

August 16, 2013

### **1. August Elderberries event :**

Saturday August 24, beginning at 3:00 pm. :

Tim MacKay and Paul Davison are hosting a Remember Over Thirties party at their glorious farm in the Gaspereau Valley, and have invited the Elderberries to join them. Many Elderberries who have attended an Over Thirties pot luck party in the past may welcome the opportunity to see familiar faces, or to make new friends.

As ever, please bring some food you would enjoy eating and sharing : home-made or store-bought will both be welcome. Unlike our usual socials, you are welcome to bring the alcoholic beverage of your choice (along, of course, with your designated driver).

The farm is located at 1703 White Rock Road and is considered a Wolfville address for GoogleMap. You can follow the signs to the Gaspereau Winery and then drive along White Rock Road until you see 1703. It's a wonderful place with lots of animals, mostly birds of various kinds.

### **2. Some changes in September :**

Beginning in September there will be a new time for Elderberries get-togethers : the second Sunday afternoon of the month rather than the fourth. So please set aside the Sunday afternoons of September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8 for Elderberry Potluck Socials.

### **3. No gay lawyers here, folks!**

Trinity Western University, of Langley, B C, is a Christian school requiring all students, faculty, and employees to sign a covenant stating (among many other things) that all students are required to abstain from "sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman." TWU wants to inaugurate a law school, and has applied to the Federation of Law Societies of Canada for accreditation. Signing the covenant would in effect bar LGBT students (and very likely straight students in common-law relationships) from becoming students of the law school, whose graduates would be expected to uphold the laws of Canada, and not those of Trinity Western University. For more information, and a way in which you may register objections, see [https://secure.avaaz.org/en/canada\\_law\\_schools\\_equality\\_sam/?bhkjBbb&v=27606](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/canada_law_schools_equality_sam/?bhkjBbb&v=27606)

### **4. Spirit Place**

As you will have heard, the Spirit Place proposal did not pass City Council. Several Elderberries members spoke out in favour of the project, but all in vain. I asked our Spirit Place contact Louisa Horne whether there was anything more Elderberries could do at this point, and she responded, "I think we have to let things sit for a little while and re-energize .... We were so excited about the prospects .... a unique opportunity is being missed."

### **5. AIDS Activist History Project**

"Our project will collect interviews from people involved in AIDS activism in the late 80s and early 90s in Canada. We'll talk with people who struggled - and who may continue to struggle - against the criminalization and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS, and who took action to change their medical, social, and political circumstances.

"We want to talk with people who worked with groups such as the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP), AIDS Action Now!, Persons with AIDS Coalitions and other organizations. Please get in touch with us if you'd like to be interviewed, or if you know someone who you think we should talk with! We are also interested in collecting AIDS activist newsletters, flyers, video footage and other information.

"This summer (2013) we will be meeting with a few people to map out a timeline history of what has happened in Halifax (and in other parts of Nova Scotia). In the summer of 2014, we will start doing more

substantive interviews."

Alexis Shotwell and Gary Kinsman  
[aidsactivisthistory@gmail.com](mailto:aidsactivisthistory@gmail.com)  
Phone 613-520-2600 ext 3082

## **6. NSRAP 2013 Hero Award Nominations**

Each year, NSRAP seeks to recognize those members of our communities who are making a difference in the lives of others and helping further equality for all Nova Scotians. Until 6:00 pm, Wednesday August 21st [extended date], e-mail nominations will be accepted for the following awards :

Rev Darlene Young Community Hero Award  
Raymond Taavel Media Award  
Allies Award  
Corporate Stewardship Award

Criteria for the awards and nomination forms are available at <http://nsrap.ca/community/gala/2013heroes>

Additional information, such as letters of support, may be submitted by e-mail to [nsrap@nsrap.ca](mailto:nsrap@nsrap.ca). Organizations may nominate themselves, but awards for individuals require a separate nominator.

## **7. Taavel memory garden**

A memory garden in honour of activist Raymond Taavel has sprung up on Gottingen Street, begun by artist Brian Pace and seemingly continued by spontaneous contributions. See the story at <http://thechronicleherald.ca/metro/1145823-garden-honours-memory-of-taavel>

## **8. Real authors**

It has been brought to my attention that real authors have an Acknowledgements page that goes something like, "Thanks to all the magnificent Elderberries, to my Grade IX English teacher who communicated to me the excellencies of the English language and grammar.... Any errors that have crept in are mine alone."

Wimps. I'm willing to blame errors on anyone from Santa's elves to the Hell's Angels. Those elves can be very vengeful, you know.

This month the fault is on my balcony. No, the creeping thyme has not strangled the rosemary plant. The resident pigeons cleverly hid their nest in a corner until they hatched an egg. The former egg is now half covered with feathers, and it wanders around the balcony mournfully saying "Eep, eep" and hoping that someone will teach it to fly. "Eep, eep," morning, noon, and night. How am I supposed to compose a subordinate clause when I am being eeped at twenty-four hours a day? You try it.