero and we want to present this award in her memory."

The Community Hero award was presented at an Oct 4 gala dinner and ceremony, NSRAP's major annual fundraiser. Catherine Meade, the federal Liberal candidate for the riding of Halifax, headed up the team of volunteers who organized the event. Kindred was pleased with the success of the fundraiser, saying, "We're now able to set out our plans for the year to come knowing that we won't run into a deficit."

The keynote speaker for the event was James Loney, the gay Christian Peacemaker who, along with two other members of his team, was abducted in Iraq in 2005 and held captive for four months. Kindred says that Loney and his partner Dan Hunt "spoke in a very moving way about the impact on them of having to keep James' sexual orientation quiet and the exclusion and homophobia they experienced in Canada throughout and after James' kidnapping. It was, to be honest, one of the most emotionally-charged keynotes we've ever had at the event and people were overwhelmingly moved by hearing their experience."
(...)

Community Hero award handed out in Halifax

Nova Scotia queer group honours Dan MacKay

Ralph Higgins / National / Friday, October 17, 2008

(continued)

MacKay was one of those affected by the words of Loney and Hunt.

"Jim and Dan's speech reminded us that no matter how much we think we are out, there's always another step to take."

Source:

Higgins, Ralph. (October 17, 2008). Community Hero award handed out in Halifax. Xtra.ca – Canada's source for gay and lesbian news. Retrieved March 24, 2009, from http://www.xtra.ca/public/National/Community_Hero_award_handed_out_in_Halifax-5687.aspx

What happened to homophobia?

By KEVIN KINDRED

Nova Scotians should be really proud of the wash of pink we're seeing in our schools. You know the story by now – and rightly so, it's a story worth repeating.

David Shepherd and Travis Price, two 12th graders in Cambridge, N.S., at the time, became international heroes last year when they stood up for a younger boy being bullied.

Their courage led to a movement of students wearing pink in order to stand up against bullying, a movement that's still going strong. And they got the rest of us thinking about the problem, from students to reporters to politicians in pink ties.

Except, what exactly is the problem that everyone's talking about again?

This all started with a younger boy who was picked on, and called a homophobic epithet –

all because he wore pink to school. So, this is a story about homophobia, right?

The LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community got it. And so did so called "gay" news media, particularly on the Internet.

Maybe it's based on our own experiences, maybe we just pick up the signals more readily. But the recognition of homophobia was instantaneous among those of us who pay attention.

The mainstream media mostly got it, too. As chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, I got calls from the media at the time, asking about homophobia. One columnist asked me just what it was that creates homophobia in school.

I posed a different question: What is it that creates kids willing to stand up against homophobia and do what is right?

But at the core, homophobia was still treated as a key part of the story.

(...)

What happened to homophobia?

By KEVIN KINDRED

(continued)

And I'm pretty sure that students got that. They know the kid was picked on because he was perceived as gay. They made the connections between pink and effeminacy and supposed sexual orientation. They knew it was wrong and, across the province, they were willing to say so.

No question, the courage of these students goes way further than standing up against homophobia – but homophobia was an acknowledged part of the problem.

Somehow, though, the politicians haven't been as able – or as willing – to see the true nature of the problem.

Of course, I was happy to see Rodney MacDonald and Jamie Muir put on some pink, and do something to help make a difference for kids who are picked on. They put the

government's stamp on an official "Stand Up Against Bullying Day."

As our own education minister pointed out, the government hasn't been able to do as much with all of its power as two 12th-graders have.

But have you heard the word "homophobia" even once from the premier around this issue? From anyone in government? They are couching their efforts in the safer language of "anti-bullying."

And here, a year later, I'm reading about students showing courage by wearing pink once again – to stand up against "bullying." I'm not hearing homophobia as a part of the story.

Of course, it is an anti-bullying story, first and foremost. No story is black and white, and bullying affects more than just LGBT kids.

Why, though, are Nova Scotians and our politicians failing to talk about homophobia as part of this complex problem? Especially when the current "pink wave" all originated with such an expressly homophobic incident?

Is it – as one teacher suggested to me recently – that politicians are so blind to the realities of

the LGBT community that they really can't see homophobia as part of this story? I don't know.

I think students and teachers get it. Maybe it's because they're in the trenches and seeing homophobia in the schools every day.

But this province is full of courageous students who are fighting back, and are talking about homophobia as part of the issue.

Whatever the explanation, it seems to me that we may have even more to learn from our high school students than we realize.

Kevin Kindred is chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, an activist group advocating equality on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Source:

Kindred, Kevin. (October 25, 2008). What happened to homophobia? In *The Chronicle-Herald* [Online Edition]. Retrieved from, <http://thechronicleherald.ca/Letters/1086619.html>

Daniel MacKay: NSRAP's Inaugural Community Hero

By Randall Perry

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project held its fifth annual gala on Saturday, October 4, 2008, during which NSRAP Chair, Kevin Kindred, presented the organization's inaugural Community Heroes award to Wayves publisher, Daniel MacKay. The Community Heroes award will be given annually to a Nova Scotia resident in recognition of his or her service to the province's rainbow community.

"For the inaugural award, we had an easy choice in Dan MacKay," says Kindred. "Anyone who has done any work on LGBT activism in Nova Scotia knows that you can't go too far without bumping into him. He has shown a deep commitment to building our community, keeping us in communication with each other, reminding us of our history, and planning our future."

"My flabber was completely ghastrated," Dan quips, when asked about how he felt about being the first to receive the award. "It's a real honour. I wasn't in any way expecting it and

didn't know they were going to have the award in the first place. So, it came as a total surprise when I got a call from Kevin, who told me about the nomination."

Dan has been a familiar fixture in the province's queer community for well over 20 years. Born in Shelburne, he lived in Barrington Passage ("about as far south in the province as you can get") for a time before his family moved to the Bridgewater area, where the seeds of his interest in publishing were planted while taking a Communications Technology course offered at the newly-constructed high school. A summer job at a local print shop, working at various "printer's devil's" jobs, including weeks spent in the darkroom and sitting at the hundred-year-old platen press, served to fuel his ambitions.

After moving to Halifax in 1981 to attend university, Dan met Jim DeYoung, one of the individuals who was very active in the growing gay movement at the time. "How Jim and I met is part of an extremely interesting series of stories," says Dan. "Over the course of a few months he introduced me to dozens of the shakers and doers in the community and showed me a great deal of what it means to be out and proud." Soon afterward, Dan became involved with volunteer activities, including the GAEZETTE, which was the printed mouthpiece of the Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE). The GAEZETTE began as a photocopied, stapled

letter-sized booklet and eventually moved to the unbound, newsprint format; which in 1995 became Wayves magazine.

During the late 1980's Dan was also involved for a few years with the Halifax Pride committee. "I was working with a bunch of extremely enthusiastic people and we ended up expanding the Pride parade from a very small number of participants, somewhere between one and two hundred, to between one and two thousand in just a few years," he reminisces. "The amount of positive energy in that endeavour was mindboggling."

Dan is known for being a "finger in every pot" kind of guy. Over the past little while, though, he's done a bit of pulling back and began to focus more of his energy on publishing projects, including Wayves—and its recently-resurrected literary annual, punoqun—and the massive Rainbow Encyclopedia, an ongoing, on-line publishing project wherein he's collecting the past and present stories of queer Halifax. "It's not just a website," he explains. "It's a big, piece of written work, and what I'm doing is publishing it. I'm not writing it I've written some of it—but largely it's written by other people and I publicize it. That's what a publisher does!"

(...)

Daniel MacKay: NSRAP's Inaugural Community Hero

By Randall Perry

(continued)

When asked about future projects, Dan is quick to respond: "I have a big stack of projects always on the back burner, waiting for just the right enthusiastic person to come along.

"But if I were to drop everything else right now and concentrate on one thing, I would focus on getting older queers in Halifax to tell their stories. Not to put TOO fine a point on it, but many won't be able to for very much longer. Five years from now, ten years, fifteen, those stories won't be there anymore and for the most part they weren't written down. For example, what was the beginning of GAE like, back in 1972, 1973? A dozen or so people know... I don't. We need to sit down with these people, tape recorder in hand, and just let them tell their stories."

Dan finds that "the edges of things are always very interesting," which accounts for his varied and wide ranging personal and professional

interests. Despite his insistence that he's scaling back somewhat on his involvement, he continues to be a full-throttle source of energy and inspiration to multiple generations of the queer community.

"I think that such awards [like NSRAP's Community Heroes] give us an opportunity to examine what's important, both to ourselves and others, and I think they're useful tools to help us think about what's important," he concludes. "I think that everybody should be involved in their community in some way. If someone is spurred into their own action by my getting this award, then that's good. This raises the profile of volunteerism."

Source: *Wayves* – November 2008

Halifax Pride's First Ever Float in 13th Annual Chronicle Herald Parade of Lights!

Halifax Pride's first ever float in The 13th Annual Chronicle Herald Holiday Parade of Lights! Groups represented were ACNS, ISCANS, NSRAP, Safe Harbour MCC, Wayves, and the Youth Project. Many thanks to all involved and especially to Halifax Pride Parade Coordinator, Ed Savage, aka Boom Boom, for scoring such a coup. Photo by Patrick Casey

Source: *Wayves* – December 2008

Halifax Pride 2009 Board

The membership of Halifax Pride held its Annual General Meeting recently to hear reports from the Chair and Treasurer of Pride 2008 and to elect the Board for 2009. The bylaws of the society were amended to have Directors serving for two-year terms; Directors who'd been on the Board since Pride 07 sought reelection if they wished to continue on the Board. At a subsequent meeting, Directors elected Officers and the current Board is made up of Hugo Dann, Chair; Liz McQuaid, Vice Chair; Michael Davies-Cole, Treasurer; Don Goss, Secretary; Tanya Bloomfield, Member-at-Large. The remaining Directors are Angela Crofts, Patrick Daigle, Kris Figueroa, Maggie Haywood, William McDuff Gillis, Maria Mac Intosh, Rosemary Porter, Ed Savage, Trent Slaunwhite, and Ramona Westgate. Daniel MacKay was reaffirmed as Member-for- Life.

In my Chair's report to the membership, I jokingly referred to this past year as "the best of Prides, the worst of Prides." There were a number of striking successes, most notably the new parade route on Barrington Street; Parade Coordinator, Ed Savage, received a much deserved round of applause for his work in

negotiating with HRM to make that possible. The new location for the post-parade gathering at Garrison Grounds was also deemed a success, and thinking of ways to improve both the layout and the nature of that event for next year. Halifax Pride worked hard on community outreach last year. We arranged for the venue and helped to plan last year's Town Hall and we also helped the Youth Project organize the May 17 International Day Against Homophobia activities in HRM. For the past two years we've laid a wreath at Remembrance Day ceremonies in Grand Parade, to honour Canada's LGBTQ service personnel. This year we had a float in the Holiday Parade of Lights, and the response from the crowd was fantastic! Over the summer, Pride Directors attended Cumberland Pride, Charlottetown Pride, Moncton Pride and Cape Breton Pride.

We enjoyed an unprecedented degree of media support, due in part to new Media Partners, Metro New and 101.3 The Bounce. However, there was increased interest from the mainstream media as well. The Chronicle herald gave us extensive (and thoughtful) coverage throughout the year, while CBC Radio's afternoon program, Mainstreets, tackled a different aspect of LGBTQ life in Nova Scotia every day of Pride Week. There's not space enough to thank everyone, but NSRAP also put together a great lecture series and it was gratifying to see a big jump in attendance to that event. Ryan MacGrath must be singled

out for producing both our fundraiser, Rockin' the Gaybourhood 2 and our first songwriters' Circle, Under the Big Top; superb events!

On the down side, we lost some good Board members to personal and professional pressures. The challenge remains to achieve our full potential, both in improving the quality of our events and in maximizing our revenue. The new parade route tripled our costs and has left us with a deficit of just over \$15,000. Yet it seemed to a majority of the Board to be a risk worth taking. There's no question that greater visibility increases our potential for sponsorship revenues. It was great to see the number of retailers along Barrington and Spring Garden who chose to decorate their windows with a pride theme for the entire week.

We have a strong new team and we're moving fast out of the gate! We're confident that we can eliminate the deficit and leave Pride on even stronger financial ground. There are great new fundraising events already in the works. In January, we'll be releasing a new quarterly Newsletter full of information about our new plans. If you would like to be on our mailing list or receive email updates, please contact us at info@halifaxpride.ca or call the Pride Office: (902) 431-1194.

Source: *Wayves* – January-February 2009

Letter to the Editor: International Transgender Remembrance Day Vigils

Dear Wayves,

I wish to acknowledge the tremendous amount of community co-operation that took place last month for the International Transgender Remembrance Day Vigils around the country, particularly in the Maritimes. Our local GLBT groups did an awesome job of showing more support overall in the public arena than has possibly ever been seen, especially here in the Maritimes.

The coalition of the Youth Project, Safe Harbour and Pride Health was one of the most positive Trans community events to take place in Halifax. The support from allies like NSRAP, BLT, Trans Families and Wayves cannot be overlooked. This has led to a community awareness of each others presence that is truly outstanding. A special encouragement to me was the event in Wolfville at Horton High School, where a candlelight vigil was held on

Thursday, November 20, commemorating those who have died in the past year.

Mr. Leonard Preyra, NDP MLA, started our day out with a reading of recognition of the special day that was overwhelmingly supported by the members of the Legislature. MP Bill Siksay read a similar statement in Parliament later the same day.

Thank you to these groups for their efforts and all the special work that each person did.

Regards,

Denise Holliday

Source: *Wayves* – January-February 2009

Gay couple files rights complaint

Man says nurse made insensitive remark

By JOHN GILLIS Health Reporter

A gay Halifax couple has filed a human rights complaint against the Capital district health authority after a hospital nurse allegedly made a discriminatory remark to one man while he was a patient.

Ken Saunders decided to leave the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre on Dec. 30 rather than remain a patient after he said a nurse on the neurological unit where he was being transferred made an insensitive comment. Three other patients in the unit were women.

The nurse allegedly said, "You shouldn't mind. You're a gay male."

Jack Waller, Mr. Saunders' common-law partner of eight years, took him to the emergency department on the advice of their family doctor after Mr. Saunders had a series of ministrokes. (...)

Gay couple files rights complaint

(continued)

After being admitted to a bed on Dec. 29, Mr. Saunders, 52, left the following day without getting the CT scan and angioplasty he had been waiting for, Mr. Waller said.

"We're sitting on a time bomb right now," he said. "He's home and he shouldn't be. But he has refused to go back under the circumstances."

Mr. Waller, 70, said Mr. Saunders got good care and respect in the emergency department. But they were also unhappy with a nurse on the cardiovascular inpatient unit where Mr. Saunders was first admitted.

The nurse allegedly repeatedly referred to Mr. Waller as his "friend," even after Mr. Saunders had told her several times that Mr. Waller was his husband. The couple contacted health authority CEO Chris Power's office with their concerns and also spoke to a patient representative.

"Some sensitivity training needs to be done," Mr. Waller said. "It's a matter of principle with us. If it's happened to us, it's going to happen to someone else if it hasn't happened already."

They were seeking an apology from the nurse on the cardiovascular unit and a meeting with the nurse on the neurological unit.

He said a patient representative suggested that he contact the health authority's pride health co-ordinator, a person whose role is to act as a liaison between the organization and the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities. The couple have tried to contact her.

They said the patient representative has so far been unable to identify the neurological unit employee who allegedly made the remark.

Mr. Waller said they last heard from the patient representative Thursday, the same day they filed the complaint with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. He said the patient representative cautioned him that if the couple pursued a complaint, there would be little the health authority could do directly to address their concerns. Peter Graham, the health authority's spokesman, said Monday he was aware of the case.

"For many reasons, we're unable to comment about it specifically, in part because it's now a

legal matter," he said.

The organization prefers to address problems with patients and their families directly and has processes to do so, he said.

Mr. Graham said the health authority has made efforts to establish a good relationship with the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities through the creation of the role of pride co-ordinator and Chris Power's involvement in the annual Pride parade.

"That's on an organizational level," Mr. Graham said. "That doesn't mean that just because we're taking that approach broadly that there may not be instances where it's possible that people aren't necessarily treated the way that they should be."

(jgillis@herald.ca)

Source:

Gillis, John. (January 13, 2009). Gay couple files human rights complaint. *The Chronicle-Herald* [Online Edition]. Retrieved January 19, 2009, from <http://thechronicleherald.ca/Search/9010257.html>

Canadians Allege That Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada Are Homophobic

Saskatoon – February 13, 2009 – Six gay, lesbian and bisexual (GLB) Canadians have filed a human right complaint against Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) alleging both federal departments discriminate against GLB Canadians. The complaint has been filed with the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

The six individuals from across Canada have come together to jointly file the complaint that outlines in a ten page document the many areas they believe they are discriminated against by both agencies. Together the six complainants: Phillip Banks from Vancouver; Charlotte Rochon and Gens Hellquist from Saskatoon; Art Zoccole from Montreal; Daniel Lanouette from Montreal and Sheri McConnell from St. John's have more than 100 years of experience working to address health and wellness issues in the GLB community.

"Both Health Canada and PHAC claim they have a responsibility for helping Canadians maintain and improve their health," said group spokesperson Gens Hellquist, "However, we see little sign that they take their responsibility seriously when it comes to helping GLB Canadians maintain and improve their health.

"Health Canada and PHAC have dedicated policies, strategies and funding initiatives for most other populations in this country but they seem unwilling to do the same for GLB Canadians even though we have one of the poorest health statuses in this country," Hellquist added. "Any funding that our community receives is largely by accident not as part of a dedicated strategy that seriously wishes to address the issues our community faces."

Over the past ten years both agencies have contracted with experts on GLB health to produce studies on the many health issues endemic to the GLB community and asked for recommendations on how to address those issues. To date none of those reports have been acted on and none of the numerous recommendations have been acted upon.

A 2001 and 2003 literature review suggested that as many as 5,000 GLB Canadians die prematurely each year as a direct result of homophobia and neglect on the part of those who claim responsibility for helping to make

Canada's population "among the healthiest in the world." The studies also suggested that the economic cost of homophobia and disregard could be as high as \$8 billion a year in Canada.

"As someone who's worked with both agencies over the past two decades it astounds me that they continue to remain so homophobic and fearful of getting serious about addressing our health issues," Hellquist said. "The Constitution of this country guarantees equality to all Canadians in all areas but that still does not hold for GLB Canadians when it comes to our health. We're tired of watching the many senseless premature deaths occurring in our communities that are a result of homophobia while government health agencies sit on the sidelines. It's time both agencies lived up to their missions and visions when it comes to GLB Canadians. This complaint is about holding Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada accountable.

Source: Media Release, February 13, 2009

Free to be he

Local man matches outside to inside

Rachel Rosenfeld – Arts Contributor

Puberty is hard. Body changes and raging hormones can make it a confusing time for everybody. But as a pre-teen girl struggling with gender identity disorder, puberty for Julien Davis was more than just confusing.

“Puberty was devastating,” says Davis. “I had a lot of anger... I knew something was wrong but didn't have the language to express it.”

Last April, with the support of his girlfriend, Sandra Bornemann, Davis underwent gender reassignment surgery and began testosterone hormone therapy, transitioning from female to male. Although surgery took care of some of the major physical changes, the transition period is a long one, and Davis's body is still in the process of changing. He gets a testosterone shot every two weeks and will continue to do so into old age to make his voice drop and to grow facial hair.

The operation has done wonders for Davis.

“I just feel happy. Not just happy overall but happy in my gender,” he says. “It's comfortable and it feels good.”

As a child, Davis couldn't express that he felt more comfortable in a male role, because growing up as a girl in Pictou County, N.S., he was never taught there were any other options. So he adapted by living largely in a fantasy world.

“I used to pretend I was a boy,” says Davis. “I lived in my head a lot. I would cut things out of catalogues... I used to go by Josh, and I would get very upset when other people didn't go along with it.”

When he was about 16, he began to understand sexuality a little better, and sensed his attraction to girls. He says he didn't feel like a lesbian, so he started to identify himself as a bisexual.

“I was like, maybe I'm just butch,” says Davis. “I didn't have any (transsexual) role models, and what I identified with trans – someone who was sad and depressed – was not what I wanted to be.”

It wasn't until he moved to Halifax nine years ago to attend Mount Saint Vincent University that he met Bornemann and began to question not just sexual orientation, but his gender identity.

Bornemann and Davis met in a typical college fashion: during frosh week. Bornemann, tired of making small talk with fellow students at a pub night, had skipped off early and was headed

toward a nearby vending machine. Davis had been noticing her around campus and had been nervously waiting to approach her at the pub. When he noticed her leaving, he decided to go after her.

After an awkward moment during which Bornemann was too embarrassed to take her vending machine toonie out of her shoe and Davis was just too drunk, he convinced her to come to his dorm room and the two ended up talking all night.

Bornemann, who had just moved from Vancouver, was more aware of transsexual culture than Davis was. It took many conversations and arguments before Davis became comfortable with the notion of transsexuality.

“I guess I was sort of trans-phobic for while,” he says with a laugh. “I was in gender studies and some of the students were not that supportive. I think I sort of bought into it for awhile... maybe it was little bit of self hating.”

Fights over the merits of transsexuality occurred often in the early phases of their relationship, but these fights opened the door to discussion, and, Davis as says now, “We both knew.”

(...)

Free to be he

(continued)

The couple has come a long way since their early days at Mount Saint Vincent. The two moved in together after residence and have been inseparable ever since. They share a home, a car and both work at the Youth Project, an organization designed to promote openness and awareness for queer and transsexual youth. In September 2007, six months before Davis's surgery date, they made their relationship official, getting married at Halifax's North End Church. The wedding also served as an opportunity for Davis to come out to his parents about his transsexuality.

"Sometimes I think if we added up the hours we have spent together, I bet it would compare to people who have been in 20-year relationships," jokes Bornemann.

Davis and Bornemann's relationship, one that began between two women who both identified as bisexual and has now transformed into a marriage between a man and a woman, is difficult to label.

"I think of us as a queer straight couple," explains Bornemann, and the two chuckle.

"Our relationship is heterosexual but I think we are still queer in many ways," adds Davis.

Bornemann recalls a friend's reaction when Davis came out to her as a transsexual who was transitioning. She asked Bornemann if she was straight now.

"I was like, really? Is it that black and white?" she says.

Like any relationship, theirs has not always been an easy one, and Davis's process toward transitioning proved to be especially difficult at times. Because the surgery alone cost about \$6,200 and isn't government subsidized or covered by Nova Scotia's Health Insurance Program, finances played a big part in deciding how long before Davis would be able to undergo surgery.

A fundraiser raised around \$1,500, but the rest came from Davis and Bornemann working hard and saving their pennies. While the couple continued to save money for the surgery, Davis was struggling with his identity.

He recalls being so depressed and angry, that there were periods when he thought about suicide.

"It came to the point where either I do this or I become more than just suicidal but I begin to attempt it," he remembers.

Bornemann remembers Davis' many "off-limit" areas of his body during that time.

"It was getting to where (Davis) was like, 'you don't touch me anymore,' and I'm like, 'I'm not allowed!'"

Davis has improved since the surgery, but he still struggles. Though it is becoming rarer as hormone treatment progresses, it is still hard when strangers refer to him as a she. He refers to these experiences as "heartbreaking."

He recalls a particularly stressful experience shopping at Winners, where an employee stood outside of the change room, directing people into the male or female changing areas.

"It was easier (for Davis) not to shop there, than to go through the stress of being slotted into a gender category by a complete stranger," recalls Bornemann.

Restaurants were also difficult territory in the early days following the surgery, because servers seemed particularly disposed to using gendered language.

"Everywhere we went it was just: 'hey ladies, how are you? Hey ladies, what can I get for you?'" says Bornemann.

(...)

Free to be he

(continued)

She began keeping a “lady log,” writing down the names of restaurants where they had been called ‘ladies,’ versus other restaurants that were still safe to eat at.

These days, Davis is mistaken for a female less and less frequently, and he is anticipating his facial hair beginning to grow in full force.

“Most people when they go shopping or out in the world, are generally contented, but for me it was a life of being angry and for a long time not understanding why. Life has gotten amazingly better... I put off happiness for way too long.”

(Correction Made: The surgery cost \$6,200 and not \$62,000, and \$1,500 was fundraised not \$15,000.)

Source:

Rosenfeld, Rachel. (February 19, 2009). Free to be he. *Gazette* (Dalhousie University’s Student Newspaper) [Online Edition]. Retrieved March 22, 2009 from http://www.dalgazette.ca/?cmd=displaytory&story_id=2869&format=html

DalOUT Scholarship

By Lisa Buchanan

On January 11, Menz Bar kindly played host to a fundraising brunch where DalOUT presented the first annual DalOUT Scholarship.

The purpose of the scholarship is to assist Dalhousie students who can demonstrate a contribution to the LGBTQ community and to promoting awareness and acceptance of sexual diversity. The scholarship is made possible thanks to a levy which DalOUT has received from all Dalhousie students since 2007.

The selection committee was very impressed with the applications they received and decided to divide the \$1500 scholarship between two very deserving students, Matthew Numer and Jaklyn Andrews.

Numer is an interdisciplinary PhD student. He has designed a doctoral programme to investigate the effectiveness of policy and programming aimed at the sexual health of young gay men. He hopes his research will illustrate why after three decades of health promotion and education efforts, HIV transmission among young gay men is on the rise. In addition to his academic work, Numer

has facilitated workshops on diversity, and sits on the Board of NSRAP and OUTAlive!

[...]

Source: *Wayves* – April 2009

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia: Events

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) will be sponsoring a rally at Grand Parade in downtown Halifax in support of the International Day Against Homophobia.

The gathering will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009 at 12 pm. The International Day Against Homophobia offers an opportunity for people to get together and reach out to one another.

The national theme for this year's gathering is Homosexuality Knows No Borders. The purpose of this campaign is to make the general population, and more specifically ethno-cultural communities of all backgrounds, more aware of LGBT issues and sexual diversity. In addition to this national campaign, local leaders have also chosen to focus on the blood, tissue and organ donation ban against men who have sex with men (MSM).

The ban in its current form does not protect the population from the spread of HIV, but rather it

imposes unnecessary medical restrictions on men who engage in particular sexual practices. Furthermore, with no scientific justification whatsoever, the ban reinforces prejudice against Gay men and MSM by branding them as carriers of disease. This topic has been chosen to illuminate the unseen ways in which homophobia is enacted in our public institutions.

This gathering has the potential to raise awareness of issues that directly affect the LGBT community.

For additional information, please contact NSRAP by email: nsrap@nsrap.ca

Source: *Wayves* – May 2009

Thanks, NSRAP!

Wayves wishes to sincerely thank Kevin Kindred and NSRAP for sponsoring Big Fancy Gay Dress Party tickets for *Wayves* team members to attend this event. It was very much appreciated and a real demonstration of how community organizations continue to work together and support one another. Building a stronger community, one step and one action at time.

Source: *Wayves* – May 2009

Camp Out! Exploring LGBTQ Activist History in the Maritimes

In the most genuine spirit of “camp” and in homage to the integral concept of “out,” we are pleased to announce Camp Out!, a weekend celebrating and exploring LGBTQ activism in the Maritimes, featuring discussion groups, nature walks, barbeque, community campfire, live music and more. Camp Out! will take place the weekend of July 17 – 19, 2009 at The Mermaid and the Cow campground in Pictou County, NS.

The idea for this weekend get-away was inspired by Kelly Baker’s Masters thesis, studying queer experience in rural Nova Scotia and by The Mermaid & The Cow, a lesbian-owned campground in Pictou County that is dedicated to providing a safe, relaxing camping experience for members of the LGBTQ communities and their queer positive friends.

Visiting the campground and talking with the owner made us aware of a need for more connection and exchange between rural and urban, older and younger generations of queers in the Atlantic region. As younger queer

activists, we want to hear the stories about how it used to be, and get a sense of our history in both rural and urban contexts, from our gay, lesbian and trans predecessors. It is especially important to link past and present to the ongoing struggle for human rights, in the increasingly conservative political climate.

We believe in the power of face-to-face interactions to establish real dialogue. This is a much needed opportunity to bridge gaps created by age, race, gender, geography, and to celebrate the rich history of LGBTQ activists who have paved the way for younger queers in the region, a chance to share our stories, hear each other’s voices, examine the divisions and conflicts that exist within LGBTQ communities, and come together around issues that are relevant to all of us, regardless of our differences.

Camp Out! is open to anyone who wants to attend but as there is limited accommodation at the campground, the capacity is 40 participants. Priority will be given to folks who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Two-Spirit, Queer, and questioning. Straight Allies are also welcome to register. Outreach to older and younger communities in both urban and rural areas around the region is aimed at bringing a wide range of experiences together.

The project is being organized by a small group of enthusiastic volunteers, not affiliated with any specific organization, and with little to no funding. In lieu of actual funding, and in the tradition of grass-roots community organizing, we have received much support and encouragement from the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP), and generous in-kind donations from the Menz Bar, Wayves, CKDU and the Mermaid and the Cow. For the work-in progress schedule of the weekend, see page 11.

Please join us for a Pancake Brunch Fundraiser for “Camp Out!” at Menz Bar, 2199 Gottingen Street on Saturday June 6, 12 noon – 3:00 p.m. Suggested donation \$10.00. For more information about Camp Out!, or to get a registration form, please email camp.out.2009@gmail.com or phone (902) 405-0340.

Source: *Wayves* – May 2009

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