
Northern Lambda Nord Communique

Periodicals

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Northern Lambda Nord

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Northern Lambda Nord

Communique

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207/896-5888

Volume V: numéro 7

août/septembre 1984

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August/September 1984

It's been a busy summer, and not just here in Lambda-land.

The murder of Charlie Howard took place the first week of July. He was queerbashed and thrown off a bridge in downtown Bangor, allegedly by three teenage youths. He was attacked because he was gay. His death could have happened to any of us. Hopefully, his passing will not be in vain. His death has already served as a catalyst for action by the lesbians, gays, and our friends in Bangor (where 200 marched in protest and grief) and in Portland (where 500 marched). Coalitions have been organized in those two downstate cities as well as in Lewiston and soon in Augusta. Governor Brennan has given verbal support to a limited rights bill (includes housing and credit -- but not jobs and public accommodations). I hope Charlie's death will serve some purpose, but it is up to the rest of us. We are all potential victims of attack. Our active participation in "the movement" will change things. ▽

▼ ANOTHER FUND-RAISER FOR MPBN RADIO

Eight representatives of Maine's gay-lesbian community helped Maine Public Broadcasting Network's radio stations staff their phonelines during their July 28 fundraising. Six Lambs plus two of our Bangor friends volunteered their time to help public radio. However, public radio did not reciprocate in kind.

A gift of a one-year subscription to *Our Paper: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine* was offered by the eight to anyone pledging \$30 or more. MPBN announcers refused to read the complete title of the newspaper, omitting the defining aspect, the subject of *Our Paper*. When questioned, MPBN decided not to accept our donation at all. When our donation was changed (offering \$10 to MPBN if any member of the Bangor Lesbian-Gay-Straight Coalition joined MPBN Radio), they refused to accept it. After a brief meeting, the Lambs decided to notify MPBN of our regret at their action, since we could no longer help them until they decided upon what they called a policy regarding "special interest groups." We await their response and a copy of their "policy". Let's hope they drop their apparent homophobic attitude and accept our money as quickly as they accepted our donation of time (52 hours during the last 2 fundraisers).

▼ A GOING AWAY AND THANK YOU PARTY

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Sunday, August 19 saw 16 Lambs gather to honor Ben, our grant-writer, botanist-in-residence, and artist, for his efforts on behalf of us all in preparing our successful grant application. Over the clicking of chopsticks at the Jade Palace Restaurant in Caribou, we chatted, joked, and had a gay ol' time. Ben will be leaving us, only temporarily, fortunately, for a one-year teaching position at the University of Maine at Orono. We all wish him our best and say "hurry home!" ▼

▼ EXECUTIVE CHOSEN IN JUNE

On Sunday, June 24, the general membership gathered near Woodstock to choose the Executive members. They are: Ben (from Frenchville), Dale (Limestone), Tim (Houlton), Phil (New Sweden), Hank (Fredericton), and Dick (New Sweden). As usual, they're from all over the area and both sides of the border. Their terms expire in January, 1985. ▼

▼ MEMBERS MEET WITH AMHC STAFF

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It appears that NLN has developed a speakers bureau of sorts. Over the past two months, anywhere from two to four Lambs have met with the clinical staffs at each of the four Aroostook Mental Health Centers in Madawaska, Caribou, Presque Isle, and Houlton. As a result, we've developed a good rapport with the directors and clinical workers. Now they know what NLN is and isn't (not a dating/sex service but a support/social group). We're lining up any Lambs in the north, central, and southern parts of Aroostook County who will be local contactswith AMHC. Here's how it would work. A gay woman or man who's been seeing a counselor at AMHC decides s/he is ready to come out a bit more and wants to meet other gay people. The AMHC counselor will have the Lambda member's phone number and call you, arranging a time when you can meet with the client at the AMHC office or other agreed-upon location. The client will not be given your phone. You'd meet and talk with the person, giving them some written and oral information about the group. If you're willing to help other gays and lesbians in this manner and would like to be included on the list, contact one of the Executive members. ▼

▼ MORE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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Two more dates are set for Lambda people to speak with others about gay people and the group. The Student Life Office at the University of Maine/Presque Isle phoned our Gay Phonenumber to request speakers to address their orientation of Resident Assistants (RAs). They want us to talk to them about the needs of gay people and NLN specifically. This will be Friday, August 31. The RAs live in

the dorms and act as peer counselors and advisors. It's good to know that UMPI's Student Life people are beginning to address the needs of the lesbians and gaymen on their campus.

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Friday, September 21 is the date for another presentation, this time at the meeting of the Gay People's Alliance at the University of Maine/Portland campus. Anyone wishing to attend and talk to the Portland people about what happens in potatoland, get in touch with the Executive. ▽

▼ UNITED CHURCH TO GAY PEOPLE: SORRY, WE'RE NOT READY YET

The United Church of Canada voted to reject a recommendation to accept openly gay and lesbian clergy in their church. At their meeting in the Prairies, they decided they were not ready yet to acknowledge those ministers in their church who were gay, to allow them to be open about their sexuality. Undoubtedly, the issue will not go away and will be reconsidered in the future. ▽

▼ LESBIAN DEMOCRATIC DELEGATE TALKS WITH LAMBS

Another local August event was the visit to Aroostook by Dale McCormick, openly gay delegate to the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco in July. She talked with us about her experiences at the convention, some of the behind-the-scenes happenings, and left us duly impressed by her enthusiasm and drive for acceptance and inclusion of lesbian and gay people in the political process in the U.S. If you missed her visit, you certainly missed a wonderfully informative, though sometimes loud and argumentative, evening. ▽

ADOT/SEPT 84

▼ THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM INCLUDES US!

The following is the text of the Democratic Party's platform plank with deals with lesbians and gaymen:

We reaffirm the dignity of all people and the right of each individual to have equal access to and participation in the institutions and services of our society. All groups must be protected from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, language, age, sex, or sexual orientation. We will assure that sexual orientation per se does not serve as a bar to participation in the military. We will support an enhanced effort to learn the cause and cure of AIDS, and to provide treatment for persons with AIDS. And we will ensure that foreign citizens are not excluded from this country solely on the basis of their sexual orientation...Violent acts of bigotry, hatred and extremism aimed at women, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, and gay men and lesbians have become an alarmingly common phenomenon. A Democratic administration will work vigorously to address, document and end all such violence.

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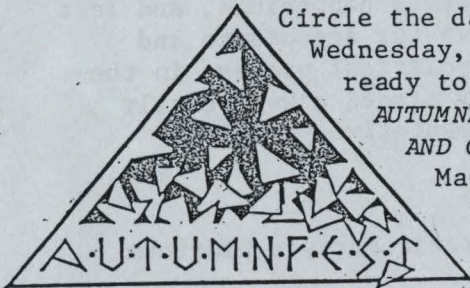
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As an individual (not as a representative or spokesperson for NLN), I would urge ALL U.S. citizens reading this newsletter to make sure you are registered to vote and support the Democratic candidates in your district, from state representatives in Augusta right up to the White House. For the record, both the Maine State Democratic Party as well as the National Democratic Party support "gay rights" in their party platforms. The Republicans cannot say the same. A rights bill has a better chance of passage in Maine with a majority of Democrats in the state legislature; we can hope for better treatment nationally with Ronald Raygun out of the White House and the Democrats in. -- "The liberation of homosexuals can only be the work of homosexuals themselves." -Kurt Hiller, 1921. A gay-lesbian rights plank exists in the Democratic platform because of people like Dale McCormick. We can help to continue her hard work by voting for Democrats. --Dick H. ▽

▽ Anyone with opposing or supporting views is welcome to contribute an article to this newsletter for the October issue. Submissions must be sent to the Lambda POB no later than October 1 for inclusion in that issue. ▽

AUG/SEPT 84

▽ AUTUMNFEST - A CELEBRATION IN PORTLAND



Circle the dates Thursday, September 13 through Wednesday, September 19 on your calendar, get ready to travel south, and plan on joining in AUTUMNFEST: MAINE'S CELEBRATION OF LESBIAN AND GAY LIFE. Sponsored by the Harbor Masters and the Gay People's Alliance of the University of Maine/Portland campus, this should prove to become an annual event. Here's the schedule:

▽ Thursday, September 13 - Lesbian/Gay Art Show opening, wine and cheese reception, at Portland School of Art auditorium, Congress Street, 7:30-10:30 pm, \$2 donation.

▽ Friday, September 14 - Lesbian/Gay Art Show (continues - closes at 8 pm)

Pat Califia, lesbian, feminist, & sexuality writer, discusses "Why sex has become a four-letter word in the gay and lesbian community", at 8 pm, free. Location (? - Portland Art Auditorium?)

▽ Saturday, September 15 - Workshops at University of Southern Maine, on the Portland campus, all free:

10am-2pm -- "Coming out as a professional", Barry Wood, M.D.

"Gays in the Military", Diane Matthews

"Lesbian S&M", Pat Califia and her lover, Jo

"Gays and the media", Mark Johnston, editor of *Bay Windows*

"Gay Parenting", Frank Brooks

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UNDERSTANDING THE LEGAL PROCESSES UNFOLDING AT BANGOR DISTRICT COURT

Richard Steinman

Upwards of 40 lesbians, gay men and non-gay Coalition members are observing this summer's hearings concerning the murder of Charlie Howard. Subjective observations of the pre-trial hearings are being published in Our Paper. Here I want to clarify the legal functions that are unfolding.

On July 31st plans were laid for a show-cause hearing to determine whether the 3 accused juveniles should be tried as adults. That hearing is taking place in 2 parts - on August 20th and on September 14-15. Part I focussed on whether or not, in the eyes of the law, a juvenile crime had been committed on the evening of July 7th. After 3 1/2 hours of testimony, Judge David Cox ruled that it had. Part II will focus on those who committed the juvenile crime. According to Maine law, before a juvenile may be bound over to be tried as an adult in Superior Court, 3 legal tests must be satisfied. In 3 separate hearings those tests will be applied to each juvenile on Sept. 14th (carrying over, if necessary, onto Saturday, the 15th). As a result of those hearings, one, two or all three of the juveniles will be:

1. tried as adults for murder, or
2. tried as adults for criminal negligence, or
3. tried as adults for manslaughter, or

if Judge Cox concludes that the three tests specified by the law have not been satisfied,

4. tried as juveniles.

The purpose of the three separate hearings is to view each juvenile as an individual - from the standpoints of his history, his character and his role in the crime. So it could be that one or two may be tried as adults, and another as a juvenile. Or it could be that all will be tried as adults, or none of them.

In the opinion of an attorney whom I have consulted, it will not be possible for the prosecution to appeal Judge Cox's decision to a higher court should he rule against their being tried as adults.

Try to place yourself in the place of Roy Ogden, a young man from a rural background who left school in the 9th grade. Roy is the pivotal figure in these judicial proceedings (as witness the fact that, prior to Aug. 20th's hearing, his life was threatened in writing should he testify, and - after he did so - while seated in the Court's waiting room, a young adult male spectator with a powerful build said to him, "You're dead, faggot." With the assistance of Coalition members gathered around, Roy has reported these threats to the authorities.

Roy is the only person to testify that, before being thrown to his death, Charlie Howard cried out to his attackers that he could not swim. This testimony is immensely important in helping to establish the intent and viciousness of the crime, one of the three legal tests which must be satisfied in order for an adult trial to take place. The defense have already begun their efforts to discredit Roy's testimony. In the opinion of some members of the Coalitions, including myself, it is urgent that Roy receive the assistance of an attorney of his own - known as a witness advocate - separate and distinct from the prosecutor.

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2-4pm:—Book signings at OUR BOOKS, 4 Pine Street:

Dale McCormick, author of *Against the Grain: A Women's Carpentry Manual*

John Preston, author of *Franny, Queen of Provincetown; Mr. Benson; Sweet Dreams; and I Once Had a Master*

Eric Rofes, author of *I Thought People Like That Killed Themselves: Lesbians, Gay Men and Suicide*

Pat Califia, author of *Sapphistry: The Book of Lesbian Sexuality* and co-editor of *Coming to Power: Writings and Graphics on Lesbian S/M*

7-10pm -- Benefit Supper, sponsored by Harbor Masters: proceeds go to anti-gay-lesbian violence project of the National Gay Task Force (dedicated to Chs. Howard) Eric Rofes will moderate the evening - tickets, \$17.50 - at the Ramada Inn, Portland

▽ Sunday, September 16 - Gay workshop service at 10 am, First Parish Unitarian Church, Congress Street

noon-5pm: -- Street Fair and Flea Market, sponsored by Harbor Masters. This is their second annual fair/market, at the Univ. of So. Maine campus, Bedford Street (indoors in case of inclement weather). NLN has rented table space for a display. Profits go to Maine Health Foundation's AIDS research.

▽ Monday, September 17 - Lecture/discussion by John Soltenberg, radical feminist writer, at USM Science Building, Room 165 (auditorium), free admission, at 8 pm.

▽ Tuesday, September 18 - evening voter registration drives at Portland bars: Underground, Cycles, and Spring Street Gym

▽ Wednesday, September 19 - Speech by Virginia Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, at the USM Gym, free, at 7:30 pm. Her second appearance this year in Portland.

Several other events may be happening during Autumnfest:

- * gay/lesbian films , * the "Nunnettes" (use your imagination)
- * OUR PAPER-sponsored dance * reception for Ginny Apuzzo ▽

▽ NEWS ABOUT AIDS

According to the September '84 issue of *The Body Politic* (Toronto), New Brunswick has become the fourth province to make AIDS a notifiable disease, requiring all cases to be reported to health authorities. Other provinces that have taken a similar step are Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta. As of July 26, there were no recorded cases of AIDS in New Brunswick. The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa has recorded 105 adult cases of AIDS in Canada. Of these, 67 (64%) are "non-heterosexual" men (phrase used by *TBP* article. Can we assume that

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that means gay? - ed.) Thirty-six of these 67 men have died. In Nova Scotia, two cases have been reported, one a non-heterosexual man; both men are living. Newfoundland reports one AIDS case, a heterosexual, still living. Quebec has 49 cases, 20 gay, 11 dead. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta report 5,479 cases of AIDS as of August 6. Forty-five percent of these cases (2483) have died. To this editor's knowledge, there have been no reported cases of AIDS in Maine.

Northern Lambda Nord has ordered two updated information brochures concerning AIDS and our health. The first is a new edition of *Can We Talk?*, a brochure published by the AIDS Education and Information Committee of the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club of San Francisco. (Printing costs were provided by a grant from the Chicago Resource Center!) The second brochure is from the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), entitled *Gay Men and AIDS: Some Suggestions for Risk Reduction*. Copies of both pamphlets will be sent to all Lambda members sometime during the next few months.

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AIDS is no longer front page news but just because we don't read about it doesn't mean it's gone away. In the last six months the number of cases of AIDS in Canada has doubled. There is no end in sight. There is still no cure. There is still no definite test for infection. We are all still at risk, men more so than women, but we are all affected. Our best defense is to educate ourselves on risk reduction. When you receive these pamphlets, please take the time to read them. ▽

▼ Gay Phonenumber

Most everyone is aware of our Gay Phonenumber's location. Some local homophobes are also aware and periodically drive by and yell such complimentary epithets as "fuckin' faggots". The U.S. flag on the front porch was recently stolen*and some people drove through the yard repeatedly at 3 am on a Sunday morning.

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Now that the grant money is ours and we can advertise the existence of the group and the Phonenumber in area newspapers, it's felt that each ad, any publicity, may target the Phonenumber location. Small towns are known for small talk. Disconnecting the Phonenumber altogether has been discussed. But during the past month, the Phonenumber has given four people contact with the group, two of whom have joined Lambda. I feel (and I live at the phone location) that the Phonenumber is the best way to reach people -- they can call and talk anonymously whereas they would rarely take the time to write a letter to our POBox. I think the problem is that with a New Sweden exchange, the Phonenumber house is too easily identified. With a Caribou or Presque Isle exchange, the Phonenumber could be "buried" anywhere in one of those two towns, plus it would expand its local incoming calling area. (The Phonenumber address is not printed in the phonebook.)

It's with this in mind that a search has begun to find a very small space to rent (5' x 8' is more than enough) in which to put the phone, a phonebook, chair, answering machine, paper and pen. The search is on in Caribou (1st choice) and Presque Isle (2nd choice). If you know of someplace not much bigger than a closet (!) or even the size of a phonebooth, let the Executive know. The space would need to be rented, so it must be CHEAP!!! It would only be used for 2 hours each Wednesday evening to answer the phone, plus the answering machine would be checked once per day for messages. Keep your eyes and ears open! If we can find one in the next few weeks, the phone can be moved and the new phone number will be in the new phonebooks, whose deadline for publication is October 1st.

* As of August 28, the second flag was stolen from the front of the house. It has been replaced by a third. Boy, those 3x5' flags can get expensive! How DARE these homophobes deny anyone the right to fly a flag! ▽



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ACLU Handbooks



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HLN COMMUNIQUE



▼ DID YOU KNOW that Geraldine Ferraro's first scheduled appearance after her nomination as the Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate in July in San Francisco was at a dinner sponsored by the Queens, New York Lesbian-Gay Democratic Club? She was very warmly received.

SSSS

▼ COPIES OF OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine are available free of charge to NLN members each month. They used to send us 50 per month but most of them were left sitting in the Lambda office. From now on, we will receive only 10 copies per month; we are paying for them now. If you'd like one, they usually arrive during the first week of each month. Better yet, get your own subscription. It's only \$10 for 12 monthly issues -- the best source of Maine news, and it comes in a plain brown wrapper. OUR PAPER, POB 10744, Portland 04104.

SSSS

▼ LAGO/SAINT JOHN is sponsoring a "Mr. Gay New Brunswick" contest on Saturday, September 15 at the Union Hall, Tower Street. Competition is open to all male residents of the province. Competition will be in formal and casual wear and swim suit. Cash prizes, a trophy, and a "free hairstyle" will be awarded. You must be 19 to enter. Registration fee is \$10. If you'd like to enter, send your name, address, telephone and age to Contest Registrar, LAGO/SJ Inc., POB 6494, Station A, Saint John, E2L 4R9. Everyone is invited to attend. Their press release did not mention an admission fee. Questions? - 506/642-6108.

SSSS

▼ WINTER CARNIVAL UP-DATE: We've still no word from the attorney in Machias (they couldn't line one up in Aroostook). This MCLU cooperating attorney requested copies of the Caribou Winter Carnival booklets in which our advertisement DID appear (1983) and did NOT ('84). Copies of any written refusals of newspaper advertisements were also requested. We had none, so we placed ads in all six County weeklies: Caribou, Presque Isle, Houlton, Limestone (owned by Northeast Publishing which is owned by the Bangor Daily News), plus the Fort Fairfield paper (privately owned but printed by Northeast) and the Saint John Valley Times in Madawaska. Much to our surprise, the four Northeast papers published the ad (they had previously refused us -- consistently) and the Fort Fairfield paper printed the ad as well. But the Valley paper sent back the ad with no explanation. So the ad was resubmitted to Valley with a letter requesting why they had sent back the ad and the money. The ad still did not appear. A third letter, addressed to Joel Voisine, the General Manager at the

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Valley Times, requested an explanation, the courtesy of a reply, and that the ad be published. We now wait for a reply and hopefully for the ad to appear. (This last "brief" was not so brief, eh?)

\$\$\$

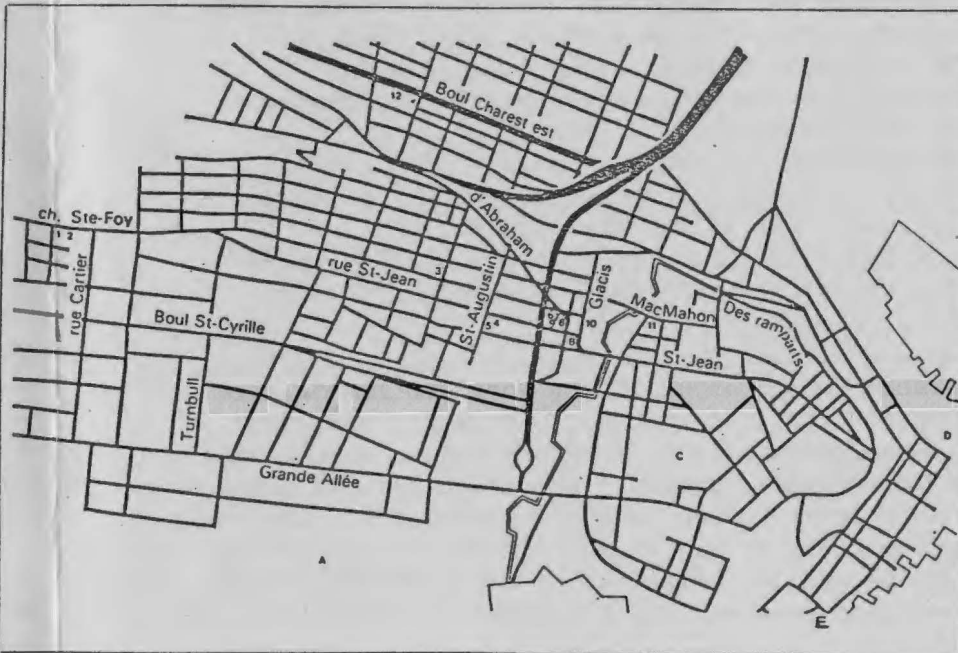
▽ THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS endorsed a resolution recommending that "all levels of government adopt legal protections for the rights of gay and lesbian Americans" at their annual meeting June 19 in Philadelphia. The resolution addressed discrimination in employment, housing, and the criminal and civil justice systems, as well as government policies excluding gays and lesbians from military service and immigrating to the United States.

\$\$\$

▽ JUST ONE MORE QUICKIE - You've probably noticed a different "look" in this issue of *Communiqué*. That's because rather than being reproduced on our mimeograph machine it's been photocopied on our NEW photocopier (thanks to our \$7500 grant from Chicago Resource people)! ♡

A00T/SEPT 89
ALN
COMMUNIQUE

LE GAI QUÉBEC



1. LE BAIN SAUNA (165 Chemin Ste-Foy)
2. Studio 157 (Vénus et Chez Garbo) 157 Chemin Ste-Foy
3. TAVERNE MALETTE (681 d'Aiguillon)
4. LE BALLON ROUGE ET L'INTRIGUE (811 St-Jean)
5. TAVERNE LE DRAGUE 1815 St-Augustin
6. TAVERNE SELECT ET BAR SELECTION (925 d'Aiguillon)
7. LE PUB DU CARRE (945 d'Aiguillon)
8. RESTAURANT LE NOCTILUQUE (780 Place d'Youville)
9. LE BAIN SAUNA (920 St-Jean)
10. Le Shoelack (787 des Glacis)
11. SAUNA L'HIPPOCAMPE (31 Mac-Mahon)

- A. Plaines d'Abraham
- B. Carré d'Youville
- C. Vieux Québec (à l'intérieur des murs)
- D. Le Vieux Port
- E. Traversier Québec-Lévis et quai du Louis-Joliet (croisière)

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LESBIAN-GAY Guide LESBIENNE-GAI

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- ▼ FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta. A., E3B 5G2; FLAGline - 506/457-2156, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8-10 pm.
- ▼ ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine; meets Sundays, 7 pm, Peabody Lounge, 3rd floor, Memorial Union.
- ▼ SAINT JOHN: LAGO-SJ, POB 6494, Sta. A., E2L 4R9
- ▼ MONCTON: GIM (Gais et lesbiennes de Moncton), CP 7102, Riverview, E1B 1V0
- ▼ HALIFAX: GAE (Gay Alliance for Equality), Box 3611, So. Postal Sta., B3J 3K6; 902/429-6969, M,T,W, 7-9 pm & Th, F, Sat, 7-10 pm.
- ▼ NEWFOUNDLAND: GAIN, Box 1364, Sta. C., St. John's, A1C 5N5
- ▼ WEBWORK: women's correspondence club, New England & Maritimes - Box 131-N, Calais, Maine 04619
- ▼ MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS: POB 125, Belfast 04915
- ▼ OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine - monthly newspaper, \$10 per year - POB 10744, Portland 04104
- ▼ NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK: NIN, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 - Télégai/Gay Phonenumber: 207/896-5888, Wed/mer, 7-9pm (Eastern time/heure de l'est)

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