

Wayves

SPIRIT Place: Enriched Independent Living For Seniors

by Valerie Windsor

There is good news for seniors living in Halifax. St. John's United Church is planning to build an "enriched" independent living residence for seniors welcoming the GLBTI community.

Louisa Horne, board member for SPIRIT Place says, "The congregation of St. John's United Church has been very busy for the past several years re-visioning the future of their church and the needs of the surrounding community." In recognizing the diversity of the neighbourhood and in particular the needs of seniors for affordable housing, they are planning a new complex to replace the current building on the corner of Windsor and Willow Streets. This new facility will be called SPIRIT Place.

The exciting news for our community is that SPIRIT Place has included

the GLBTI community in the planning and hope that GLBTI seniors will choose to live there. They have researched the needs of our community, consulted local organizations including NSRAP and recognize the homophobia and invisibility of gay seniors in traditional senior housing. SPIRIT Place will be gay-friendly and welcoming as a safe place to live, gather and worship.

St. John's United welcomes LG-BTI membership and has been an affirming church for several years, performing same sex marriages and baptisms. You might recall that Safe Harbour MCC Halifax used St. John's facilities for the annual Christmas dinner for many years. With the new design, the church will be facing Willow Street with the seven story senior's residence fronting on Windsor Street.

The intent is that SPIRIT Place will be a mixed use complex with 60

- 65 units in an enriched independent living atmosphere along with a new church and space for community and non-profit groups to share. With members of the local community sharing space, the hope is that people of all ages will be able to mingle. The new facility will also allow St. John's to continue with their outreach programs, including a breakfast program for children in the area.

Located in the heart of the peninsula, SPIRIT Place hopes to fill a gap for the needs of a diverse senior population. Studies have shown that there is a limited understanding by service providers in Nova Scotia of the needs and experiences of gay and lesbian seniors. There are also issues of race and poverty that may complicate life for many.

Saint Vincent's Nursing Home has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to administer all aspects of



Artist's rendering of proposed complex, reproduced without permission from the website.

the senior's residence and provide access to a progressive level of seniors care services for tenants at SPIRIT Place. Horne says, "The Board of Directors at Saint Vincent's has been very enthusiastic and helpful with

the planning." Saint Vincent's understands the needs of an aging population and will provide programs and services to help keep seniors inde-

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Creating Art, Creating Change: Make It Better Now

by Costa Kasimos

The media's focus on recent tragic incidences is bringing attention to the troubles LB-GTQ youth face on a daily basis. By comparison to other youth, LBGTQ youth are more likely to have lower self-esteem, higher drop-out rates from school, increased incidences of mental health issues, greater exposure to extreme violence and bullying, and higher rates of depression, drug and alcohol use, homelessness and suicide.

Suicide is the leading cause of death among LBGTQ youth. Of course, everyone's experience is unique and people cope in varying ways, depending on their environment, support network, and the resources available to them.

Planned Parenthood - NL Sexual Health Centre, despite our limited resources, is seen as a community leader in regards to supports and resources for LBGTQ youth. With

Camp Eclipse: OUT in the Woods, our LBGTQ Youth Group, and "Making Queerness Visible" student workshop, Planned Parenthood is empowering youth to create positive change across Newfoundland and Labrador. Camp Eclipse, a leadership retreat for any youth interested in being a positive agent of change in their community, was successfully held last August. Youth from across Newfoundland and Nova Scotia learned about various queer issues, including the struggle for equal rights in Newfoundland over the past 40 years, transgenderism, how to be a support to others, and what they can do in their schools to create positive change.

Through conversations with youth during Camp, it became painfully obvious that there is still a lot of work to do before we can truly say that LBGTQ people, especially youth, in

this province enjoy the same positive life experiences as everyone else. This is especially true within the school system.

During a recent LBGTQ Youth Group event, youth shared and expressed their stories of bullying through art in the hopes that it would encourage people and politicians to take action. They feel that they should not have to wait for things to

get better. Section 4.0 of the Code of Conduct from the provincial government's Safe and Caring Schools Policy explicitly states that "It is expected that all members of the school community will promote safe, caring, and inclusive practices

by doing their best to... embrace the diversity of all peoples regardless of... gender, sexual orientation..." While having this policy in place is a positive step, the youth wanted to encourage concrete actions to enforce this policy. They should not have to wait for it get better. They need it to be better now.

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Correction

The October cover page implied that 2010 was the first year that Corner Brook, NL had a Gay Pride event. In fact, Corner Brook's first Pride was held in August 2009, which makes 2010 the second. There was a formal flag-raising, a parade and a night time event. Wayves apologizes for this error.

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December Deadline: Friday, Dec. 3 (first Friday of every month!)
submissions@wayves.ca.



Wayves Online: www.wayves.ca
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Atlantic News

“Howl” In St. John’s

The 2010 film about beat generation poet Alan Ginsberg’s 1955 poem, “Howl,” and the ensuing obscenity trial will run at the Avalon Mall (48 Kenmount Rd, St. John’s, NL) on December 9 as part of the MUN Cinema Series. The film was screened this year at the Atlantic Film Festival in Halifax.

See www.mun.ca/cinema for more information. The official movie site can be found at www.howlthemovie.com.

LGBT Elders Group

Are you finding club music too loud and too fast? Does it seem far too long since you saw old friends, or met new ones near your own age? You may be looking for a group like the LGBT Elders. The initiative behind this group comes from the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP), and the Group’s objective is to provide a social get-together for LGBT people aged 50-plus while at the same time giving the group information and support on subjects specifically related to LGBT Elder issues.

Mark the following dates: Sunday December 12, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Company House, 2202 Gottingen Street, Halifax. “LGBT Elders and Long-Term Care.” Long-term care was the hottest issue at the first NSRAP Elders gathering at the Company House back in the spring of this year. This meeting will allow NSRAP to update the community about our ongoing work with Northwood, and our plans to extend the project to other facilities. We are particularly interested in hearing from the community, both LGBT elders and care-givers, about your interactions with elder-care. In your experience,

what’s working—and what needs improving—in long-term care for the Nova Scotian elders you know and love? This is an all-ages event. Admission is free.

Friday December 10, 7:00 – 10:00 pm: Seasonal Party! Potluck event at the Sky Lounge, 2717 Gladstone Street. Admission \$2.00 to cover costs.

Sunday January 16, 2:00 – 5:00 pm at Spencer House. “Get rid of the blues” afternoon, with Elders Group members playing live music to lift your spirits. If you are an elder musician who would be willing to share your talents, please let us know.

Sunday February 20, 2:00 – 5:00 pm at Spencer House. Photo show-and-tell: bring a photo showing LGBT events or activities of the past. Of course a story to go with the photos will make it more interesting.

Sunday March 20, 2:00 – 5:00 pm at Spencer House. Details have not been finalized, but a discussion on taxes and personal finance has tentatively been suggested.

All events are potlucks, so get out your recipes. For Spencer House socials, finger foods (sandwiches, sweets, snacks, etc.) are preferred.

If you have any questions, concerns or transportation issues please contact Lynn Murphy at (902) 455-0193 or Nick Honig at (902) 880-6881.

Ryan McGrath House Concerts

Ryan MacGrath is looking forward to celebrating the holidays with you. He’d be happy to sing at a special event you may be hosting or perhaps

you would like to host a house concert featuring Ryan himself.

House concerts are so much fun!



Ryan come to your home and do a concert just for you. You invite whomever you wish, set up a space for the musician to play, the guests pay a certain amount (usually \$15 - \$20) and bring their own wine, and you provide snacks. It’s a great way to celebrate the holidays, without heading downtown and battling with parking and the hustle and bustle. Instead you have an amazing event at your home or office that people will talk about long after it’s over.

Ryan MacGrath is an exciting emerging talent who was recently featured on the cover of Halifax magazine and was Wayves January-February 2008 coverboy. Download that issue from the “Wayves Online” section at wayves.ca.

Safe Harbour Christmas Dinner

Safe Harbour MCC Halifax will host its annual “Rev. Darlene Young Memorial Christmas Dinner” on Saturday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Andrews United Church, 6036 Coburg Road. This long standing community event is free to all and Safe Harbour’s gift of joy, fellowship and celebration to the community. For further information or if you wish to contribute to this long standing community event, call (902) 453-9249.

Integrity Service

The next Integrity Eucharist, followed by refreshments and conversation, will be held on Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of All Saints located at 1330 Martello St, Halifax.

Bishop Sue Moxley will preside and preach. Integrity is a national organization of Anglican GLBT persons and their friends formed to encourage Christian GLBTs in their spiritual lives. Come who you are. Come as you are. Contact integritynspei@gmail.com locally, or visit www.integritycanada.org.

Truro NACS Open House

You are invited to the Northern AIDS Connection Society second annual open house. It will be held on Friday, December 10, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro. Come and enjoy and help us celebrate our past year! For more information write nacs@eastlink.ca or call (902) 895-0931.

Shauna MacLeod’s Growth

Shauna MacLeod would like to invite you to attend her solo exhibition, Growth, which will run from December 14 – 18 at the Anna Leonowens Gallery (Gallery 1), 1891 Granville St., Halifax. The reception will be held Monday, December 13, from

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

MacLeod is a ceramics major in her final year at NSCAD University and is excited to share with you this body of work. Though the subject matter is not specifically about gender or sexuality issues, the work is very personal and her identity as a lesbian is intertwined within. She has participated in many group shows within the university as well as exhibited with the Nova Scotia Potter’s Guild.

About the exhibition she writes, “My work tells a story of personal experience, it marks a moment in time. This story starts years ago with surgery to remove a large tumour in my body. The narrative evolves exploring the fearful discovery of a foreign mass, acknowledging the network of support from family and friends, expressing my vulnerability within the medical system, and finally to honouring the process of healing



from this event. I am using ceramics to question the relationship between aesthetics and function and even question the polarity between the beautiful and the grotesque.”

DalOUT

DalOUT is the award-winning LG-BTQ society at Dalhousie University. We pride ourselves on hosting a variety of fun, engaging and educational events for the members of the Halifax LGBTQ community.

On October 21, DalOUT held its fall 2010 Annual General Meeting. We were very grateful for the fantastic turnout and look forward to seeing more members of the community at our events throughout the year.

During the meeting several new members were elected to our executive. The results of the election are as

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Welcome Tony!

TONY C. AMOUD
A Lawyer for the community

Boyne Clarke is pleased to announce that Tony C. Amoud has joined us in the practice of law.

Tony received his Bachelor of Law from Dalhousie University and was called to the Bar in June 2010. Tony joins our Business Litigation Team.

tamoud@boyneclarke.ca

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SPIRIT Place

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pendent and active in our community longer. This will allow SPIRIT Place to provide the security of a support network for its residents.

The plans include outdoor green space and a rooftop terrace. They are also exploring a car share program. Amenities will include light house-keeping, security, fitness room, communal living rooms, bike storage and internal access to sanctuary spaces. Most of the apartments will be one bedroom units, some with dens and a small number of two bedroom units. Plans are to keep the rent below market value.

Creating Art

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Pictures of the art along with a description of the image will be sent to various departments of the provincial government. The pieces will also be submitted to the “Get Out: St. John’s” queer arts festival, being held

You do not need to be a member of St. John’s United Church to live at SPIRIT Place. Once the project is approved and underway, all applications will be administered through Saint Vincent’s Nursing Home. Plans including architectural drawings by Michael Napier Architects have been submitted to the Halifax Regional Municipality for approval and once approved demolition of the old church and construction of the new complex will begin.

To learn more or to get involved, please visit their website at www.SPIRITplace.ca.

February 26 and 27. Anyone wishing to learn more about any of Planned Parenthood’s “Making Queerness Visible” programs can contact Costa at (709) 579-1009 or visit nlsexual-healthcentre.org.