

# COMMUNIQUE

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## It's Time To Celebrate!

by Donald Weatherford, Director, Northern Lambda Nord

Hello there, folks! It seems as if it were just yesterday since I last spoke with you. Actually, it's been almost a month, and *what a month it's been!*

By the time you read this, WE WILL HAVE RIGHTS! Maine's Governor Angus King will have signed the equal rights bill into law, amending this state's Human Rights Act to include "sexual orientation" protection in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit. It's something that we should celebrate and be proud of – *we finally made it!* It was a struggle, but the battle has been won. On the down side, however, the war is still raging. Carolyn Cosby is rearming for the next battle, trying to get the state's voters to repeal the bill via a "people's veto" or through another referendum. The only way that we can maintain our new rights is to prepare for the next round. We cannot be caught unprepared. So let us hold our heads high with pride and celebrate this victory; but let us also not be unaware of the (possible) impending battle.

Another thing to celebrate: we have a club to go to where we can actually be ourselves. If you have not yet heard, the Wonder Bar in Madawaska is open to all every Saturday night. A great time can be had by all (I can vouch for that!). I encourage everyone to visit the Wonder Bar some Saturday night and show your support for the owner. He's taken a big step forward and is, indeed, getting some abuse for his forward thinking. Despite the abuse he's taken, though he's determined to keep the Wonder Bar open for us all. That takes courage. On the down side, though, it's great we have a bar to go to – but I must ask that WE NOT FORGET NLN. Lambda is here for you, (and has been for over 17 years), and we all need to show support for this organization. If it were not for all of you, Northern Lambda Nord would not exist. So I'm asking that we all continue to show our support by attending events, urging our friends to join, and giving our opinions

to the Board about what we want Lambda to be and to do (and what we don't want).

The Spring Bash & Karaoke Dance at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club May 10<sup>TH</sup> was a success, and I was glad to see so many of you there. Sheila did an excellent job setting up committees to make the Bash so much fun. A special Thank You to all who helped make it possible, preparing food, decorating, cleaning up afterwards, and – of course – attending.

Some of you may also be aware of the hoopla that NLN has caused by joining the Madawaska Chamber of Commerce. It was great to see Northern Lambda Nord on the front page of the *Bangor Daily News* (weekend edition, May 10-11, 1997). Whew! *Have we come a long way!* but we have a long way to go. Though some of the comments made by the members of the Madawaska Town Council and the Madawaska Chamber were disturbing, they can be overcome. I especially enjoyed the comments made about "us" infiltrating the schools. Ignorance is alive and well! By the by, this "infiltration" comment was *not* made by the council or chamber. The comments made by both those organizations that *did* concern me was "we can't discriminate," implying that if they had a choice, they would. But that will be dealt with in due time.

We have an IMPORTANT GENERAL MEETING for ALL members of Northern Lambda Nord Saturday the 31<sup>ST</sup> of May. The meeting will be followed by a pot luck supper and then a night out at the Wonder Bar. So if you have any comments, concerns, complaints, suggestions, (and we know *everyone* has an opinion) about anything that Lambda is doing – or is not doing – here's the opportunity; check your calendar and make it a point to be there. I would love to hear from you all.

Until next time,

/s/ D. ▼



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# Our calendar is full!

by Sheila Everett, Social Director

Hey, y'all! It's May already, and socially we have been busy and hope to continue having fun this summer. Here's a brief summary of what we "Lambs" have been doing: In January, NLN marked our 17<sup>TH</sup> anniversary with a dinner party at the Old Iron Inn in Caribou, and had a snowshoeing "winter fun day" in New Sweden. We had our own table at the Augusta Civic Center for the annual Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance awards banquet and dance in February. Then, for the first time, we rented the Caribou VFW Hall for our Valentine's Dance. We also had a second snowshoeing "winter fun day" at a different New Sweden location. March was the St. Patrick's Dance in Van Buren, and many of us attended and supported the important Artists for AIDS Awareness benefit dinner/art auction at the Caribou Inn. March also saw a men's night in Presque Isle and a women's night in St-Léonard. The first Saturday of April saw us officially usher in Spring at our annual Spring

Barbecue (though we *did* have to shovel some snow to make way for the grill!) After the BBQ we attended opening night at the Wonder Bar in Madawaska. April was also a busy month for our fundraising efforts; we participated in our 4<sup>TH</sup> Community Day at the Aroostook Centre Mall in Presque Isle, where we raffled a 27" color TV, made possible by the generous donation of Stu Libby of Rentown in Presque Isle. We sold over 600 one-dollar tickets (over 300 just at the mall), so we raised over two months' rent for our Community Center. Another April event saw many NLN members at the "Volunteers' Lunch & Ice Cream Social" to recognize those caring people who help with the HIV/AIDS Prevention Project at our Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber, for members of the Artists for AIDS Awareness committee, and others who are helping to battle homophobia and AIDSphobia and to educate people in Aroostook County about AIDS prevention.

The month of May began with our annual Spring Bash at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club (great time!), and we'll end the month with our annual General Membership Meeting and pot luck supper. **I encourage everyone to come to the meeting and bring a dish to share.**

June will start off on a sad note: we're having a going away party for Pat & Mike, who've decided to move to Massachusetts. This will be a barbecue, bonfire and barn dance at their home in Mapleton. Later in June, celebrations take place in Portland for the Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium XXIII at Southern Maine Technical College in South Portland (on the ocean), followed by Southern Maine Pride in Portland, a back-to-back week full of events.

We've tentatively set a "Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgendered Pride" barbecue and games in Fort Fairfield for mid-July. Then as summer moves along, we'll have our annual days at Long Lake, first a weekend on the Van Buren side, then a Saturday on the Sinclair side, both offering swimming, barbecues, and relaxing fun, plus a tentative barn dance at the Sinclair party.

I'm ready to plan our September-October calendar, and I'd like some help. Your ideas and suggestions are encouraged. We'll have our annual membership drive dance in early October; *where would you like us to have it, folks?* The cost of rental halls is going up every time we have a special event, so individual and group sponsorships (underwriting partial or the total cost of the rent) sure helps!

If you'd like to see something added to the calendar, please call me at 506.423-6665.

Happiness, health and love every day is my wish for my Family. Special thanks to all who have helped as hosts, preparing and supplying food, door prizes, music, decorating, raffle ticket sales, and attending & supporting NLN's events.

Yours in reclaiming Pride,

/s/ Sheila ▼

## NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, INC.

POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA ▼ CP 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA  
Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center Centre communautaire des gays & lesbiennes  
398 Main Street (mail: POB 990) 398, rue Principale (postes: CP 990)  
Caribou, Maine USA Caribou, Maine USA  
Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber 207.498-2088 Télégai 207.498-2088  
toll-free within Maine 800.468-2088 sans frais de l'intérieur du Maine 800.468-2088  
e-mail: nlambdan@agate.net e-mail: nlambdan@agate.net

OUR MISSION is to advance the interests and well-being of the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered community of the Upper Saint John River Valley of New Brunswick and Aroostook County, Maine.

NOTRE MISSION: Développer les intérêts et le bien-être de la communauté des gays, lesbiennes, bisexuelles et transgenres de la vallée de la haute St-Jean au Nouveau-Brunswick et de la comté Aroostook au Maine.

### STEERING COMMITTEE ▼ COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF

<u>Director/directeur</u>	<u>Social Director/directrice des activités sociales</u>
Donald Weatherford, Limestone, Maine	Sheila Everett, St-Léonard, New Brunswick
<u>Treasurer/trésorier</u>	<u>Librarian/bibliothécaire</u>
Phil Bushey, New Sweden, Maine	Chris Levasseur, Van Buren, Maine
<u>Secretary/secrétaire</u>	<u>Phonenumber coordinator/coordonateur du téléphone</u>
Diana Campbell, Limestone, Maine	Debra Madore, Presque Isle, Maine
<u>Members-at-Large/membres en liberté</u>	<u>Newsletter editor/rédacteur du bulletin</u>
Walter Fournier, Sinclair, Maine	Dick Harrison, New Sweden, Maine
Wayne Morrow, Van Buren, Maine	
John Nelson, Fort Fairfield, Maine	

## COMMUNIQUÉ

CommuniQué publié six fois par année par Northern Lambda Nord, une organisation pour la communauté gaie-lesbienne-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska, Victoria, Carleton et Aroostook). *Abonnement*, 15\$ par année. *Adhésion NLN*, 25\$ par année (fonds E-U), dans lequel inclus l'abonnement. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peuvent être organisés. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif; toutes donations sont taxe deductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le *CommuniQué* sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenues.

## COMMUNIQUÉ

CommuniQué is published six times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the gay-lesbian-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook, Madawaska, Victoria and Carleton counties). *Subscriptions*, \$15 per year. *NLN Membership*, \$25 per year (U.S. funds), which includes a subscription. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax deductible. Advertising rates in *CommuniQué* are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.



## You Can Earn \$10 Per Hour!

If you care about stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS, you may be one of five men who are chosen to help with this special project and earn some money at the same time. Call Donald, 207/325-3413 or the Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber, 207/498-2088 or 800/468-2088 and leave a message. ▼

## NLN's Chamber Membership Causes Stir in Madawaska

by Dick Harrison, editor

Northern Lambda Nord is supporting local Chambers of Commerce with our membership. In February, we joined the Caribou Chamber of Commerce – a membership plaque hangs at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center – and a short article about NLN appeared in the Chamber's April-May newsletter. At our April Board meeting, money was approved for membership in the Greater Madawaska Chamber of Commerce. The Madawaska Chamber newsletter mentioned Lambda in their "welcome new members" section but – unlike the Caribou Chamber's newsletter which had no problem with the English language – Madawaska failed to use



This sign on Caribou's High Street was up for one week during April, celebrating NLN's new membership in the Caribou Chamber of Commerce. (photo: S.Everett)

the dangerous, demonizing and deadly "G" and "L" words. Despite this, people knew what kind of group NLN was. (Ironically, since one of the topics of discussion at our annual General Meeting will be how to get the word out that Lambda is here!) Well, the Chamber received phone calls, reportedly from non-Chamber members, attacking the Chamber for accepting Lambda's

membership and even personally attacking Jason Parent, the Executive Director of the Madawaska Chamber. This was coupled with complaints to town officials about the Wonder Bar's weekly gay dances. A front page story in the *St. John Valley Times* (Wednesday, May 14, 1997) discussed both the Chamber incident and the uproar about the Wonder Bar. All of this took place in the media the very same week that the Maine Legislature passed the "gay rights" bill!

At Northern Lambda Nord's May 8<sup>TH</sup> Board meeting, we

approved an expenditure of \$50 to join the Fort Fairfield Chamber of Commerce. Stay tuned for more news in the continuing saga of, "Will the homophobes rule at our area Chambers of Commerce, or will truth and justice prevail?!" Film at 11. ▼

*The following poem expresses my thoughts about an NLN pot luck supper I attended in March, 1995. It had a profound effect on me. Not only was it my first "coming out" event, but it was where I met my partner for life. I was really touched by the warmth and friendliness given to me. I felt like I had inherited a family. Thank you all for helping to make my coming out so much easier.*

The Portal Beckons to me  
Through the darkness  
like a beacon in the night  
Stepping through, I am transported  
Another world awaits me  
I look at the sea of faces  
warm eyes  
trusting  
understanding  
exchanging silent conversations  
Old friends are new friends  
warm embraces abound  
never before found  
gathering at this feast  
we are at peace  
opening our hearts  
we let our spirits flow  
I am home at last.

Beth Wyman ▼

## Edmundston area

Feel like talking or need some support? I am a social worker interested in listening. I would also be interested in starting a group for persons living with HIV/AIDS or a group for people who have a family member living with HIV/AIDS. If you are interested, you can contact me Monday through Friday between noon and 7pm (N-B time) at 506.263-5657.

/s/ Mariette Bossé-Philibert ▼

## "Camp" Camp

"Camp" Camp is North America's first organized week-long summer camp to celebrate the homosexual experience, designed to be a respite from a world that, despite great strides, can still be





homophobic, says founder and director Bill Cole. Camp Camp is in Kezar Falls, Maine (due west of Portland, near the New Hampshire line) from August 24-30. There will be both individual and group activities including aerobics, canoeing, dancing, hiking, biking, music, painting, sailing, swimming, theatre, volleyball, yoga, meditation, and discussion groups, all lead by trained counselors. For more information, contact Bill Cole, 21 Palmer Square East, Princeton NJ 08542; toll free at 888.924-8380; fax 609.683-1795; send e-mail to [billcole@worldnet.att.net](mailto:billcole@worldnet.att.net); or visit the website, [www.campcamp.com](http://www.campcamp.com) ▼

## How did your representative vote on the "gay rights" bill?

The Maine House voted 82 yes, 62 no and 7 absent when asked whether they wanted to include "sexual orientation" in the Maine Human Rights Act, granting legal protection from discrimination in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations to anyone in Maine, whether heterosexual, homosexual, bisex-

ual or transexual. The Senate voted 25 yes, 5 no, 5 absent and 1 excused on the same question. Here is a list of the Aroostook County delegation; you may want to call them and tell them what you think about their votes:

### • IN THE SENATE:

District 1 - Judy Paradis **YES!** 728-4854

District 2 - Leo Kieffer **Excused** (*recovering from surgery, but said on the radio after the bill passed that "my position on this is that it's really not an equal rights bill but a special rights bill"; they "voluntarily choose a different type of lifestyle"*) 493-3190

District 3 - Michael Michaud **No!** 746-9069

### • IN THE HOUSE: they all voted **NO!**

141 - Henry Joy, Island Falls 463-2507

142 - Dean Cluke, Houlton 532-6363

143 - Edgar Wheeler, Bridgewater 429-9108

144 - Richard Kneeland, Easton 488-5311

145 - Jim Donnelly, Presque Isle 764-0276

146 - Mabel Desmond, Mapleton 764-1011

147 - Irvin Belanger was **ABSENT!**

Caribou 496-2821

148 - Gary O'Neal, Limestone 325-4831

149 - Rosaire Sirois, Caribou 498-6750

150 - Douglas Ahearn, Madawaska 728-6030

151 - Duane Belanger, Wallagrass 834-2246 ▼

## Regional GUIDE Régionale

**Fredericton Lesbians & Gays (FLAG)** POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6:30-8:30pm), e-mail: [u5mc@unb.ca](mailto:u5mc@unb.ca) or website: <http://www.unb.ca/web/gala>

**Gais.es. Nor Gays (GNG)** CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8, 506.783-7440, e-mail: [andre@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:andre@nbnet.nb.ca)

**Maine Bisexual People's Network** POB 10818, Portland 04104

**AIDS New Brunswick** 65 Brunswick St., Fredericton 800.561-4009 or 506.459-7518

**HIV & AIDS Awareness & Prevention Project**, Caribou 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 Mon, Wed, Fri 7-9pm

**AIDSLine/Maine** 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm

**Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force** POB 47049, Halifax B3K 2B0, 800.565-4255, 902.492-4255

**Eastern Maine AIDS Network** POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-EMAN

**Health 1st** anonymous HIV tests (northern Maine) 800.432-7881

**SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick** 65 rue Brunswick, Fredericton 800.561-4009 ou 506.459-7518

**Community Pride Reporter** newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine, published monthly, POB 178, Saco ME 04072, 207.282-4311, fax 207.282-4551 e-mail: [cprpride@ime.net](mailto:cprpride@ime.net)

**Fruit Cocktail** radio program, 7pm Mondays on CHSR 97.9fm Fredericton, 506.453-4985

**Wayves** serving Atlantic Canada, 10 issues per year, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax NS B3J 3S1, 902.423-6999 e-mail: [wayves@fox.nstn.ca](mailto:wayves@fox.nstn.ca) or website: <http://www.cglbrd.com/accounts/wayves>

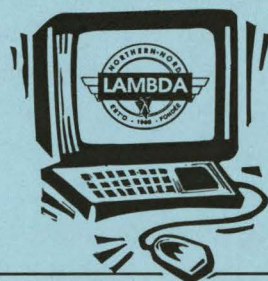
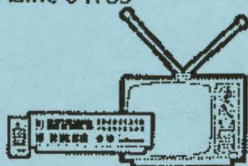
**Maine Gay Network** - <http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/usa/maine/gaynet.html> ▼

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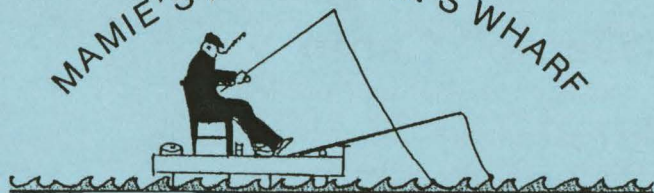
**Wayne Morrow**  
Technician



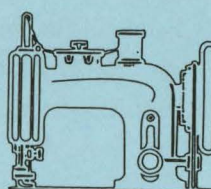
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