A need to know it all
Halifax publisher amasses more than 2,000 local LGBTQ+ related articles

BRADY HUNTER
bthunter@novajournal.com

When you know, you, know. The Halifax Rainbow Encyclopedia founder Daniel MacKay, dis-
covering his sexual orientation was expedited with just one look at his older brother’s striking homecoming during his early childhood. “He across the hall neigh-
bor was this big, hefty, handsome Italian guy who had not moved to Hal-
ifax from Italy to work as a carpenter,” says MacKay, of his brother’s homecoming, who frequently visited his family in his hometown of Rome. “They got to be friends, and my brother brought him home to hang out with the family. I totally fell for him. I was crazy about him. He was beautiful. I knew right then and there I had a crush on him.”

Unfortunately, finding fellow LGBTQ+ community members when he was around eight years old, he was publisher friend found in a group of white, straight women. He also lived in the group of white, straight women. He also lived in the area. He was the only one of them. They were all lesbians – and they all liked men, and they didn’t like me,” says MacKay, of the women he ran into at Aunt Mima, Aunt Tina and Aunt Mimi. “I spent a lot of time with them, and they took me on their errands. I was very young at the age of eight,” they said. “They couldn’t believe my talent was reading. They were quite amaz-
ingly remarkable people. I was a writer and a writer of prose and novels. Later moving to Bridgewater,
MacKay attended New Germany Rural High School, where he mixed in the three-dimen-
sional lifestyle, using photography and multimedia, to become the first person to recog-
nize the Rainbow Community. Daniel MacKay
building the interior of the di-
Rommers. However, one of his biggest undertakings would be taking over pub-
lishing liaison for the GLOBE
ZETTE, run by Gay Alliance for Equality, which MacKay later rebranded as Waves. MacKay
published an online publication to his
days, Waves was printed 11
years and featured tons of
millions of quality queer
words over 25 years. Fully immersed in the queer community, MacKay had plenty of friends in Queer
magazines and newspapers, and
wrote extensively on the
subject. "I had no place to put
them, I was losing my mind. This was important stuff. These were historic pictures
and stories, and I knew these people wouldn’t be around forever."

Lack of love, he would soon find new inspira-
tion and an appropriate place to showcase information per-
taining to Halifax’s LGBTQ+ community.

Circa 2000, MacKay at-
tended a drag show at the
entire queer community. He
wasn’t interested in being
the one of five thousand
queer community members
in the city. Featuring vast
and varied topics, the Hal-
ifax Rainbow Encyclopedia
is whole. But not too insis-
ting to the entire queer
community, nor one specific
type of queer identity, unlike
many hyper-specialised plat-
forms nowadays.

"There’s a page for every
person, place, thing and event of significance to the Queer
community in Halifax, ever," says MacKay. "On top of that, there’s humour and complete-
ly random articles that have
nothing to do with Halifax."

Having served as editor-in-chief for Halifax Pride’s 2021 Pride Festival, which wrapped up last week, MacKay (apparently) remains committed to work in new and exciting capacities. He recently took up a position as a research assistant for the Dalhousie University’s Sexual Health and Gender Studies’ lgb-
tigender, Bisexual & Men project, facilitating international dialogue to better queer commu-
ity. Additionally,he performs archival duties for Dalhouse, which has promised a permanent home for many LGBTQ+ related
literature.

And the work is never
done. With the 20th anniver-
sary of the Halifax Rainbow
Encyclopedia approaching later this year, MacKay isn’t finished with his magazine open – which has amassed

"Making my city a better place for other queer folk is making the city a better place for me as well."

Daniel MacKay

A point of Daniel MacKay whom he was about 20 years old. With a passion for photo-
ography and multimedia, he
attended the University of
Bridgewater, and continued to
work in the field of multimedia for
his mother. DANIEL MACKay

The Halifax Rainbow Encyclopedia is whole. But not too insis-
ting to the entire queer
community, nor one specific
type of queer identity, unlike
many hyper-specialised plat-
forms nowadays.

"There’s a page for every
person, place, thing and event of significance to the Queer
community in Halifax, ever," says MacKay. "On top of that, there’s humour and complete-
ly random articles that have
nothing to do with Halifax."

Having served as editor-in-chief for Halifax Pride’s 2021 Pride Festival, which wrapped up last week, MacKay (apparently) remains committed to work in new and exciting capacities. He recently took up a position as a research assistant for the Dalhousie University’s Sexual Health and Gender Studies’ lgb-
tigender, Bisexual & Men project, facilitating international dialogue to better queer commu-

As editor of Halifax Rainbow Encyclopedia founder and Waves Magazine publisher Daniel MacKay, who recently began an extended position alongside Dalhousie University’s DANIEL

MACKay

NEED AN MVI? COME TO US!

• TOP OF THE LINE DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT
  All of our tools are equipped to ensure the most accurate diagnosis
• EXTENDED HOURS
  Your vehicle needs service when it needs service
• WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS
  No wonder why we drive, Canadian Tire has seen it
• LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
  You’ll be contributing to your local economy
• WE KNOW YOUR CAR
  Your vehicle’s service history can be accessed at any of our 5500 service bays across the country

www.canadiantire.ca