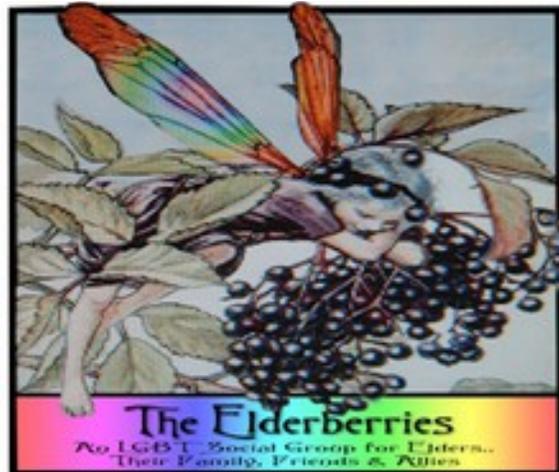


# Elderberries Newsletter

APRIL 2015



## Prologue :

Poetry explains what mere prose could not so well express, about spring in Atlantic Canada :

First it rained and then it snow,  
Then it friz and then it thew,  
And then it friz again.

## 1. April 12, 2015, Potluck Social 2:00 to 4:00 pm



Location: The Penthouse, 2615 Northwood Terrace, Halifax. Wheelchair accessible.

**The program:** Facilitated discussion of the upcoming Elderberries Surveys; presentation of results from the Newsletter Survey. Sneak preview: the new feature most requested by respondents was contributions from LGBT elders living in rural or small-town Atlantic Canada. So if you live in Ecum Secum or Whycocomagh - we'll be looking for your articles! Also from Dildo, a Newfoundland town supposedly named for a rowboat's thole pin, but we have our doubts. And what is a thole, anyway?

**The social:** The Elderberries Potluck Social is a free monthly event, open to LGBT persons aged fifty plus, our families, friends, and supporters. Not a member? Come and join us - bring a friend! Parking is often available in the surrounding streets, or there is paid parking in a lot across the street from the entrance. Please - no scents, no peanuts, no alcohol, no pets. Service dogs welcome.

**The potluck:** Please bring something you would enjoy eating and sharing. Kitchen facilities are not available, so something room temperature is best. Don't forget to bring any serving implements your dish needs: spoons for salad, knife to cut cake or squares, etc. Coffee and tea are provided courtesy of Northwood.

## 2. Other Events:

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

### **Community Art Project Engagement Session**

Location: Company House, 2202 Gottingen St, Halifax  
or

Thursday, April 9, 2015, 6:00pm to 8:00 pm

Halifax North Memorial Library, 2285 Gottingen St

Both locations are wheelchair accessible.

HRM Cultural Affairs is designing an art piece to celebrate the LGBTQ community. It will be etched in cement on the North Commons. Your ideas are needed re the focus of this artwork. Come and brainstorm! Let's get this right - it will be on display for a long time. For more information, check Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1578602452409032/>

**Thursday, April 2, 2015**

### **100 in One Day : Info Session and Action Workshop**

Location : Alderney Gate Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax : April 4, 2015, 1:00 pm

Keshen Goodman Public Library, 330 Lacewood Drive, Halifax : April 28, 2015, 6:30 pm

*All the above locations are wheelchair accessible.*



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What if hundreds of people united, each to take one small action to improve this city, all on the same day? The day will be June 6, but the planning will begin April 2. We often find plenty to complain about in Halifax - now is the chance to plan one small action towards being part of the solution. This is the project that last year created public art by painting several intersections, but surely Elderberries can think of other projects, to be completed by individuals or groups. Plant an elderberry tree.... get a street named after Raymond Taavel, and invent a naming ceremony... put up a plaque on Radclyffe Hall.... surround Citadel Hill with pink plastic tape and claim it in the name of the LGBT Nation. We're just getting started here....

**April 9 to April 29, 2015**

### **Health Programs at the Library**

Among more than a dozen health-related programs across the library system in April are these which might especially interest Elderberries (some require advance registration) :

How Healthy Is Your Plate? Eating for Health : Halifax North Memorial Library, April 9, 6:30 to 8:30

Physio for Everyday : Woodlawn Library, April 14, 6:30

Building Better Sleep : Cole Harbour Library, April 22, 6:30 to 8:30. To register : 902-460-4555

Making the Most of Your Food Dollar : Sackville Library, April 15, 22, and 29, 7:00 pm. To register : 902-460-6750

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**

Location : Central Library

**Relationship across a lifetime : NSRAP youth and Elders program / CANCELLED**

**Sunday, April 12 2015**

**Elderberries Potluck Social - see page 1 for details**

**Friday, April 17, 2015**

**HoMotown at the Company House, beginning at 10:30 pm**

Location : Company House, 2202 Gottingen St, Halifax

Dance to Motown beats, featuring DJs Simon Thibault and DJ Regalia. Cover \$5.00

**Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 7:00 pm**

Location : Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. Wheelchair accessible.

**How to Grow Food in Containers on Your Balcony, Patio, Deck, or Roof-Top**

Step 1 : Shovel snow off balcony, patio, deck, or roof-top.

Step 2 : Urban vegetable gardener Gayle Shatz explains how you can combine vegetables, flowers, and herbs in very limited spaces.

**Thursday, April 30, 2015, all day**

**Filing due date for 2014 taxes.** It's no use stashing your fortune in a locked box under your bed : the government still wants its annual percentage. So dig out that stuffed - to - the - gills file folder and get ready to bite the bullet. Stack up your T3, T4, and maybe even T5 slips; sort out your medical and your charitable donation receipts; and snowshoe off to the tax preparation office. For those determined to fill out the return themselves, Canada Revenue Agency has tools to help : tax information videos, volunteer tax preparation clinics, and other services are listed in both official languages on their websites at [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/vnts/menu-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/vnts/menu-eng.html) or [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/menu-fra.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/menu-fra.html) If the Easter bunny has your name you might even get a refund!

**Thursday, April 30, 2015, doors open 5:30 pm, dinner at 7:00**

Location : Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia, 1983 Upper Water Street, Halifax

**Pink Spring Celebration Gala : Fundraiser in Support of Breast Cancer Action NS**

Tickets : \$75.00 include dinner, entertainment, access to auction, chance to win door prizes.

Music by Bruce Richard and Lesa Vaughan. Tickets are available online; by phone from 902 - 465-2685; or by cheque or cash at 967 Bedford Highway, Suite 205, Bedford N S, B4A 1A9.

**Saturday, May 2, 2015, 2:00 to 4:00 pm**

Location : Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. Wheelchair accessible.

**Emma Donoghue : author of Frog Music**

Did the weather keep you away from her March appearance at SMU? Emma Donoghue is back, reading from ***Frog music***, her new lesbian mystery novel set in 1876 San Francisco. Irish-Canadian Donoghue is an award-winning novelist, dramatist, and literary historian, perhaps best known for her historical novel ***Slammerkin***, winner of the Grumley Award for Lesbian Fiction.

The feature film ***Room***, based on her novel of the same title, is due out in 2015.

Sources : *Library Guide*, March-April 2015;

<http://www.emmadonoghue.com>

**Saturday, May 2, 2015, 6:00 pm**

Location : Cunard Centre, 961 Marginal Road, Halifax

**Appetite for Life, 2015**

Northwood Foundation's annual fundraising dinner "in support of Northwood's efforts to help our clients make the most of life." Full details, and tickets \$150.00 each, are available online at [www.northwoodfoundation.ca/events/appetite-for-lilfe-2015/](http://www.northwoodfoundation.ca/events/appetite-for-lilfe-2015/) For the past few years, Northwood has provided a free meeting space for Elderberries, complete with coffee and tea at each meeting. Although this is a May event, those wishing to be sure of getting tickets should probably book ahead in April.

**3. 4. Volunteer opportunities :**

**International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia**

The IDAHOT Rally is coming up in May. Anyone who would like to help organize this year's event should get in touch with NSRAP at [NSRAP@nsrap.ca](mailto:NSRAP@nsrap.ca) or phone 902-444-3206. Also, let us know if you are interested in representing Elderberries on the IDAHOT Committee: [elderberriesboard@bonmot.ca](mailto:elderberriesboard@bonmot.ca) You do not need to be a member of the Elderberries Board to be chosen as our representative - just let us know that you are interested. As the Rally takes place in May, this would be a short-term commitment.

**4. More News :**



**Rainbow Refugees Association of Nova Scotia**

As of March, 2015, Federal supplemental funding for the Rainbow Refugees program has been extended on a pilot project basis for another two years. Although welcome news to those who feared the project might be cancelled entirely, it was a disappointment to some activists, who had hoped funding for the project might be made permanent. Over the past five years, the supplemental funding has helped bring to Canada thirty refugees who were in danger of violence, imprisonment, or execution in their home countries. The funding supplements money raised by local communities. Elderberries members have been among the contributors from the start.

Source : [www.cbc.news.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/rainbow-refugee-assistance-program-extended-for-2-years](http://www.cbc.news.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/rainbow-refugee-assistance-program-extended-for-2-years)

**Turret/Khyber Building**



Many members remain interested in the future of the Turret/Khyber building, where they spent evenings dancing, drinking, and socializing back in the day. A brief account of what it would take to bring the building up to code was laid before City Council in late March.

*Supplemental Building Information : 1588 Barrington Street* is available at [www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents.150324cai02.pdf](http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents.150324cai02.pdf)

**FOR RENT!**

Room for an independent elder in a gay positive household, with Daniel MacKay and Gabe Saulnier. We're gay, our friends are gay, our pets and Plants are gay. We are in the North End of Halifax near the Hydrostone, a 5-minute walk to the #7 or #9 bus. The room comes equipped with

a small fridge, large LED television with Bell FiberOp and WiFi. The house is wheelchair accessible with a large deck, with a chair lift to your room on the second floor and bathroom. A heat pump with a control just for your room means that the temperature is perfect in winter and summer. Also included in the room rental are meals, laundry, small errands and minor personal care. There's a dog or two and a cat or two. The house is also non-smoking and non-partying and drug free. For more information to join our "family" please call 902-221-5360. Room is month to month with one month's notice of leave (damage deposit required).



"Family" member Roxie..on her way upstairs, via chair lift.

##### **5. Message from the Editor :**

If you have received this Newsletter, you are a member in good standing of Elderberries, a free organization of LGBT persons aged fifty plus, and our families, friends, and supporters. Feel free to share the newsletter with friends : we would be happy to welcome new members from Nova Scotia and beyond. Contact e-mail : [elderberries.scotia2@gmail.com](mailto:elderberries.scotia2@gmail.com) .

From time to time, announcements are sent to us for inclusion in the Newsletter. These contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of Elderberries nor of the Newsletter.

As ever, this newsletter is completely free of spelling and grammatical errors. Bouyed up by her newly reaffirmed edditorship, Your Editor went out and bought a spelling book and a grammar book. Unfortunately, March weathrer set in on the way back from the boeokstoree. The books blew out of her carrier basket, and were last seen heading brisskly in the direction of Sable Island.

A longtime fan of the much-maligned Richard III, Your Editor settled in on Thursday to watch his reburial ceremonies, but all she could catch of the live ceremonial was his collateral descendant Benedict Cumberbatch reading a poem. Is that not a medieval name, Cumberbatch? Or possibly the moniker of a Shakespearean farm yokel. "Comest thee here, Cumberbatch, and weed these cabbages!" Actually, we Ricardians do not in genneral think much of Shaxpere, who did a hatchett job on our beloved King in his politically motivated tragedy **Richaard III**. If Richard had livedx, and Shaxpere had stuck to glove-making, thou mightst have bin spellinge like this, too!

Lynn Murphy  
Editor, Elderberries Newsletter  
[lynn.murphy46@eastlink.ca](mailto:lynn.murphy46@eastlink.ca)