

# Gazze

SUMMER 2011



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- July 17, 2PM Dykes VS Divas Softball Game
- July 18, 5PM Flag Raising/Proclamation
- July 18-22, Queer Acts Theatre Festival
- July 20, 8PM Song Writers Circle
- July 21, 10PM Boat Cruise
- July 22, 8PM Outdoor Dance Party
- July 23, 1PM Pride Parade
- July 23, 3PM Pride Concert & Community Fair
- July 24, Family Picnic



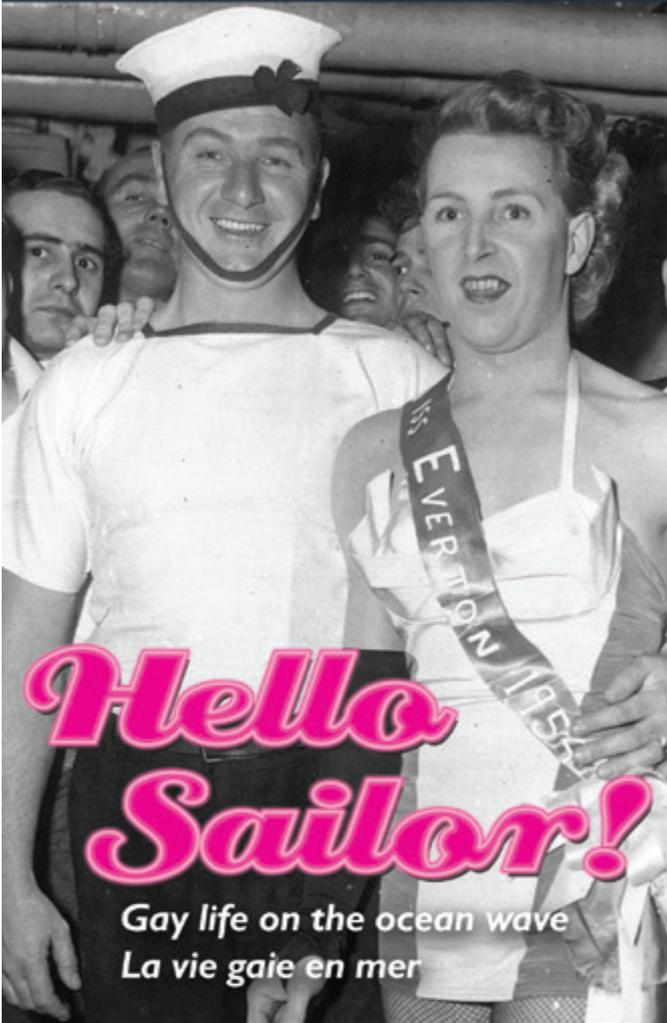
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# Gaze

SUMMER 2011

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# Gaze

SUMMER 2011

Published four times a year, Gaze is a magazine of news, opinion and comment designed for Atlantic Canada's GLBT community and its allies.

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Gaze Magazine welcomes written and photographic submissions.

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As I put the finishing touches on this issue of Gaze and prepare for week-end Pride celebrations in Charlottetown, I can't help but smile as I fondly remember my very first Pride in Halifax two years ago.

An extremely late bloomer, I'd come out only a few months earlier after someone sent a copy of my gay-dating profile to the main email address where I worked. Evidently I'd shown my face to the wrong person. No matter. With the big gay cat finally out of the bag and a nagging but realistic concern that my sexuality may become newsworthy, I made like Bruno Mars and threw myself on the grenade; I decided that outing myself – in my own words, in my own magazine – was the best way for me to neutralize the situation.

Looking back, I like to think I made the right decision, even though my public declaration spawned months of familial awkwardness. Calls home became brief and infrequent and, for a period of time, I stopped calling altogether, unsure of what, if anything, I could say to allay fears and concerns my mother refused to discuss.

During that time, I found myself leaning rather heavily on old friends, but to an even greater degree on new friends I'd made in 'the community,' the majority of whom had experienced trials and tribulations very similar to my own. Thanks in part to their continued support, understanding and guidance, I was able to weather the storm, come to terms with who I was, work through things on the family front, and by the end of Pride Week, cast off my remaining inhibitions along with my shirt – admittedly, I was thinner then – and enjoy the freedoms and camaraderie Pride festivals have come to represent.

And while I both realize and appreciate that Pride isn't for everyone, I am happy to live in a country where I'm free to take part without the fear and violence that still exists elsewhere around the world – like Croatia and Moscow.

I won't lie though, I've never marched in a Pride parade; maybe I never will. March. Don't march. It's all good. Just count yourself lucky that you possess the freedom to make that choice, and respect the people responsible for giving it to you.

Happy Pride,



# Around the World



**ALBERTA:** Despite her mother's continued support following her 'coming out,' 11-year-old Caprice Kirkhope's decision to do so hasn't exactly been angst-free. "They think that it's contagious or something," the harassed pre-teen told Metro Calgary's Jeremy

Nolais last month after receiving Facebook messages from 'friends' calling her "gross and disgusting."

"I'm still the same person," she told Nolais. "I didn't change."

**ARGENTINA:** Less than a year after becoming the first Latin American country to authorize same-sex marriage last July, Argentina is already preparing for its first gay divorce. The now-separated female couple, identified in news reports only as 46-year-old Angela and 25-year-old Vanesa, married this past April after six years together. Esteban Paulon, president of The Argentine Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals, has said the duo split following an alleged infidelity.



**ARKANSAS:** The Batesville Daily Guard made headlines of its own recently after it refused to identify Terence James (pictured) as the surviving male partner of the late John Christopher Millican in a newspaper obituary. Millican, who'd been suffering with spinal meningitis, died June 11.

In defending its decision to omit James's name, The Guard subsequently published an editorial arguing that the paper's "free obituaries do not list life partners or significant others, nor does it list in-laws or ex-spouses." The paper further noted that it does not publish the names of surviving pets which The Guard insisted James had also attempted to do. "Listing pets as children is a direct slap in the face to every grieving parent who has buried a child, young or old," the editorial stated. "Because of Mr. James, The Guard has come under fire for the policies that are in place for everyone."



According to Reuters, James, who's also battling meningitis, hasn't ruled out seeking legal recourse.



**AUSTRALIA:** Twenty-nine-year-old Aaron James Johnstone has been sentenced to a minimum of 14 years in prison for the brutal murder of his openly gay housemate

Phillip William Higgins in 2006. Though Johnstone admitted to having "lost it" after a drunk, naked Higgins propositioned him for oral sex, Johnstone's lawyer denied his client intended to kill Higgins.

Justice Robert Osborn disagreed. "You then, in your words, laid into him and punched him (in) the head and chest. You then

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# Around the World



kicked his head like a football ... You then admit picking up a ceramic statue of a platypus weighing in excess of eight kilograms and dropping it from chest height directly on to Mr. Higgins's head." It was also revealed that Johnstone had further attacked Higgins, 46, at their Melbourne residence with an office chair. "The injuries you inflicted to the head and chest of Mr. Higgins were horrific," said the judge, who noted Johnstone's history of drug and alcohol abuse and anger-management problems. "The consequences of your actions have been the death of a man universally described by witnesses as having a kind and generous nature."

Meanwhile, AMC's sister soap 'One Life to Live' is scheduled to go off the air in January. It was on this show that Ryan Phillippe's acting career took off, having played network television's first gay teenager, Billy Douglas, from 1992 to 1993.



**CROATIA:** A gay pride march held in the coastal city of Split was marred by violence after thousands of protestors proceeded to throw rocks, bottles and firecrackers at the much-smaller group of 200 taking part in the June 11 event, titled 'Different

Families, Same Rights.' According to one published report, 137 people, including 25 minors, were detained by Croatian authorities as a result of the upheaval.

**NEW YORK:** On September 23, after four decades on the air, ABC's long-running soap 'All My Children' will permanently fade to black to make room for more cost-efficient, reality-based programming. In 1982, the hour-long drama made television history when it introduced audiences to daytime TV's first lesbian character Dr. Lynn Carson, played by Donna Pescow. Twenty-one years later, in 2003, the show once again generated significant buzz when it aired daytime's first lesbian kiss, a smooch involving Bianca Montgomery, the on-screen daughter of TV legend Susan Lucci.



**WASHINGTON:** Twenty-five-year-old Isiah Kalebu will return to court Aug. 12 to be sentenced for a deadly 2009 attack on a lesbian couple at their Seattle home. Prior to being convicted July 1 on charges he brutally raped and stabbed both Jen Hudson and her fatally wounded partner Teresa Butz (pictured), Kalebu told the court he committed the unspeakable acts because God had told him to: "I was there and I was told by my God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to attack my enemies, and I did so."



**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** A cashier at a Safeway store in southwest D.C. was fired last month after referring to customers Jason Morgan and his partner Brendan Harrington as "fucking faggots."

"We put our groceries up on the conveyer belt, some frozen dinner and wine, and she said, 'Oh God, they're faggots,' Morgan told Metro Weekly. "And then Brendan said, 'I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said.' And she said, 'You guys are fucking faggots.' We just couldn't believe it." Morgan and Harrington have reportedly filed a complaint with the Office of Human Rights.

## HAPPY PRIDE!



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# Hometown Headlines



**NEW BRUNSWICK:** New Brunswick's G.N.G. Club – located some 20 minutes north of Bathurst in Petit Rocher – has closed, sources tell Gaze Magazine. According to the club's website, G.N.G. held its

last dance April 2 and Gay Pride Camping for 2011 has been cancelled. In a March 4 Facebook post, Laurent Legacy, vice-president of the non-profit organization that operated the bar, encouraged past and present members to attend a March 20 meeting to discuss the group's "financial situation" and "PROBABLE CLOSURE OF THE BAR." The G.N.G. website also advertised the sale of "club stuff" at an April 16 yard sale. Legacy did not respond to a message from Gaze before press time.

**HALIFAX:** Amid the unravelling of the city's cash-for-concerts scandal and subsequent calls for Peter Kelly's mayoral head, Halifax actually managed to receive some positive PR last month in the form of a travel review from edgeonthenet.com contributor Robert Israel. In his treatise, 'Halifax, Nova Scotia Steals a Piece of Your Heart,' Israel sings the praises of the Nova Scotia capital, 'founded' by controversial Brit Edward Cornwallis in 1749. "Halifax and Nova Scotia tug on the emotions," writes Israel, dropping familiar business names like Fid Resto, Chives and The Five Fisherman, while taking time to discuss the potential of the city's gay community.

"The people one meets (in Nova Scotia) are open-hearted, cheerful and welcoming," says Israel in closing. As foretold in the song (Farewell to Nova Scotia), it is a destination to which one reluctantly bids farewell.

Read Israel's complete review at <http://bit.ly/gayhalifaxns>



**HALIFAX:** Queer activist Catherine Meade, the Halifax lawyer who in 2007 challenged present-day MP Megan Leslie on behalf of the federal Liberal Party, has relocated to Toronto where she's been chosen to serve as director of the 2015 Pan Am Games.

**HALIFAX:** While Jewish groups in New York have come out on both sides of the state's recent decision to legalize same-sex unions, Ari Isenberg, the spiritual leader of Halifax's conservative synagogue Shaar Shalom, recently told Gaze intern Sasha Downer he'd be happy to officiate a same-sex wedding that would include sacred Jewish components. Even though Shaar Shalom is one of the first synagogues in Atlantic Canada offering to perform same-sex marriages, none had been performed at the time of this writing.

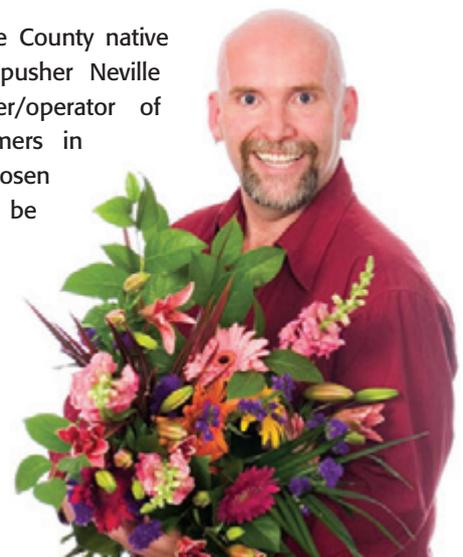
**SYDNEY:** In May, the Cape Breton District Health Authority established PRIDE@CBDHA, an employee resource group for the organization's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex staff members.

"The employee resource group is about making LGBTI employees and others feel comfortable in their work environment," said David MacAskill, the District's Human Resources Coordinator. "It is my hope that the ... group will help inspire employees in their work life and ensure they feel a sense of belonging. We hope that it will provide everyone with the opportunity to reach their full potential."



**MONCTON:** City Pride Celebration, Modern Vision Events' five-day, multi-venue festival, is expected to bring more than 10,000 people from around the world to New Brunswick's Hub City between August 17th and 21st. Big-name DJs like New York City's Dave & Gerardo (pictured) and Montreal's Pierre Fitch will join local musical celebs DJ Sonny D and DJ Trennd, along with a collection of media hosts and professional dancers, to celebrate diversity in grand style. For more information, visit [www.citypridecelebration.com](http://www.citypridecelebration.com).

**HALIFAX:** Shelburne County native and celebrity petal-pusher Neville MacKay, the owner/operator of My Mother's Bloomers in Halifax, has been chosen by Halifax Pride to be Grand Marshall of this year's parade, to be held Saturday, July 23.



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# Almost Gaymous

## Eleanor Roosevelt



When Franklin Roosevelt became the 32nd President of the United States, his wife Eleanor became America's First Lady. It's long been suggested, however, that Eleanor's own 'first lady' was an election trail campaign reporter named Lorena Hickok, who reportedly lived with the Roosevelts at the White House from 1939 to 1945. According to Keith Stern's book *Queers in History*, intimate correspondence between the two women clearly illustrates a mutual and abiding passion that continued until Mrs. Roosevelt's death in 1962.

## Gordon Thomson



His acting resume is littered with roles on various daytime soaps and appearances on beloved Canadian TV shows like *The Littlest Hobo*, *Street Legal* and *The Polka Dot Door* (which he once hosted). But it was Ottawa native Gordon Thomson's convincing portrayal of Adam Carrington – *Dynasty* legend Joan Collins's evil on-screen progeny – that propelled him to international superstardom. Prior to Thomson joining *Love Boat* actress Jill Whelan (Vicki Stubing) on the judge's panel for *The Rainbow Show* – a GLBT talent contest in Palm Springs – last year, little appears to have publically been said about his sexuality. Promotion for the show left little to the imagination, however, when on its official website, the production declared of Gordon, "Yep, he's gay and he's ready to go Simon (Cowell) one better!"

## Kelly McGillis



Best known for playing Tom Cruise's girlfriend Charlie in the 1986 blockbuster *Top Gun*, this twice-divorced mother of two has, in recent years, chiefly appeared in independent films, on the small – screen (*The L Word*) and on the stage (including a run as *The Graduate's* infamous Mrs. Robinson). At the age of 51, McGillis told *shewired.com* she was "done with the man thing," and the following year entered into a civil union with sales executive Melanie Leis who, at one time, served cocktails at her now-partner's Key West bar, Kelly's.

## Gilbert Baker



Until June 25, 1978, when San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker unfurled his now-ubiquitous Rainbow Flag for the city's Gay Freedom Day parade, the gay pride movement's only publicly recognizable symbols were pink and black triangles, both of which had been appropriated from Nazi concentration camps. "I think up until we had the Rainbow Flag, we were really stuck in victim mode," the Kansas native has since said of his internationally renowned celebratory emblem.

Mere months before the assassination of openly gay political icon Harvey Milk, Baker, a former U.S. Army nurse who taught himself to sew following his honourable discharge in 1972, received \$1,000 to chair the Gay Freedom Day parade's decorating committee. With it, he set to work on his ever-

lasting symbol of gay pride. Though it would subsequently morph into the six-stripe version most commonly found today, Baker's original design featured eight horizontal stripes, each colour representing a different facet of gay life: hot pink represented sexuality; red, life; orange, healing; yellow, sunlight; green, nature; turquoise, art; indigo, harmony; and violet, spirit. The hand-dyed cotton creation was first raised in the backdrop of San Francisco's UN Plaza. Twenty-five years later, to commemorate the flag's silver anniversary, Baker – affectionately referred to by some as the "gay Betsy Ross" – created one that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. Now 50, Baker resides in New York City where his latest art exhibit can be viewed at The Center on West 13th Street until September 1.

# PRIDE WEEK

## Happy Hour Prices

On All Moosehead Beer - July 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>

### FRI. JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>

• Pre-Pride **RAINBOW PARTY**  
Door proceeds in support of Halifax Pride.

### SUN. JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> TO SUN. JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>

• **QUEER ARTIST EXPO**  
Featuring work of local GLBTI artists.

### SUN. JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>

• **PARTY & FREE BBQ, 5-8 PM**  
Dykes vs. Divas' Post Ball Game  
• **VELVET ROPE BOYLESQUE SHOW, 9-11 PM**  
w/ Rouge Fatale. \$15 Cover.

### MON. JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> 8-10 PM

• **LEANDER MENDOZA IN CONCERT**  
- A Show Tunes Retrospective  
\$15 Cover • [www.LeanderMendoza.com](http://www.LeanderMendoza.com)

### TUE. JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> 10 PM - MIDNIGHT

• The Pride Playoffs:  
**SO YOU THINK YOU GOT TALENT**  
All weekly winners compete for \$300 prize.

### WED. JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 9:30-1:30 PM

• **PRIDE KARAOKE** w/ DJ Bear  
Extra Prizes & Extra Songs!

### THU. JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 7:30 PM

• **DA PRIDE CAFÉ** – Queerer Than You Think!  
\* Theatrical Treats Tailored to Taste. \* \$5 Cover.  
• **NO COVER DANCE PARTY, 11 PM - CLOSE**  
w/ DJ Legacy & Miss Elle Noir.

### FRI. JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>

• **OUT OF TOWNER PARTY** w/ DJ Bear  
Best Ass Contest @ Midnight w/ Miss Elle Noir.  
\$100 Prize.

### SAT. JULY 23<sup>RD</sup>

• **PRIDE WHITE PARTY** w/ Sonny D  
White dress code encouraged.

### SUN. JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> Noon - 3 PM

• Manna for Health **SURVIVOR BRUNCH!**  
Suggested Donation \$10 (a worthy cause!).

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# Hello Sailor!



## For Those in Pearls on the Sea

*The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic hosts the first North American stop of Hello Sailor! Gay Life on the Ocean Wave, a U.K. exhibit examining the hidden history of gay men and women at sea.*

By Mairin Prentiss



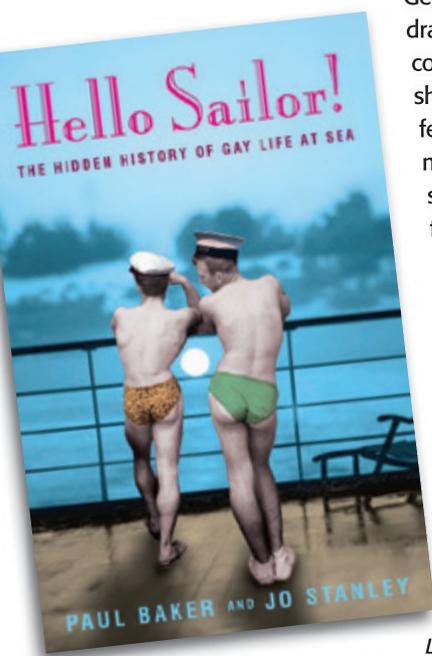
For many gay men and women, going to sea in the last half of the 20th century offered a surprisingly safe haven from the types of prejudice and discrimination frequently encountered on land. In fact, Dr. Jo Stanley, guest curator of the Hello Sailor! exhibit, tells a story of men who were largely unimpeded by homophobia while working on ships, enabling them to create a camp subculture – a sort of “gay university.”

“The best thing I learned was also the most moving thing,” says Stanley, co-author of *Hello Sailor: The Hidden History of Gay Life at Sea*, “and that was the incredible tolerance and support that these guys got. It was great seeing how on-ship people suspended their old bigotry and old fear – because so much of it totally comes from fear. It was really impressive to see how gay guys were accepted and really played with if you like.”

Stanley became interested in the subject of gender in seafaring in the 1970s when she began hearing tales of “oddly girlish” stewards who were the very model of machismo by day, but divas by night. “One of my favourite stories, which I haven’t told many people, is of a gay guy who was a cabin steward. He was cleaning a woman passenger’s cabin and he tried on her mink coat while she was out. She came back,” laughs Stanley, “in the middle of him pirouetting in front of the mirror and she said, ‘it looks better on you than it does on me darling. You can have it.’” The red-handed chap declined the passenger’s gracious offer, Stanley explains, adding, “That was the level of collaboration, co-operation and fun.”

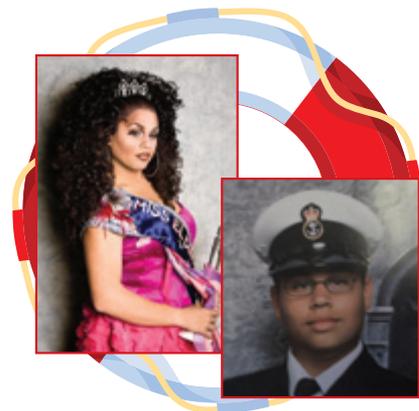
Between 1945 and the 1970s – the era of seafaring on which *Hello Sailor!* primarily focuses – British commercial liners were devoid of on-board entertainment, prompting some stewards to bring their own brand of nightlife – drag – with them. Earlier forms of lower-deck theatrics included race performances – specifically blackface – alongside performances that played on class and gender. But over time, and in step with post-war England’s emerging counter-culture, these shows evolved into camp pageantry.

Gender historians have argued that drag performances are far more complex than your average variety show act and that assuming a different gender, class or race often mirrors one’s inner identity or desires, and represents a struggle to fit into a heteronormative culture. “The guys at the time didn’t really use the word ‘transvestite,’ Stanley explains. “They knew that some were gay and some were bisexual and I think they knew that some liked dressing up in frocks very much. But, as you probably know, being a transvestite doesn’t necessarily mean you’re a homosexual.”



Left: The book that started it all

“One of the most interesting things I heard was when an Admiral said to me, ‘do you know why Marines’ backpacks are so big, Jo?’ And I said ‘no.’ He said, ‘it’s because they have to have at least one party dress and their cosmetics case in it.’



Left: Chris Cochrane as ‘Elle Noir’ and in her Navy days (top right).

When *Hello Sailor!* crossed the Atlantic after five years in the U.K., researchers at Halifax’s

Maritime Museum decided to add a Canadian element to the exhibit, including interviews with five local LGBT mariners: Glace Bay-raised Chris Cochrane; Billy Andrews of Stewiacke; Boston-born, Indian Brook-raised Bryson Sylbo; and Montrealers Frank Letourneau and Helen McFadyen.

Cochrane, who as a cadet had worked on the HMCS Acadia, began performing in drag as ‘Elle Noir’ at 19, while sailing on the HMCS Athabaskan. Currently transitioning from male to female, she’s since gone on to capture several drag titles including Toronto’s Miss El Convento Rico, Mz. Reflections, Mz. Gay Halifax, Mz. Menz Bar and Mz. Gay Sydney. Although the Athabaskan had a reputation as a ‘gay ship,’ Cochrane has said that in her experience there was no real gay subculture to speak of, adding that her queerness never became an issue, either personally or professionally.

According to Stanley, some people, like Cochrane, see time away from the folks back home as the perfect transitioning opportunity, be it ‘coming out’ or beginning gender reassignment. “Ships did seem to be a place where men started up that process because you could get hormone treatments over the counter at pharmacies abroad and that helped them develop their breasts,” says Stanley. “So shipmates saw men in all early stages of transition, obviously not shaving their Adam’s apple and not the great chop of their willy, but certainly they saw the guys rehearsing, kind of, for becoming women.”

In stark contrast to the widespread acceptance Cochrane experienced, Frank Letourneau, now 70, faced institutional discrimination that eventually led to his resignation from the Navy in 1970. Having kept mum about his sexual orientation throughout the 1960s – a time when homosexuals weren’t permitted to serve (openly or otherwise) in the military – Letourneau received word from his Commanding Officer that the Military Police were investigating him for homosexuality. Subsequently presented with a police file three inches thick containing photographs of his car parked on Citadel Hill (a well-known gay cruising area) along with other ‘pertinent’ information, Letourneau decided this was a no-win situation and resigned, despite having the support of both his Commanding Officer and his in-the-know crewmates.





Top Left: Frank Letourneau in his Navy days and Frank now (right).

The case against Letourneau was but one of about 9,000 in-depth investigations launched with the intention of purging homosexuals from Canada's public service. The nation's home-grown Lavender Scare also prompted the invention of the McCarthyistic 'Fruit Machine,' a deviant-detecting device which claimed to

be able to measure homosexuality based on the dilation of one's pupils when exposed to explicit photographs.

When Hello Sailor! travelled to Glasgow, Scotland a few years ago, the exhibit was admonished by one U.K. newspaper which accused it of providing gay-sex lessons to schoolchildren. Stanley says the editors eventually, albeit begrudgingly, issued a retraction. "The newspaper had to agree – though they didn't do it very generously – they had been lying," she says.

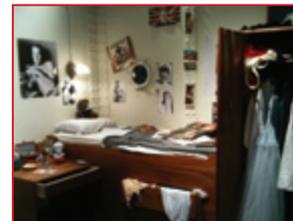
By comparison, the press response this side of 'The Pond' has been splendid, and pleased-as-punch Stanley says she's yet to work with a museum staff as keen as the Halifax team. "Everybody here is dressed up with their fascinators, high heels and their pink pashminas and things," she beamed during the exhibit's opening night. "What's unexpected is the enthusiasm here from the staff and the positive press response. I don't think anywhere has there been so much press coverage."

Stanley says Hello Sailor! appears to be a landmark exhibit in Canada.

One artifact of particular interest is an illustration by Canadian war artist Grant MacDonald, drawn for a naval musical revue in 1943. Once part of a planned exhibit for Ottawa's Canadian War Museum in 1991, it was shelved before the public was able to see it. The MMA expo points to the homoerotic overtones of MacDonald's work as a possible reason behind the War Museum's decision

to axe the show. At present the illustration can be found on the national war museum's website, but makes no reference to gay subculture.

Because of the dearth of artifacts related to the subject matter at hand, Hello Sailor! has had to rely heavily on the art of story-telling to make many of its points. Telephone lines connect visitors to voices of British sailors sharing tales of safety on the sea while a steward's cabin is outfitted with Paul Newman posters and Ethel Merman LPs next to a closet spilling taffeta and stockings. Elsewhere, a hot-pink display panel reveals the hidden meanings behind words used in underground camp language known as Polari, and two of Chris Cochrane's donated naval officers' costumes can be found in a nearby glass case.



Inside the Hello Sailor! exhibit

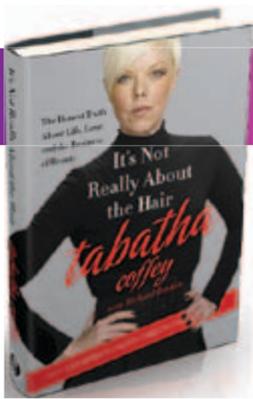
According to Stanley, Hello Sailor! has become a model for representing diversity in museums, although she doubts the show will make its way south of the 49th parallel due to cultural differences. In the meantime, she's working on writing a musical she says will draw on the same themes as the exhibit; she's written eight songs so far. "I like really big musicals like Rocky Horror ... and all the Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals," she says. "It's a dream, but I imagine our musical as very big, very fun with lots of choruses and lots of playfulness really, which is, I guess, what this exhibition is about too – the playfulness of gay life. We're not just talking about who has sex with who, we're talking about men who made the best of life and explored themselves and were prepared to go quite a long way to live differently to the way that is possible onshore." 🍷

Hello Sailor! can be seen at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic until November 27. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/gaylifeatsea>.

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## It's Not Really About the Hair: The Honest Truth About Life, Love, and The Business of Beauty

Tabatha Coffey, with Richard Buskin, HarperCollins, 2011

Tabatha Coffey, the strong-minded, no-nonsense star of Bravo's bleeped-out hit reality show *Tabatha's Salon Takeover*, isn't your average entertainment personality – and with very good reason.

The only child of a qualified accountant and his wife, Tabatha grew up in Adelaide, Australia where her parents operated a trio of strip clubs. From an early age, she found herself spending time with the clubs' flamboyant transgendered drag queens (her 'aunties'), understood that her parents had a working arrangement with "Australia's biggest mobster," and, as a fat kid, knew what it was like to be different.

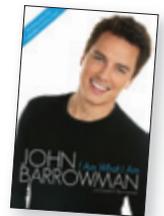
All of these things contributed to her "moral compass" and a strong personal commitment to what she calls living honestly. And according to Coffey, one's ability to live honestly has a great deal to do with finding one's own definitions for terms like 'bitch' – a label to which she is no stranger – 'normal,' and even 'gay.' In the chapter 'F\*\*k Flying a Flag,' she writes: "I will march to my own drum as a gay woman, defining myself in that aspect of my life my own way, just like I do with every other personal definition."

As memoirs go, Coffey's tome is on the lighter side at just over 200 pages, making it an easy read, but one which leaves the reader somewhat unsatisfied by its lack of devotion to deeper, more personal issues.

Because every chapter concludes with some sort of 'how-to' directive, by the time you've finished the tome, you'll have learned 'How to be a real BITCH,' 'How to Survive a S\*\*t Storm,' 'How to Fire Someone,' and 'How to Tell Someone to Shut the F\*\*k Up.' But along with those intriguingly titled lessons, you'll also receive guidance on 'Following Your Own Personal Style,' 'Dating Yourself,' and 'The Five Things to Ask Yourself Before Opening a Business.' Personal pictures and a selection of dramatic black-and-white photos with Coffey in gowns and an Annie Lennox-like suit and mask round out the book.

As honest in her book title as she is about everything else, Coffey's book really isn't about hair, but is intended to be an interesting blend of memoir and self-help guide in which hair salons, hair shows and hairdressing simply provide a backdrop for the lessons Tabatha Coffey has learned – and is now sharing – from a life far less ordinary than most 📖

Read Lawrence McEachern's review of openly gay actor John Barrowman's 2009 book 'I Am What I Am' online at [gazemagazine.tumblr.com](http://gazemagazine.tumblr.com).



# PRIDE WEEK

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### timeOUT Lectures

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**SPRING GARDEN ROAD MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Tuesday, July 19-Friday, July 22/12 p.m.

### Hands-On Pride

An all-out, full participation, action games night.  
**HALIFAX NORTH MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Wednesday, July 20/6:30 p.m.

### Reading Out Loud

Readings from works of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer literature.  
Co-sponsored by Venus Envy.

**HALIFAX NORTH MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Thursday, July 21/7 p.m.

### Film: *The Kids Are All Right*

**KESHEN GOODMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Friday, July 22/2:30 p.m.

## Teens

### Performance: Ryan MacGrath

Ryan is a songwriter who recently received three ECMA nominations for his debut album.  
**ALDERNEY GATE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Wednesday, July 20/6 p.m.

**WOODLAWN PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Thursday, July 21/6 p.m.

## Families

### Pride Week Family Storytime

Stories, songs and a craft.  
**KESHEN GOODMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Saturday, July 23/10:30-11:15 a.m.

[halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](http://halifaxpubliclibraries.ca)

# BOOM!

*or Bust*

By Alexandra Davis  
Photos by Michael Boudreau



**Battle Kat**

**Desire**

**Fury Fair**

**Le Rouge Cherrington**





"Lady Sarah" McAdam and the C!rcus dancers

After years of bringing in major bands, organizing theme nights and playing a significant role in the success of Fredericton's C!RCUS dance troupe, boom! nightclub's entertainment coordinator Sarah McAdam is preparing for the group's biggest event yet – a cabaret-burlesque-rock opera she wrote herself.

"It's a show like no one's ever seen," says Sarah, who years ago made history when she became one of Fredericton Pride's inaugural co-chairs.

"All the numbers are being sung live by the performers with a live band, or they're tracks we had DJ Hindsight mix for us," she explains. "Everything is, in some way, original. We're doing dancing, pyrotechnics, special effects, singing, performing. C!RCUS is the embodiment of a party in a box."

Sarah hopes the big event will attract positive attention to some of the great things happening in Fredericton and ultimately lead to opportunities for C!RCUS in other cities.

Having relinquished the gay pride reins a couple years back, Sarah has since focused her attention on fostering C!RCUS, which currently performs at boom! every Friday night. But for Sarah, who is also the lead singer of LOLA (with LA Henry and Barb MacMullin), C!RCUS is about more than just the demonstration of mad dance skills. "My biggest goal with C!RCUS is to have everyone involved come out feeling better than they did coming into it. I'd like to provide a lot of entertainment and have a good time, but the core principle is to make sure everyone gets out and does something ridiculously fun that makes them feel good every single week." 

*The C!rcus Cabaret will run nightly from July 29 to 31 at boom! nightclub, 474 Queen Street, Fredericton. Cost: \$12 (opening night), \$10 (July 30 & 31). Show starts at 8 PM. Call 506-463-BOOM for more information.*



# Knowledge is Power: Shattering Gay Men's HIV Myths



When The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia published its final report on the most-recent *Sex Now* survey of gay men in Atlantic Canada, it showed that one-third of respondents held beliefs about HIV that simply aren't true. Acting on the basis of such misinformation is dangerous in that we may not only be putting ourselves at risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, but others as well. The survey confirmed that those with misconceptions about HIV were more likely to engage in unprotected sexual intercourse, making the debunking of those myths – some of which are listed here – more importantly now than ever.

## **Myth #1: I can tell if someone is HIV positive (HIV+) by how they look.**

The truth is no one can tell if a person has HIV by simply looking at them. A person can be HIV positive for up to a decade before visible signs begin to emerge. Twenty-five percent of HIV positive men don't even know they're infected.

## **Myth #2: A man with HIV would/should tell me he is positive before we have sex.**

Never assume someone will tell you he's HIV positive. After all, it's possible he may not know. And because of HIV stigma and discrimination – even within the 'gay community' the social stigma is huge – many men don't get tested.

## **Myth #3: So what if I get infected? I could just take a pill for that now – right?**

If only it were that easy. At present there is still no cure for HIV, nor is there a vaccine. Despite media reports regarding vaccine trials, it will likely be five to six years at least – and likely much longer – before a viable HIV-prevention vaccine becomes available. Thanks to modern treatments, an HIV diagnosis is a more manageable illness than it was 20 years ago when it was considered a veritable 'death sentence.' It's still no cakewalk, mind you, but without proper treatment, HIV will destroy your immune system and lead to AIDS.

*Chris Aucoin is the Gay Men's Health Coordinator at the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. If you have questions or would like to contact Chris, He can be reached via e-mail at gmhc@acns.ns.ca or by phone at (902) 425-4882, ext. 222 between 10 am and 4 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information on HIV-related myths held by many gay men, visit <http://gaymenshealthhivmyths.pbworks.com>.*

*Due to space constraints, this article has been shortened from its original form. An unabridged version can be found on-line at [gazemagazine.tumblr.com](http://gazemagazine.tumblr.com).*

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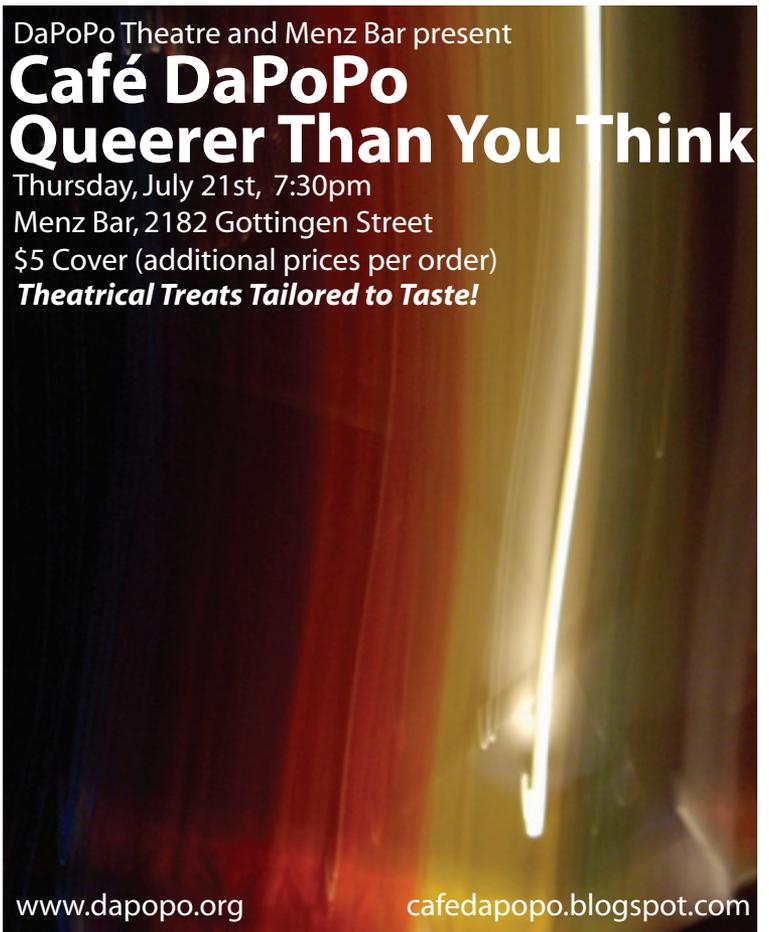


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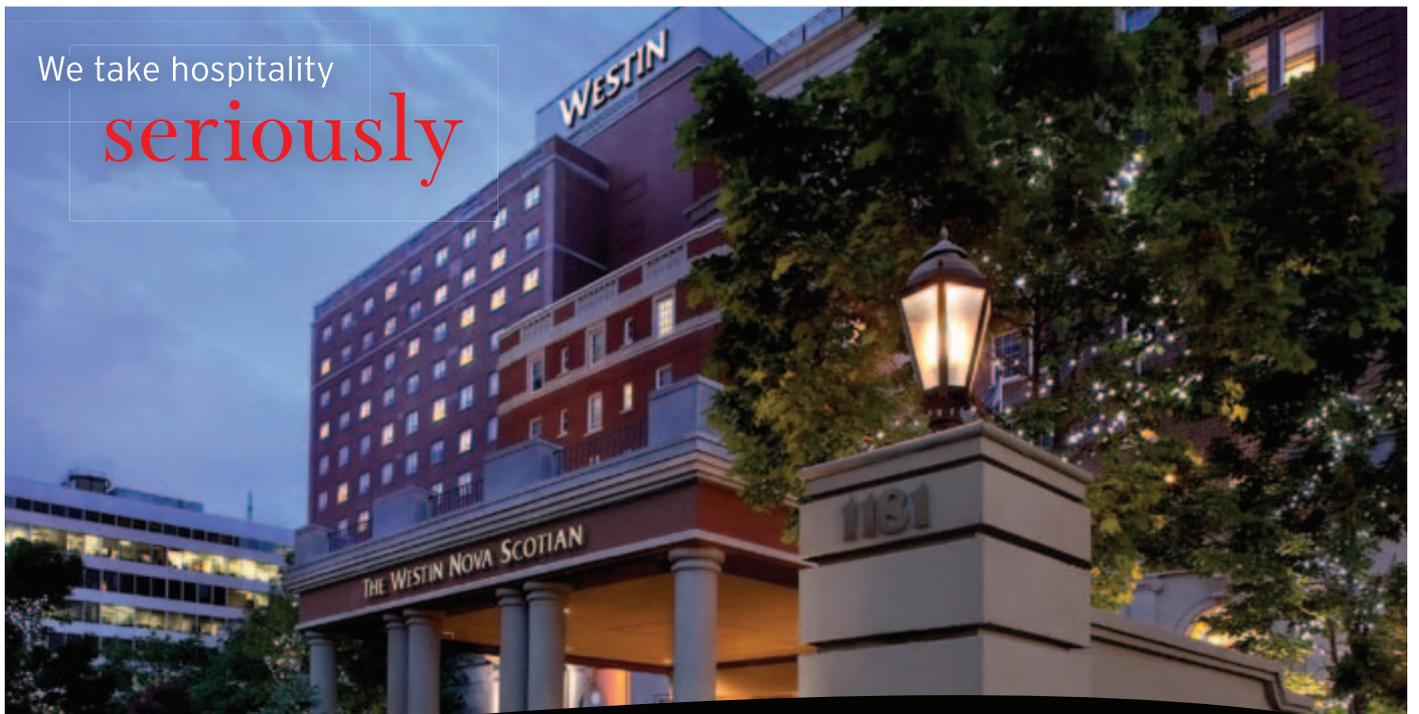
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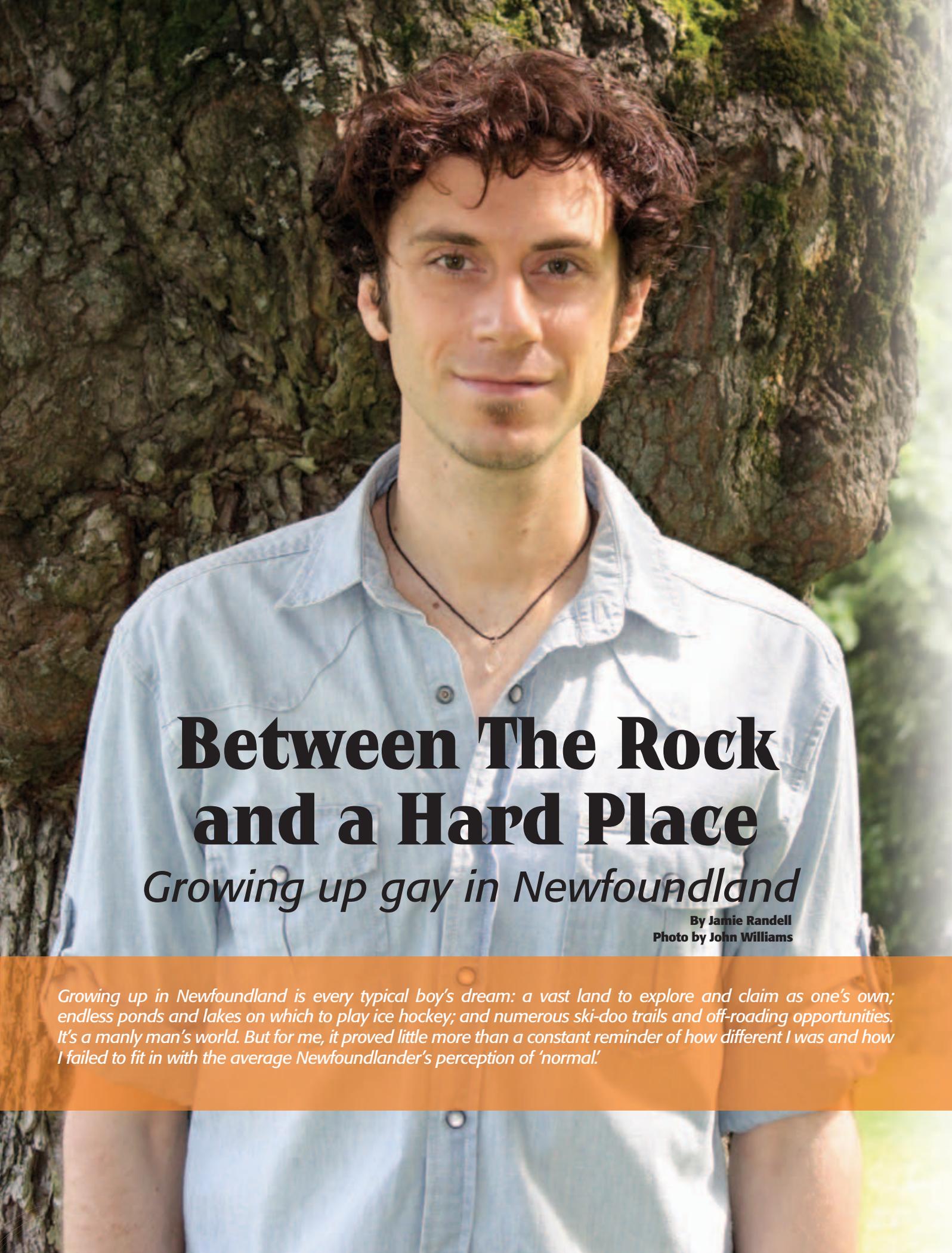
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# Between The Rock and a Hard Place

*Growing up gay in Newfoundland*

By Jamie Randell  
Photo by John Williams

*Growing up in Newfoundland is every typical boy's dream: a vast land to explore and claim as one's own; endless ponds and lakes on which to play ice hockey; and numerous ski-doo trails and off-roading opportunities. It's a manly man's world. But for me, it proved little more than a constant reminder of how different I was and how I failed to fit in with the average Newfoundlander's perception of 'normal.'*

Where I come from, a tiny fishing village three hours from Corner Brook and a day's drive from the bright lights and fast pace of St. John's, Roman Catholics were considered diverse, blacks were all but unheard of, and 'faggots' were practically mythological.

Rumours of this one being gay or that one having been with men years earlier circulated from time to time, though nothing substantial or concrete was ever confirmed until the early 1980s when a man came home to spend the remainder of his days with his family and die in the town where he'd been raised. People talked about how he was a 'fruit' or a 'fairy' and that he was dying of AIDS like other 'fags' did. And so I realized early on I would have to mask who I really was in order to get along with other boys and survive my childhood.

No one really knows when they're three years old what 'normal' actually is or 'should' be. A child, he lives largely free of judgment and prejudice. He doesn't realize he's different until an adult notices he is and begins treating him that way. Thanks to my uncle, I had some idea that I was different growing up. Although I didn't understand labels like 'gay' or 'bi,' I knew they were negative words that scared the hell out of me. For whatever reason, hearing him call this one a 'fag' or a 'fruit' made my heart race. I knew, deep down, that one day I would be the same 'fag' stigmatized in the same way.

So what, then, is a gay teenage boy in the early 90s to do? Blend in as best he can. Don ugly shoes and a hockey jersey, date a 'fat chick' with a great personality, and become best friends with Jesus. That was me in the nineties. I did whatever I could to avoid the kind of public ridicule attached to being gay – or even different for that matter – seemed to welcome.

I didn't date much in high school and used 'God' as an excuse for being single and outwardly celibate. The truth is no one would touch me, either because of the way I looked or because they knew I was gay. But that didn't mean I was as pure as the driven snow. Was it wrong for me to lose my virginity at 13? Probably, but that didn't stop me. Looking back, I know that morally I was a hypocrite and a social deviant, but believe that for many of us, that's part of growing up gay. It's an awkward path on the road to self and sexual discovery. Playing with yourself, playing with other boys. Discovering your own body – and discovering the bodies of other boys.

Some of the guys I knew from junior high have gone on to marry their cousins or not-so-pretty girls, and now have kids of their own. But as I vividly remember, that didn't stop them from putting their hands down my underwear whenever they got the chance. I remember, on various occasions, playing games in abandoned houses and dark caves with a boy seeking sexual release and looking to experiment. And like all teenage boys – gay or straight – my hormones were often running wild, prompting me to let them do whatever they wanted and usually complying with what was asked of me.

Growing up, my relationship with my parents was less than ideal; Dad could smell the gay on me and Mom treated me differently than she did my sister. My constant struggle with my identity paired with the constant abuse I endured from other kids at school seemed to mirror my parents' frustration as they tried to avoid the real issue behind my adolescent development woes. It was clear they could neither admit nor handle the fact their son was gay. I can still see the disappointed looks, the vacant expressions on their faces that seemed to say "Why is this happening to us?"

As difficult as it was for me to accept at the time – this was happening to me, after all, not them – I came to recognize that it was also difficult for them to see what was happening and accept it without trying to cast blame.

**“Having a child that didn't play hockey meant you either had a daughter or a 'fairy.' That's a hard pill to swallow for a Newfoundland fisherman. Dad had tried everything he could when I was younger to make a man out of me. I cried when the fish came up with the hooks in their gills; I got knocked out by an aluminum baseball bat and lost three teeth; I got seasick; I couldn't skate; I feel asleep watching UFC. There was no common ground.”**

Finally, Dad gave up and basically ignored the fact I existed for most of my teen and preteen years. And it wasn't until I came home drunk on home brew and moonshine at 16 that he remembered I was alive.

The remainder of my teenage years and early adult life were spent living in the shadow of my cousin, Andy, trying to be half the person he was seen to be. I somehow managed to begin sleeping with women – a lot of them. In fact, my first two years of university is nothing more than a haze of booze, drugs and sex with girls. I eventually settled quite nicely into the straight life my parents so desperately craved for me, holding down two jobs and moving in with my clichéd blond girlfriend.

We had sex out of expectation, but I thoroughly enjoyed the benefits of dating someone hot. Finally, I was getting the acceptance from people I'd known my entire life – like my father's brother – who otherwise wouldn't have shown me any respect whatsoever. And all because of this girl I was dating?

I lived this highly medicated sham of an existence for five years before I finally retreated into a week-long shadow of self-pity and disgust. I was 24 years old and living a lie. I couldn't live like this any longer and I certainly couldn't drag this poor girl along for the ride. She wanted a family, the 2.5 kids and a white picket fence; I sought



freedom, hated kids and wanted a white belt. I wasn't cut out for suburbia. And so, near the end of November 2004, I dumped her. I told her I loved her but wasn't in love with her. That I was no longer who I'd been when we first met. That I'd changed and that we needed to move on with our lives. It was one of the hardest declarations I'd ever had to make up that point, but I knew there was no going back and that this was the beginning of my public coming out.

Over the course of the next couple months I began telling people I was gay. No one was really shocked which, in and of itself, didn't really surprise me. I started by coming out to co-workers and friends I'd made more recently. Telling older, close friends from university and high school proved harder. I found it difficult to allow those two little, but unbelievably significant words – I'm gay – roll off my tongue.

As I grabbed hold of my new life, my new friends and new routines, all the while trying to integrate some of the old, I began distancing myself from my family. The telephone calls which had previously been separated by only a few days eventually occurred once every few weeks and then every few months. They knew something was wrong, that I'd changed. I was looking different, acting different. It became clear that everything they'd tried to ignore while I was growing up was going to have to be addressed.

My mother actually opened the door to that discussion when she sent me a four-page email in which she talked about various family-related things before moving on to ask what had been happening with me and ending with "you can tell me anything, no matter what it is." And with that, I replied, telling her everything. I told her I was gay and that I had a boyfriend. That we'd been living together for a while, that people knew, and that I was happy for the first time in my 25 years.

Although it was my father's reaction that worried me most, both parents were supportive – at first. While my mother seemed okay with me being gay in the beginning, it became clear she didn't support me, my life, my beliefs and what she seems to think is my 'choice'. We have since drifted apart.

I've been completely out for seven years now, and while it hasn't always been easy, I remember the times growing up when I thought I wouldn't survive, and wishing that I'd either been born 'normal' or simply not at all. But the truth is life does get better, and for me it did. After spending the last four years in the hospitality industry, travelling across Canada and living in the Rockies, I've returned to the East Coast, more specifically Halifax, where I have a great guy and am preparing to return to school.

Despite the extreme growing pains I experienced in Newfoundland, it is important to note that it is not a terrible place full of bigots and homophobes. In fact there were many people that helped me a great day along the way, with as little as a simple word of encouragement or a helping hand when I was in need or in pain. As time evolves and perceptions change, I am hopeful that growing up gay in Newfoundland won't be as difficult or as shameful as it was for me. 🏳️



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# Fabulous Finds



**A Tribute to Kylie** – Internet hotties Diego Sans and Brett Swanson (pictured) join twenty-four of their equally well-appointed randyblue.com colleagues in this shirtless homage to Australian pop queen Kylie Minogue's 2010 single 'Get Outta My Way.' Watch the video at <http://bit.ly/kylietribute>

**Rebecca Black 'Friday' parodies at funnyordie.com** – Watch teenage internet 'sensation' Rebecca Black as she takes several self-deprecating swipes at the ear-splitting ditty that made her famous, racked up 167 million YouTube views and unexpectedly plunged her into a potentially epic legal battle with the song's producers and the studio responsible for recording it. The best parody, by far, is her hilarious in-depth analysis of the song's lyrics which she reveals, in a very tongue-in-cheek manner, speak to very serious issues like consumerism, American foreign policy and her dislike of Dave Coulier's character on 'Full House.'

Running a close second is a trailer for Black's make-believe 'musical Armageddon' disaster flick 'Sunday Comes Afterwards.' Watch both at <http://bit.ly/RBRebeccaBlack>. Then check out 'Sunday,' an unintentionally funny religious parody (Worshippin', worshipping, YEAH!) spawned by the Christian Community Church, here: <http://bit.ly/sadieblack>. Fun fun fun fun.

**'I Just Want To Say That I Hated Every Moment Of That Piece-Of-Shit Show'** – A brilliant satirical Oprah Winfrey commentary – compliments of The Onion – on producing '25 years of trite, predictable, emotionally manipulative drivel,' why she was 'a self-loathing woman trying her best not to have a total nervous breakdown before the next commercial break,' and why she really gave away all those cars. On the web: <http://bit.ly/OprahOnion>

**Secrets** – Every gay man of legal age visiting Washington, D.C.\* should make at least one trip to this jaw-dropping dance joint before heading home. A brief, but necessary cab ride from Dupont Circle, Secrets is overflowing with hard-bodied all-nude dancers swinging from poles above the bar, performing gymnastics on bar tables and simultaneously getting clean and dirty in the fully functional built-in shower. Needless to say the show is worth far more than the cab fare, cover charge and pricey cocktails combined. On the web: [www.secretsgdc.com](http://www.secretsgdc.com).

For a more laid-back neighbourhood bar with friendly patrons, reasonably priced drinks and a very cute (but straight) bartender, check out D.I.K. on 17th Street.

**Richmond, Virginia\*** – Not the gaycation destination D.C. may be, Virginia's capital city (located roughly 100 miles south of Washington) nonetheless offers a unique blend of rich American history with a strong yet relaxed gay presence. Barcode – right next door to the cozy Chez Foushee, a gay owned and operated restaurant – is a friendly, chatty, no-frills watering hole, while Nations is a slick-looking dance club that's been known to attract famous adult-film stars. If you're a karaoke-loving come from away, stop in on a Tuesday; they'll welcome you with open arms. Babes of Carytown is the area's lesbian bar.

Meanwhile, travellers, regardless of sexual orientation, are encouraged to visit The Lemaire, the iconic Jefferson Hotel's high-end dining room which serves Prince Edward Island mussels and boasts an extensive wine list. Try their fried green tomatoes! You won't be sorry.

For more information, visit [www.gayrichmond.com](http://www.gayrichmond.com)

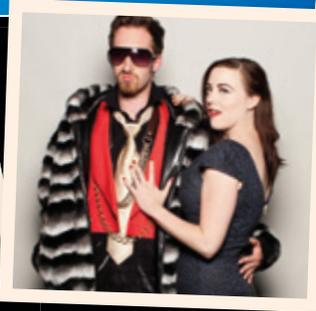
**Erotic Heritage Museum\*** – Just around the corner from Donald Trump's Las Vegas hotel tower, the Erotic Heritage Museum is a historical repository unlike any other. If you're interested in learning more about the history of XXX peepshows, seeing one of Hustler magazine Larry Flynt's gold-plated wheelchairs or having your photo taken next to a male reproductive organ made from 100,000 pennies, you'll find it all here. Nova Scotians will find themselves well represented by Spyfield son Alden Brown a.k.a. adult film legend Peter North, who's pumped out nearly 1,700 films – 1,675 straight, 12 gay – during his illustrious career. Clips from one of his early films, 'The Ribald Tales of Canterbury,' play on one of the museum's many televisions while a poster proudly displays his hometown, biography and film accomplishments. For more information: [www.eroticheritagemuseumlasvegas.com](http://www.eroticheritagemuseumlasvegas.com)

**2012 Halifax Firefighters Calendar** – Drawing on the success of last year's calendar, which resulted in \$10,400 being donated to the Nova Scotia Firefighter's Burn Treatment Society, Halifax's hunky flame-eaters are back with a promise to make you feel the heat again, each and every month of 2012. In addition to once again raising funds for the Burn Treatment Society, the organizers behind the \$15 calendar have pledged to donate partial sales to the Canadian Cancer Society's Camp Goodtime, a week-long camp for children ages 7 to 15 living with cancer or brain tumours. A calendar kick-off party has been scheduled for July 15 at Halifax's Taboo Night Club. For more information, visit [www.halifaxfirefightercalendar.com](http://www.halifaxfirefightercalendar.com).

\*For more photos, visit our Facebook page: <http://fb.on.me/GazeFB>



# Outings



Photos by Timothy Richard

**2011 Queen Acts  
Launch Party, Halifax**

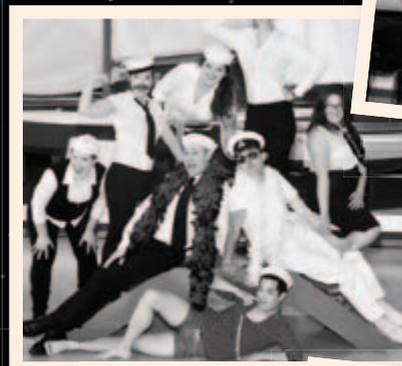


**ARCPEI Dance Party**



Photos by Ti S. Hadley

**East Coast  
Rainbow Softball**



Photos by Timothy Richard



**ISCANS Show**



**Hello Sailor!,  
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# Outings



**One Year Anniversary/  
Blue Party, PUMP**

*Photos by Troy Morehouse & Roy Butler*

**Menz Bar staff  
Talent Show**



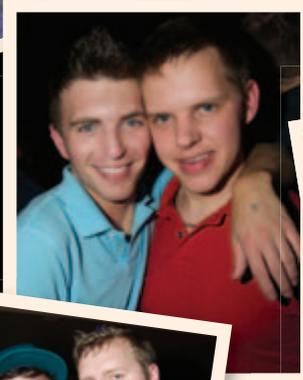
**Lady GaGa Night,  
Reflections**

Please note: the appearance of photographic subjects in Gaze is not necessarily indicative of their sexuality.

# Outings



**Outbid Auction,  
Casino Nova Scotia**



**The Zone Presents  
"Catch a Gay Wave", St. John's**

Photos by Tyler Colbourne



Photo by Louisa Adamson

**Self Service,  
Plutonium Playhouse**



**So You Think  
You Got Talent?,  
Menz Bar**

# Outings



**Menz Bar  
Orange Party**



**Valley Dance,  
Nictaux, NS**



*Photos by Tedrah McCort*



**Mz Gay Halifax Pageant**

Please note: the appearance of photographic subjects in Gaze is not necessarily indicative of their sexuality.

# Outings

## Pink Velvet Burlesque's Strip Search, Menz Bar



Additional photos available on our Facebook page. Visit <http://on.fb.me/GazeFB> or scan the code with your smartphone.



# Gaybourhood Watch



**Born in Dalhousie, New Brunswick and raised in nearby Point La Nim, Candy Palmater is the creator and star of The Candy Show, which will air its second season on APTN this fall. A Dalhousie Law School graduate, Candy currently serves as the Nova Scotia Department of Education's Aboriginal liaison officer. She and her partner, Halifax realtor Denise Tompkins, tied the knot last year.**

1. *What was your favourite childhood toy?*  
Easy Bake Oven/dolls - but I wanted Weebles so bad I could taste it. Also, I ALWAYS wanted the Barbie Camper. I still have my ballerina Barbie and my Chrissy doll.
2. *What was your first paying job?*  
Working in my brother's bodybuilding gym, Bill's Gym
3. *As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?*  
Brain surgeon by day, ballet dancer by night.
4. *Which person has had the greatest influence on your life?*  
My mother. Followed very closely by my father.
5. *Who was your teenage celebrity crush?*  
Leif Garrett and Martina Navratilova in my early teens, Nikki Sixx and Joan Jett in my later teens.
6. *What sports did you play in high school?*  
Volleyball, basketball and softball.
7. *What qualities do you most admire in a man?*  
Loyalty and great hands, bum and legs.
8. *What qualities do you most admire in a woman?*  
Loyalty and great hands, bum and legs.
9. *Last place you went on vacation?*  
Seattle, Washington.
10. *Person living or dead you'd most like to meet?*  
My grandparents – all but one were already dead when I was born.

11. *What is your greatest regret?*  
Staying in a bad relationship 12 years longer than I should have.
12. *What is your most ridiculous fear?*  
I hate it when people talk with their hands around me while holding something (fork, pencil, etc). I have this overwhelming fear that they are going to poke me in the eye. Even when we are reading in bed I can't have the corner of my wife's book anywhere close to my face.
13. *What is your biggest pet peeve?*  
Stunned people; drivers who don't pay attention to what they are doing; and pedestrians who walk without looking first.
14. *Facebook or Twitter?*  
Facebook is my crack, but I am also on Twitter - @TheCandyShow
15. *Blackberry or iPhone?*  
The rotary dial princess phone. I'm old school all the way.
16. *Favourite superhero?*  
Robin Hood, because he had a sense of social justice. I know, he isn't really a superhero, so Wonder Woman I guess, 'cause she is a woman who kicks ass, she has great boots and her lasso can get the truth out of anybody. Guess that makes her the superhero I would most like to be.
17. *Favourite colour?*  
Pink defines my world, purple is actually my favourite colour to look at, and blue is the colour that looks best on me.
18. *Do you wear pink?*  
I wear pink, live in pink, and the entire set of my show is awash in pink – and the singer Pink is ranked No. 1 on the list of 5 celebrities I'm allowed to sleep with if I ever get the chance.
19. *Who would play you in the movie of your life and what would its title be?*  
Stockard Channing in Breaking All The Rules: A Real Life Fairy Tale.
20. *If you had to describe yourself in one word, what would it be?*  
Kind and optimistic. I'm too greedy to go with just one!

**View Gaze editor John Williams's answers to this questionnaire at <http://gazemagazine.tumblr.com>.**

*Newcastle*  
PROPERTY SERVICES

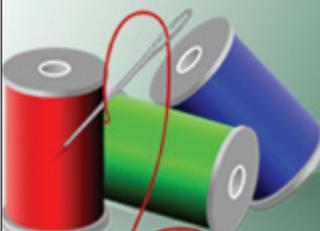
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# Reality Bytes



To prevent Kirk's so-called sissy behaviour, he was repeatedly placed in a room with two tables. He was observed through a one-way window. He was given toys to play with and could choose between traditionally masculine ones like plastic knives and guns or feminine toys like dolls and a play crib. He could also choose clothing to wear – an army hat and army fatigues or a girl's dress, jewellery and a wig.

Kirk's mother would be brought into the room and told to ignore him when he played with feminine toys or clothes and compliment him when he played with masculine ones ... When Kirk's mother ignored him, he would beg for attention from her, crying and even throwing tantrums, but Mrs. Murphy was told to continue to ignore him ... In Kirk's home, his parents were told to use poker chips as a system of reward and punishment to make Kirk act more masculine ... Blue chips were for masculine behaviour and the red chips were penalty for feminine behaviour ... The red chips resulted in physical punishment by spanking from the father.

According to Kirk's brother and sister, his outgoing personality changed and he began to behave in the way his parents [and one of the program's doctors] wanted him to. His family says the impact of the experimental therapy lasted his entire life.

Kirk's family ... says Kirk was gay but because of the treatment he was subjected to as a child, struggled with his attraction to men his whole life.

[His] visit home in June 2003 was the last time Kirk's family saw him alive. Nearly six months later he took his own life, hanging himself from a fan in his apartment in New Delhi. Kirk Murphy was 38 years old.

– CNN anchor Anderson Cooper on the reparative therapy forced on five-year-old 'sissy' Kirk Andrew Murphy in the early 1970s. Watch the four-part series on-line at [bit.ly/gazeyoutubechannel](http://bit.ly/gazeyoutubechannel).



I was becoming a little concerned about playing with the girls' toys and stroking their hair and stuff. I was seeing effeminate mannerisms. It bothered me because I wanted Kirk to grow up and have a normal life.

– Kaytee Murphy on the decision to enrol her five-year-old son Kirk in a government-funded experimental therapy program designed in part to reverse what one doctor dubbed 'sissy-boy syndrome.'



The only thing they did was destroy our brother ... He had no idea how to relate to people. It's like somebody just walked up and turned his light switch off.

– Mark Murphy, on the impact of his brother Kirk's experimental therapy.

What they really told him was that the very core of who he was was broken ... This was a little boy who deserved protection, respect and unconditional love. And I don't want him to be remembered as a science experiment. He was a person.

– Mairis Murphy, Kirk's sister



# Reality Bytes



I think the gay community seems to like old ladies; they always have. And when we were on live with *Golden Girls* on Saturday night they'd shut down the music, stop the dancing, watch the show, then turn the music and dancing back on. We were very grateful and they've been very dear friends."

– Betty White, 89, on the queer community's enduring love affair with *The Golden Girls*

I'm not sure these storylines are realistic. I've got plenty of gay friends but they don't all live [on] a street full of gay people. How many streets in Britain would have schoolgirl lesbians, gay married couples, a transsexual and children to gay couples? It is a little bit far-fetched.

– *Coronation Street* alumnus Nick Cochrane (Andy McDonald) on the queerification of the U.K.'s most famous TV thoroughfare.



When my daughter came home from school one day saying that a classmate had two mommies, my response was, "Two mommies? How lucky is she?!"

– Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow

I don't want to have one of Canada's first same-sex divorces ... I not only want to be a parent, I want to be a good parent and that's something we both feel strongly about.

– Openly gay *Kings-Hants* MP Scott Brison, on starting a family with his husband Max St. Pierre and why he won't be seeking the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada.



... they completely left out any mention of the queer community in the song, which is sort of the fucking point of the song ... That's like covering Rihanna's 'Umbrella' and leaving out any mention of umbrellas.

– *Xtra.ca* blogger Jeremy Feist on the omission of the lyrics "No matter gay, straight or bi / lesbian, transgendered life / I'm on the right track, baby / I was born to survive" from *Glee*'s cover of Lady Gaga's gay anthem *Born This Way*.



Well I don't think Fernanda and Marion's marriage is a real marriage because I belong to a faith (that) doesn't approve (of) same-sex marriage, and unfortunately they'll have to talk to God when they get to Heaven's gate.

– Alexis Bellino discusses 'traditional' marriage on *Bravo's The Real Housewives of Orange County*

Without question, love in its various permutations is what we need more of in this world. The idea that the concept of marriage will be sullied by same-sex marriage is ridiculous. Heterosexuals haven't been doing that well at it on their own.

– Twice-divorced *Playboy Magazine* kingpin and one-time bisexual experimenter Hugh Hefner



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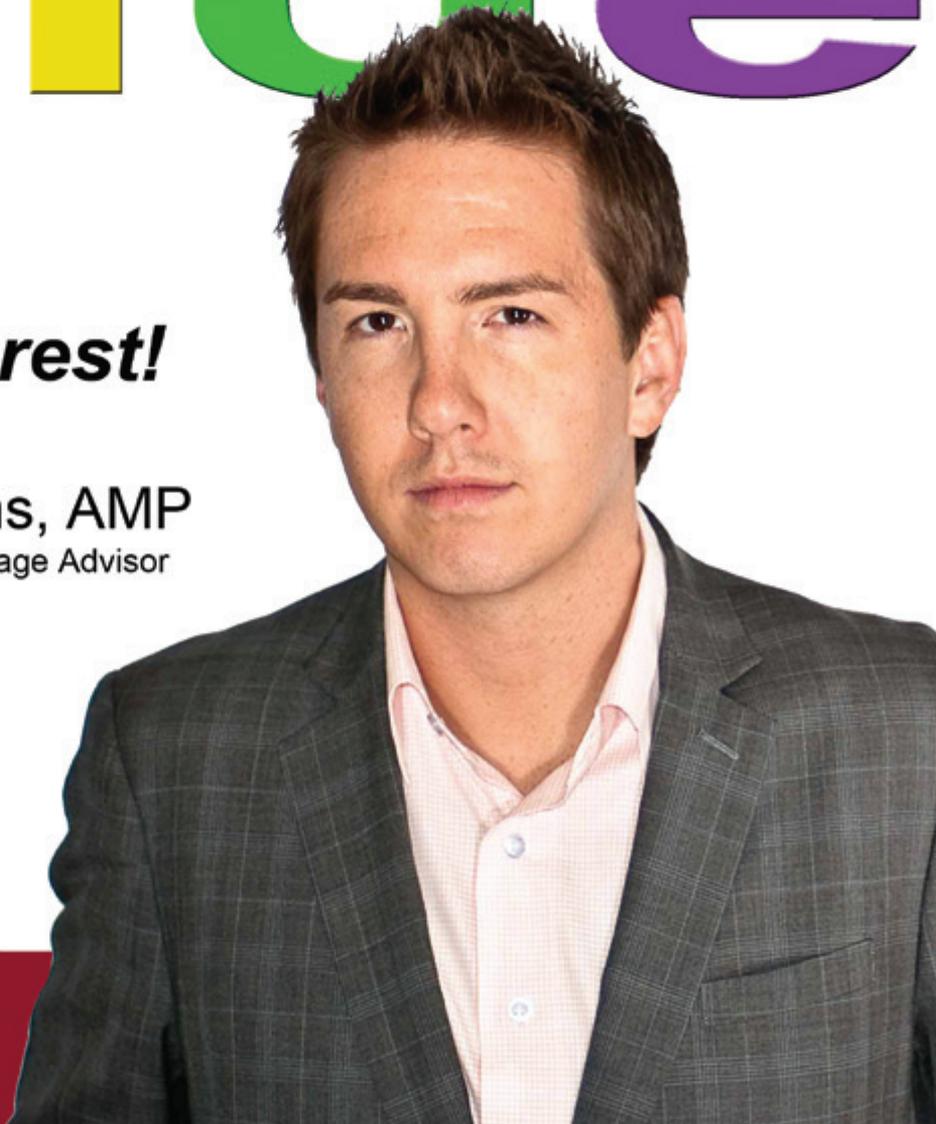
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