

October 07, 2013

1. Elderberries Potluck Social : Change of date

To avoid conflict with members' Thanksgiving plans, the October potluck social has been moved to Sunday October 20 at 2:00 to 4:30 pm.

The address is still 2615 Northwood Terrace, but we will meet in the Stadacona Room. Wheelchair accessible. Just past the welcome desk, turn right. Go down the hall to the end, then turn left and go into the second door on the right.

There is some free parking on the surrounding streets, or paid parking in a lot across from the entrance.

Please bring something you would like to eat and to share. There are no cooking facilities, so finger food or something that can be served cold would be best. Both home-made and store-bought are welcome. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Please - no scents, no peanuts, no alcohol, no pets. Service dogs welcome.

November potluck will be November 10, with guest speaker Gabe Saulnier. Yes, we know it's another long weekend, but we are going ahead with November 10.

2. Elderberries coffee break :

Wednesday October 16, Northwood Coffee Room (Harborview), 10:30 am. Refreshments available from adjacent Coco's outlet. Staff and residents of Northwood are invited to join Elderberries for conversation and getting-to-know-you.

3. Election Day :

Tuesday October 8. Want to express your approval of the current government? Want to throw the rascals out? This is your chance. **Vote!** Statistics show that fewer and fewer eligible under-25 voters are going to the polls. This means that older voters (like us!) are more and more influential. So get out there and **vote!** And don't forget to take that yellow card with you. Vote as you like, but **vote.**

4. National Coming Out Day:

Friday October 11 : on National Coming Out Day, think of our sisters and brothers who are still locked in silence, fearful of abuse and even death at the hands of their own governments, and even their own families.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Coming_Out_Day

5. Thanksgiving :

Planning a big turkey dinner with lots of stuffing and cranberry sauce? Sounds great - but many can't afford it. Want to help the homeless or families in need to enjoy Thanksgiving? Among the many groups helping the needy are :

Feed Nova Scotia
213 Bedford Highway
Halifax, N S
B3M 2J9

Souls Harbour RESCUE Mission
c/o Michelle Porter Executive Director
P O Box 9255 RPO CSC
Halifax, N S B3K 5M8

Would have been a good question to ask the candidates, wouldn't it - "If elected, what will you do to make food banks unnecessary by increasing support for the poor?"

6. Amazing Challenge 4 in support of the AIDS Coalition

Friday October 18

<http://www.amazingchallenge.org>

7. Fourth Annual Spirit Day :

Sunday October 20 : Spirit Day in support of the struggle against bullying of LGBTQ youth. Wear purple to the potluck social - or to wherever you go on Spirit Day.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spirit_Day

8. Halloween :

Thursday October 31. Back in the day, even before Stonewall; back in time and space even on Prince Edward Island in the 1960s; back before there were "gay" people; back there and back then; one night of the year was recognized as the night when the fairies came out to dance. And so it was all over the land : braving arrest; braving loss of jobs and apartments; braving queerbashers and the disapproval of their more closeted friends

(and almost everyone else was more closeted); the drag queens and the trannies (for there was no politically correct language then) and a few brave others came out into the open, rented a hall and held a Halloween dance. Other people came and stood on the sidewalk, perhaps to admire, perhaps to jeer, perhaps to think to themselves, "Maybe next year I might have the nerve...." If you google "gay halloween history" you'll find many interesting articles - try <http://transgenderlawcenter.org/archives/354>

9. NSRAP Annual Gala :

Saturday November 2. <http://nsrap.ca/community/gala>

"We're here! We're queer! Celebrating the past and future of gay activism in Nova Scotia." NSRAP annual gala : Atlantica Hotel, 1980 Robie Street @ Quinpool, Halifax, beginning at 6:00 pm. Tickets \$125.00 per person : call 444-3206, or online at <http://nsrap.ca/community/gala/tickets>

Keynote speaker is journalist Gerald Hannon, founding member of the *Body Politic*.

Cocktail reception, silent auction, presentation of Community Hero Awards, three-course dinner, followed by a dance with music by Heavy Petting.

10. Beacon Award call for submissions :

Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature : for an unpublished novel designed to ignite reader's passion for, and understanding of, an issue of social justice.

Submission deadline is February 1, 2014.

For complete guidelines, or to obtain a submission form :

www.beaconaward.ca

11. If you have received this newsletter, you are a member in good standing of Elderberries, a free organization for LGBT persons aged 50+ and their families, friends, and supporters. Contact for the Elderberries newsletter is malm1@ns.sympatico.ca or elderberries.scotia2@gmail.com Normally this newsletter is free of mistakes in spelling, grammar, and content. However, pondering the fate of my preferred political party in the provincial elections, and planning my purple Halloween costume, may have momentarily distracted me at some points. No, it is not the effects of demon rum. I haven't had a sip of demon rum for months. In fact, a sip of demon rum would go down a treat just now. Please excuse me for a moment. Or perhaps quite a few moments....

