



HALIFAX WOMEN'S  
HISTORY ♦ SOCIETY

# Halifax Women's History Society Monthly Newsletter

*Issue no. 5, November 2016*

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## Woman of the Month: Anne Fulton (1951-2015)

Anne Fulton is best known for being a central figure of Halifax's LGBTQ+ community since the 1970s, when it was in its infancy. Born in Woodstock, New Brunswick in 1951, she spent the majority of her adult life in Halifax.

Anne came of age in a tumultuous time for queer Haligonians. In 1977, she attended the first gay demonstration in Atlantic Canada — a protest against the CBC for censoring publicity for the GayLine, a gay help line. This was the same year the Jury Room refused to serve gay patrons, an event that has been referred to as Halifax's own Stonewall riot. Anne tested the policy and was denied service. This led to the GAE (Gay Alliance for Equality) picketing the bar.

Anne was one of the first volunteers for GayLine and a founding member of both the GAE and the Atlantic Provinces Political Lesbians for Equality. She was an editor and contributor to the GAE's newsletter, *The Voice*, as well as *LesbianCanadaLesbienne* and *The Sister's Lightship*. She also notably wrote and performed a spoof of *Gone with the Wind* entitled *Blown with the Wind* at the 1980 Atlantic Conference for the PinkTriangleDay Cabaret.

Anne had a BA, MA and B.Ed. in counselling and worked in Halifax as a counsellor for many years. She passed away suddenly from a heart attack in 2015 at the age of 64.

Anne was a huge influence on the Halifax LGBTQ+ community, but sadly few people within the community know of her contributions and work. Women like Anne deserve to be remembered and honoured for their activism so women and girls today can have role models and a proud heritage.

Anne was a pre-cursor to the Halifax Pride Parade, which has been a point of pride for the LGBTQ+ community since its conception in 1988. Anne did much for the

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beacon for what can be overcome. She was instrumental in building what is now a strong and proud LGBTQ+ social, cultural and activist presence in Nova Scotia and the rest of Canada.



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## Happening in Halifax

### **Dalhousie Feminist Seminar Series**

#### **"Racism: Indigenous Perspectives"**

Senator Murray Sinclair, Former Chair of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada

November 9, 7:00pm, Saint Mary's University, McNally Theatre Auditorium  
(Facebook event [here](#))

### **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic Lecture Series**

#### **"Female Pirates and Internet Lore"**

Sarah Toye, Dalhousie University

November 15, 7:00pm, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

### **Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society**

#### **"Mi'kmaq Polticism and the Origins of the Micmac Community Development Program, 1900-1957"**

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## **Dalhousie Feminist Seminar Series**

### **“Poetry, Silence, and Speech”**

Carole Glasser Langille, Halifax-based poet, artist, and instructor (Department of English, Dalhousie)

November 17, 1:00-2:30pm, Dalhousie University’s Kenneth Rowe Management Building (6100 University Ave), room 1028

## **Dalhousie Feminist Seminar Series**

### **“Aboriginal Women: Decolonization and the Impact of the Indian Act.”**

Naiomi Metallic, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University

November 24, 1:00-2:30pm, Dalhousie University’s Kenneth Rowe Management Building (6100 University Ave), room 1028.

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## **Society News!**

### **Message from the Chair**

We’ll Meet Again: A Recreation of the North End Services Canteen, the Oct. 1 event of the Halifax Women’s History Society, was a wonderful celebration and walk down memory lane.

Both the 1:30 p.m. and the 3:30 p.m. sessions sold out with more than 200 participants enjoying our Second World War themed event at the Ward 5 Neighbourhood Centre. The centre sits on the site behind St. Mark's Anglican Church at Gottingen and Russell Streets, where the North End Services Canteen was located during the early war years.

The canteen served thousands of meals — more than 500 meals a day or 15,000 a month. Our We'll Meet Again meal of delicious soups, breads and sweets, most donated by generous north end restaurants and businesses (see list below) also reminds us that women gave hours of volunteer service. The North End Services Canteen was staffed by women who cooked and served and danced with the patrons — most of them Canadian naval personnel, but members of other navies were also welcome.

Our table of knitted scarves and hats from Second World War patterns and our table of baked goods also help us appreciate how women were in the vanguard of volunteerism during both world wars. Not only did they knit thousands of items for the soldiers overseas, they provided nursing care, respite and hospitality. They

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blood donor drives, collected salvage and raised money — all in support of the war effort.

We were delighted to have several of these volunteer women join us for the event. Marjorie Lindsay, Peggy MacAlphine, Charlotte Guy Jefferies, Helen Colwell and Ruth Graham were special guests at the event. All these women, now in their 90s (Peggy MacAlphine is 101) are the reason we are undertaking the monument The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles. It will honor their wartime work and the work of thousands of women, who have never been recognized.

I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers who made We'll Meet Again such a success. Our volunteer servers — most of whom came in 1940s dress — delighted our guests. The DalKing's Swing Dance Society performed to happy cheers, and the kitchen workers kept everybody fed and happy. We couldn't have mounted this event without all our volunteers — including the people who knitted and baked for the event, the local businesses and restaurants who answered our call for soup and other food, and the family and friends who all lent a helping hand: Thank You. We not only put on an amazing event, but we made many new friends, gained supporters and spread awareness about the Woman on the Waterfront project.

Until We Meet Again .....

Janet Guildford, Chair, HWHS and its WOW Project

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(from left to right) Ruth Graham, Helen Colwell and Charlotte Guy Jefferies were volunteers during the Second World War. Ruth worked at the North End Services Canteen and Helen and Charlotte were members of the Halifax Concert Guild. It put on 2,300 shows by 1944 to help a million troops. (Photo Credit: Jessie Redmond photography).

## A Thank You to our We'll Meet Again Volunteers

It's difficult to single out people, but a special thank you needs to go to Anne Marie Lane Jonah, who took on the task of getting donations of soup, bread, coffee and other food from many generous donors (listed to the right). Many people commented on the delicious soup. Anne Marie's tireless efforts, along with her family and friends, achieved a memorable meal.

We would also be amiss not to thank Susan Dower, whose knitters were busy for months, providing the items for our table of Second World War knitted scarves and hats, and to Pam

### The donors:

Certainly Cinnamon Catering  
 Le Caveau, Wolfville  
 Getaway Farm  
 Brooklyn Warehouse  
 Edna  
 Tarek's Café  
 Lane's Privateer Inn, Liverpool  
 Ratinaud  
 Smith's Bakery  
 Julien's Bakery  
 Java Blend coffee  
 Seven Bays Bouldering and Café  
 The Murphy Family, Liverpool



Some photos of our wonderful volunteers, the DalKing's Swing Dance Society performance and the generously donated food from local North End businesses. (Photo Credit: Jesse Redmond photography)

About the Society

Founded in 2013, the Halifax Women's History Society (HWHS) researches and makes known the untold story of the remarkable contributions that women have made to the history of Halifax. "A Woman on the

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\$5 for students, purchasable by paypal on our [website](#).

Women's work is too often invisible to the public, especially in the history of the Second World War, which focuses on men and rarely mentions women's volunteer work. Without the work of countless volunteers, Halifax would not have been able to meet the needs of the huge influx of people into the city or support the military personnel and their families who made Halifax home during the war. There are more than 100 cairns, steles, sculptures and plaques in Halifax. Less than a dozen are of female figures and most of these are from mythology or are symbolic. A monument — The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles — to women volunteers would honour them and provide public acknowledgement of their numerous contributions.



#### Newsletter Submissions

Have something you would like to see in our next newsletter? An event, news story, picture, piece of writing or historical figure that is relevant to our cause? Please send us the information and we would be delighted to consider it for next month. We ask that submissions be consistent with our mission of sharing the untold stories of women in the history of Nova Scotia and Halifax - any that do not will not be included.



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