



**SOUTHWEST
NOVA PRIDE
ASSOCIATION**

EST.
2022



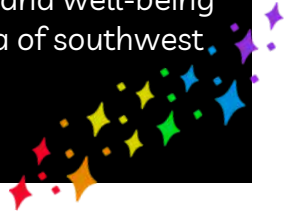
2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT US

Southwest Nova Pride Association is a non-profit founded to advocate on behalf of and to support the needs of people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions (2SLGBTQIA+), and of the people in their lives, to help improve the social, mental, and physical health and well-being of such people within the Tri-Counties (Yarmouth, Digby, and Shelburne Counties) area of southwest Nova Scotia.

Our values are education, diversity, inclusivity and community.



2023/2024 BOARD



Alden Mathieu
CHAIR



Mason Robichaud
VICE CHAIR



Doug Temple
TREASURER



Maia Mathieu
SECRETARY



Finn Darrow
BOARD MEMBER



Peter Hansen
BOARD MEMBER



Lynette Hayward-Byrd
BOARD MEMBER



Shelley Nickerson
BOARD MEMBER



Jaden Silva
BOARD MEMBER

CHAIR'S REPORT

ALDEN MATHIEU (HE/THEY)



Friends, members, allies, and sponsors,

It has been my privilege to lead Southwest Nova Pride Association as your Chair for this year. We have achieved things in the last year which I don't think we could have anticipated: certainly, my expectations were exceeded. We have more than doubled our membership; we have struggled against injustice and celebrated our freedom; we have mourned our losses, cheered our successes, and reached further than ever before. We hosted Martin Boyce, who spoke about his experiences at the Stonewall riots; we held a week-long Pride Festival, with grand marshal Eric Smith, keynote speaker Veronica Merryfield, and a slew of drag superstars including Ruby Foxglove, Dia Monde, and the Haus of Toodeep. While we have not achieved everything we hoped to, we have been supported at every turn by our community, both 2SLGBTQIA+ and allies, and we could not have made it without their help.

As Chair, I have also been looking ahead to the 2024-2025 year. We are hosting Monica Helms, the multifaceted activist who designed the trans pride flag twenty-five years ago. We are planning our 2024 Pride Festival, which we intend will include the parade that was sorely missed last year. SWNPA is building partnerships within the community, to support queer people from childhood to old age. SWNPA is strengthening our internal governance and commitment to ethical transparency through implementing the changes the Policy Committee has worked tirelessly to craft.

I feel grateful to the work of everyone involved, from the people who attended a single meet-up to the individuals who serve on our Board. We could not do this without you. And I am grateful that -- though this Annual Report is a succinct snapshot of everything we've achieved in the past year -- that the lines of communication between us as an organization and our community as a whole flow clearly enough that, at any point, a person might venture across us in person or online, and have a wide variety of ways to join us.

In service,

Alden Mathieu (he/they)
Chair, Southwest Nova Pride Association



VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

MASON ROBICHAUD (HE/HIM)

This year was a great year for SWNPA, and I am very proud to have been a part of it. My main involvement within the board has predominantly been as a support, however, there are two big projects where I had led the charge:

Beacon United Pride Service 2023 : Although I was unable to be present during Pride 2023, I made sure I coordinated with Beacon United Church on the plans for this year's Pride service. The majority of my suggestions had been utilized for the service, namely hymn and scripture choices. Doug Temple was able to attend as my proxy, to ensure organization representation. I heard from Doug and from members of the church that the service was a major success; the congregational turnout was higher than an average Sunday, which is certainly indicative that the particular theme of Pride brought some new faces to the church.

SWNPA's further cooperation with Beacon United is very important, in my opinion, as this alliance provides for a very unique sub-group within our two communities: queer folx belonging to a religious belief and tradition, a Christian one in this case. From personal experience, without the right support, this unique experience can be a very sharp double-edged sword. Luckily, we in Southwest Nova Scotia, have an affirming Christian congregation present and a queer community that is very open to involving a religious organization in Pride.

Yarmouth's SWITCH Open Street 2023 Event

SWITCH is a five-block street fair event in Yarmouth that occurs on two Sundays in August and involves music, food, and other community vendors and resources. It is an excellent way to "take back local streets" and bring the community together for a day or two of fun. It was, overall, a fantastic time and a great opportunity for our community. A good number of people came over to the rainbow table to look at our wares, check out our pamphlets and resources, and ask questions or just have a general chat. We had quite a few trinkets and bobbles for sale and made a total of \$26.00 in sales; we made an additional \$29.00 in donations.

At one point, there was this mother and her two children walked by. The eldest, an AFAB child (gender identity unknown and won't be speculated), gave me a bit of a sideways glance and literally dragged their feet. A while later, the child hurried over to the table and said "I wanted to take a look but I can't make it obvious." Their face lit up as they looked at the table and engaged a bit with me. A few short minutes later, they hurried back to mother.

This interaction meant so much to me, as I saw how much an open queer presence meant to this child, and I'm sure to many others at SWITCH. They may not have allies at home, but I (representing SWNPA) gave them that proverbial outstretched arm for just a few minutes. If nothing else happened that day, if no one else came by or no money had been made, I'd still feel we made a big difference with our participation in this event. I can't wait to do this again next year!

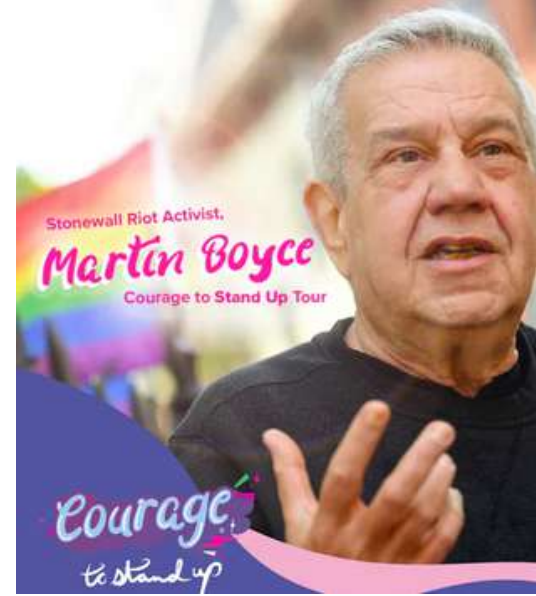
In conclusion, I give my thanks and appreciation for a stellar year to my fellow board members, the general members of the Southwest Nova Pride Association, and the queer and ally residents of Southwest Nova Scotia. I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the next year.

Mason B. Robichaud (he/him)

Vice Chair, Southwest Nova Pride Association

A PRESENTATION BY STONEWALL ACTIVIST
MARTIN BOYCE

BEACON HALL | MAY 6, 2023



Partnering with International Day of Pink, SWNPA held our most high-profile event to date on May 6th 2023, hosting Stonewall Activist Martin Boyce at Beacon Auditorium.

Martin was accompanied by Nova Scotia queer and intersex activist, Veronica Merryfield, who has since become a strong supporter and friend of the Association. His presentation was opened by a performance of 'Seasons of Love' by a group of local queer & allied singers who would later reprise the number at Th'YARC's 2023 Broadway Night.

Over 60 people came to hear Martin speak, from as far as Truro. We were honoured to welcome such an important queer elder to Southwest Nova Scotia.



The Stonewall Inn, July 2, 1969.

The summer of 1969 is remembered in stories and songs for many things, but in terms of 2SLGBTQIA+ history, though, that year was pivotal because of one event: the Stonewall Riots. Back in the 1960s, police raids and harassment of our community were common, even in spaces we'd made our own, such as the Stonewall Inn, a bar on Christopher Street in New York City's Greenwich Village. It was a haven for the queer community, and, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, it became the site of a series of riots against police persecution that marked a turning point in the fight for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights. This was an incredible opportunity to hear about an important chapter in our history from one of our elders who lived through it.



BOARD GAME NIGHTS

FINN DARROW, DIRECTOR (THEY/THEM)



SWNPA's monthly Queer Board Game Nights have continued to be popular since their inception in December 2022. While we often see different individuals attending from month to month, attendance has averaged 20-24 attendees of all ages each month. Response continues to be enthusiastic with event attendees often expressing gratitude for the opportunity to gather together with the larger Queer community.

This year, I participated in a short interview segment with Michael from EastLink TV for a segment he is working on producing for their community programming alongside the owners of Pair-A-Dice Bistro and game night attendees. He previously gathered footage from a board game night itself. Once aired this segment is planned to be shown provincially on Eastlink TV 21 times, while also being available to stream to subscribers with a possibility of being aired nationwide. I look forward to the promotion of our community building efforts as both an outreach to those who may benefit from the safer space we've created together and as a possible inspiration to other community-based organizations.

In an effort to support Queer community building in the Digby region, Queer Board Game Night will be launched in Digby at Third Eye Gaming Lounge on April 13th. My hope is that a solid community gathering can be built in the area and that a local SWNPA member may be able to take charge of the hosting there at that point. Until such time, I'm happy to serve as a host during fair weather months.

Overall, the continued outlook for Queer Board Games in Southwest Nova is bright.

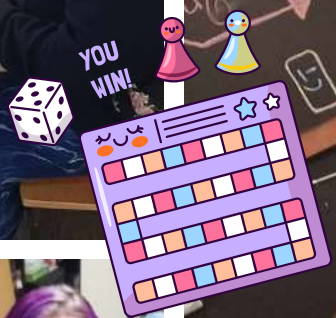
Your host with the most,

Finn Darrow

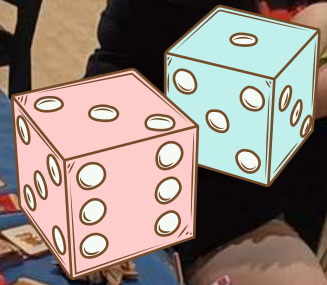
Board Game Nights Host & Director, SWNPA.



PAIR-A-DICE BISTRO, YARMOUTH



14 GAMES
NIGHTS SINCE
OUR LAST AGM





PRIDE FESTIVAL 2023

SEPT 18 - 24, 2023 • YARMOUTH, NS

Our 2023 Pride festival took place over an entire calendar week and featured events such as our usual Queer Trivia, Pride Karaoke (with Alexandra Rodgerson), Pride Fair and Pride Service at Beacon United — but we also hosted our first Drag Storytime at Yarmouth County Museum & Archives with Ruby Foxglove (*top left*), and honoured our first Pride Marshall Eric Smith (*see below*).

Veronica Merryfield (*right*) made her triumphant return to Yarmouth as our keynote speaker, presenting 'A History of Transgender'.

An estimated 400 people attended throughout the week, and we partnered with 26 local & provincial organisations. But we owe the success of this event to our many devoted volunteers. Thank you all for your continued support!



Southwest Nova Pride Association honoured one of our community's great activists: Eric Smith as Grand Marshal of Pride 2023.

Eric Smith came to national attention in 1987 when he was forced out of his elementary school teaching job on Cape Sable Island, N.S., after local parents found out he had tested positive for HIV. When his HIV-positive status became known in the community, the local school board tried to remove him from a teaching position, and tried to ban all homosexuals from classroom teaching. His case was one of the first to shed light on the discrimination faced by those living with HIV/AIDS in Canada.

Eric went on to become a prominent advocate for the rights of gay and lesbian Canadians, to help lead the Nova Scotia Persons with AIDS Coalition, and to serve on the Nova Scotia Task Force on AIDS.



THANKS AGAIN TO OUR PRIDE 2023 SPONSORS & PARTNERS



- Bethany Turpin Music
- Yarmouth County Museum & Archives
- Yarmouth Boston Pizza
- Nova Scotia Teachers Union
- Dia Monde and the Haus of TooDeep
- Thistle Hyundai
- The Mariners Centre
- Pair-a-Dice Bistro
- Iceworks
- Warehouse One
- Heritage Brewing Co.
- James Turpin Videography
- Doug Temple
- The Co-Operators



PRIDE



FINANCIALS

DOUG TEMPLE, TREASURER (HE/HIM)

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED 2023-12-31

ASSETS		
Cash on Hand		\$125.00
Gift cards		\$19.67
Bank Account		\$5,443.09
		\$5,587.76
Total Assets		\$5,587.76
LIABILITIES		
		\$0.00
EQUITY		
Net income for all prior years		\$408.64
Net income in calendar 2023		\$3,169.62
Retained Earnings		\$2,009.50
		\$5,587.76
Total liabilities and equity		\$5,587.76



INCOME STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 2023-12-31

INCOME		
Business Contributions		\$1,462.55
Corporate Contributions		\$1,069.67
Individual Contributions		\$609.95
Grants and other income		\$6,016.10
Total Income		\$9,158.27
COST OF SERVICES		
Event expenses (Pride Festival)		\$5,509.85
Event expenses (non-Pride Festival)		\$30.00
Event supplies (small, <\$100)		\$106.18
Total Cost of Services		\$5,646.03
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Total Operating Expenses		\$342.62
Net Income		\$3,169.62

OTHER EVENTS

PRIDE MONTH FLAG RAISING AT M.O.D.Y.

JUNE 1ST, 2023

SWNPA, along with various local GSAs, were invited, once again, to raise the Progress Pride flag at the Municipal Building at the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth to mark the start of Pride Month.



STITCH N BUTCH

All-ages bring-your-own crafts. bring your own snacks event - still under refinement, but we're told people enjoyed it! Alden was on hand to teach crochet where asked, but there were many more embroiderers the second time around -- and drag queen coloring pages were on hand for children of all ages!

2 SINCE OUR LAST AGM

2023 TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

7PM, MONDAY NOVEMBER 20TH
YARMOUTH COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

VIGIL FOR NOV 20, 2023 TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Each year, Southwest Nova Pride hosts the local vigil for the world-wide observance, Transgender Day of Remembrance. It is a time when we remember those of our transgender and gender-diverse community that we have lost to violence in the past year.

POLICY COMMITTEE

DOUG TEMPLE, COMMITTEE CHAIR, (HE/HIM)

One of the milestones of the outgoing administrative year was the establishment of the SWNPA Policy Committee. Prior to the Committee's establishment, the administration and management of the Association had largely been guided by a set of by-laws formulated at the time of the Association's incorporation. The by-laws were drawn up by the Board at that time to meet the needs of an association in the early stages of its development.

As the SWNPA continues to grow and mature as an organization, the opportunities and challenges it faces internally also grow in scope and complexity. The SWNPA must also face new external challenges, including an alarming rise in the frequency and intensity of acts of hatred toward members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in addition to a growing intolerance for members of marginalized communities in general. These are some of the reasons why SWNPA Board members supported a proposal to:

1. conduct a formal review of the existing by-laws to ensure that they remain relevant and that they adequately meet our current needs; and
2. begin the process of creating policies to provide more comprehensive guidance for critical elements of Association business.

SWNPA By-Laws

A comprehensive review of existing by-laws was the first assignment undertaken by the newly-formed Policy Committee beginning in late calendar year 2023. That review led to the drafting of revisions of the by-laws which were sent to all SWNPA members along with the invitation to the Annual General Meeting. In that draft, substantive revisions to the by-laws are proposed in the following areas:

Section 8.2 (Membership): Language has been added to emphasize that the SWNPA Board retains the sole discretion to deny an individual who applies for membership in the Association or revoke that membership in cases where that individual is deemed to have taken action in opposition to or in violation of the objects, by-laws or policies of the Association. This language was added to respond to the growing risk that "bad actors" might attempt to join the association for the sole purpose of subverting or meddling with the activities and accomplishments of the Association.

Section 13.2 (Cessation of Membership): Language has been added to identify a protocol for the Board to advise an individual that revocation of their membership has been proposed and to provide that individual with an avenue to be heard and to contest the proposed revocation.

Section 15.3 (Board of Directors / Election and Term): The by-laws currently in force stipulate that the term of each director be for a maximum of one-year terminating at the beginning of the next Annual General Meeting. This creates the potential for all directors to vacate their roles simultaneously which could result in an abrupt loss of experience and knowledge relating to ongoing initiatives. To enable a "staggering" of directorial terms, language has been amended proposing that, while the terms of some directorial roles will continue to be for one year only, other terms will be for two or three years (as determined by the Board).

Section 15.7 (Accountability of the Board of Directors): This entire section has been added to the by-laws in order to identify key areas in which directors are accountable to all members of the Association. The by-laws currently in force make reference to the accountability of directors to all SWNPA members, but do not elaborate on specific examples of accountability.

POLICY COMMITTEES

CONTINUED

Section 19.3 (Financial Year End): The by-laws currently in force identify the end of the financial year of the Association as December 31st. The revised by-laws call for this date to be moved to the 30th day of November of each year. This new date is proposed in the interests of administrative efficiency since it provides ample time to prepare documentation following Pride Week but also falls before the busy period which immediately precedes the Xmas / New Year holiday season.

SWNPA Policies

Steady progress is being made on the creation of policies to provide more focused and detailed guidance on critical elements of Association business. The Policy Committee met for the first time on December 14th of last year. During the meeting, the committee members discussed and assembled a list of potential topics for which the creation of a policy might be warranted. We also came to agreement on two policies in particular that should be worked on as a priority and we assigned a committee member to “hold the pen” on each:

1. SWNPA Policy on Privacy and Confidentiality. A final draft of this policy is currently in circulation for review and comment by committee members.
2. SWNPA Policy on a Code of Conduct: A first draft of this policy is currently in circulation for review and comment by committee members.

As we arrive at financial year end, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Board for giving me the opportunity to chair this important committee.

Sincerely,

Doug Temple (he/him)

Chair of the SWNPA Policy Committee

(Pictured, far right in blue, with some of the Pride Festival 2023 volunteers.)





SECRETARY'S REPORT

MAIA MATHIEU (SHE/HER)

Dear friends,

As the compiler of the Annual Report, I'm reserving the last word as Secretary's Privilege. It has been a busy year, serving as your secretary. The work is ever-evolving as we grow from strength to strength, and I take a great deal of Pride (pun intended) in how we've grown and evolved since becoming a Not-For-Profit society in August 2022.

Let me quantify some of our progress.

In last year's Secretary's Report, we reported 60 members on the roster, all of whom (except Shelley and Lynette!) identified as members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. As of time of writing, we are at a total of 121 living members on the roster, 18 of whom are allies. The roster remains at a count of 123 members, though, in respect to the two members who passed this year, Bernard Thomas (one of the founding members of Yarmouth Pride), and JJ Glover.

As of last year, we had evolved strong community partnerships with NSGEU and Beacon United Church. I am pleased to report that those partnerships are growing strong, and that we have also created more close community ties with Yarmouth Museum and Archives (who hosted several events for the Pride Festival 2023, including Drag Storytime, and also hosted our Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023) and with Pair-a-Dice Bistro, where our Board Game Night happens (mostly) every month. We've also connected with the International Day of Pink organisation, who brought Martin Boyce to Yarmouth in 2023 (and introduced us to Veronica Merryfield) and who are also bringing Monica Helms to us for our 2024/2025 fiscal year. We've partners with the Haus of TooDeep drag family, and built connections with local media in the form of Le Courier de la Nouvelle Écosse, and Eastlink TV. At the time of writing, we are also working on strengthening relationships with the Tri-County Regional Centre For Education (especially with their EDI officer, Joe Bishara), Tri-County Women's Centre (who serve women, girls and gender-diverse individuals across our joint constituency) and with the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth (and hopefully soon other municipal governments). Pride events this year had representatives from the town and the municipality, and Zach Churchill was also in attendance.

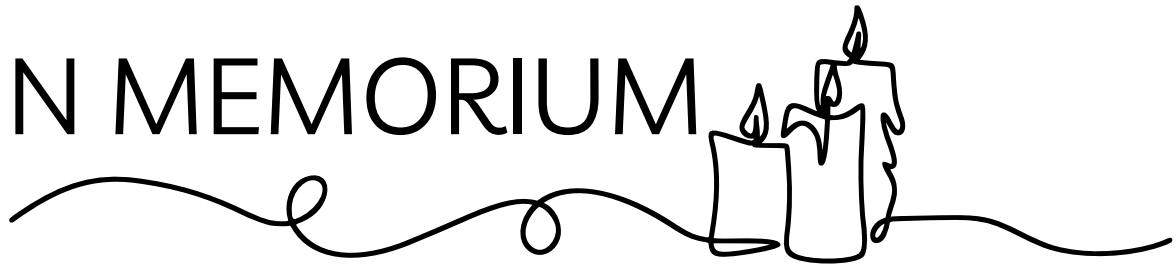
Although we were unable to actually have the parade as part of the 2023 Pride Festival, we completed a successful application for it with the Town of Yarmouth and now know what it will take to bring this highly-visible event back to the community. My recommendation to the incoming Board of Directors is to cultivate our volunteer base and engage them early and often. It's the only way that we will be able to put on the parade, and also by better spreading the work of the society around, we can do our best to avoid activist burnout.

Congratulations, all, on a successful year. Here's to many more!

Maia Mathieu
Secretary



IN MEMORIAM



JJ Glover

October 6, 1996 - November 17, 2023



Bernard Marshall Thomas

September 9, 1979 - January 6, 2024



GET INVOLVED


2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and families are encouraged to reach out to SWNPA through email or Facebook to get involved! Come to an event, or join a committee, and help us make Yarmouth the best little town in Nova Scotia for our people! Allies are also always welcome!


Businesses and corporations: reach out to us about how you can partner with SWNPA and show your pride and your allyship!

Everything we do is with and for our community, and we welcome collaborations, partnership and donations to help us provide programming, supports and outreach opportunities for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in the Tri-County area.

GET IN TOUCH

info@southwestnovaprideassociation.ca
<https://southwestnovaprideassociation.ca>

 @SouthwestNovaPrideAssociation

 @SouthwestNovaPride

Southwest Nova Pride Assn.
is a member of
fierté
CANADA
pride 