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QUEENSLAND DIAMOND COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

Here I am again, writing my President's Message that you will be reading in early December.

By the time you folks will be reading this, the Christmas Craft Fair will have already happened. I am sure it was a great success thanks to all involved. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and all the vendors for putting on a great event. I'd also like to thank all the shoppers who showed up and snagged themselves some great stuff. I look forward to seeing you again next year.

The hall is going to be busy with all the Christmas Party rentals in December.

Watch out for information on our front sign, Facebook page and mail chimp for the upcoming Christmas event that will take place on December 2.

Our "Great Beginnings Pre-School" program has been going well. Call 403-452-5222 or e-mail gbpreschoollyc@gmail.com or www.queenslandgreatbeginnings.ca for more details or to register. Discounts will be given for Community Association Members.

Once again, I would like to remind you, if you'd like to donate to the Haultain Memorial Playground Project, please use the link below and select Haultain Memorial School from the project drop down box. <https://bit.ly/HaultainPlaygroundDonation>.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
Until Next Month.

Cheers,
Brian



COOK'S CORNER

Christmas Trifle

Ingredients

- 1 Pound cake (store bought)
- 1/3 cup orange or other fruit flavoured liquor (like Cointreau), or apple, orange, or other fruit juice (or 2 tbsp brandy)
- 7 tsp gelatine powder
- 6 cups Cranberry juice, original (i.e., with sugar added 0 to 750g)
- 1 to 1.5 lb strawberries, halved
- blueberries, raspberries



Cream:

- 2 1/2 cups heavy/thickened cream (or pure whipping cream)
- 3 tbsp white sugar (or caster sugar)
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- Homemade Thick Custard or a tub of custard
- 3 cups milk (full or low fat)
- 1/4 cup caster sugar (superfine sugar)
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste (or extract)
- 1/4 cup caster sugar (superfine sugar), extra
- 4 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup corn flour/cornstarch

Instructions

1. Cut cake into 2 cm/0.8" cubes. Cover bottom of 3.5 litre/3.5 qt trifle dish with cake (might not use all) and sprinkle with liquor or juice.
2. Optional extra: Scatter over halved strawberries.

Cranberry Jelly

1. Put half the cranberry juice into a saucepan over medium heat (3 cups/750ml). Bring to a simmer, then turn off stove.
2. Meanwhile, put remaining room temperature cranberry juice into a very large bowl. Sprinkle gelatine across surface (don't dump in one place, else you get lumps). Whisk until mostly dissolved (will finish dissolving in next step).
3. Pour in hot cranberry juice. Whisk until gelatine is fully dissolved.

Jelly Layer 1

1. Pour half the warm jelly liquid carefully down the side of the trifle dish so the cake pieces are submerged.

Refrigerate the trifle dish uncovered for 1.5 hours until it is partly set. It needs to be set enough so you can gently place a strawberry on it, and it will stay on the surface. Proceed to Custard Layer steps.

2. Pour remaining warm jelly in a bowl and leave on the counter. Do not refrigerate.

3. Meanwhile, make the custard so it is ready to use (see below).

Custard Layer

1. Remove trifle from fridge. Whisk the room temperature custard to loosen. Spoon onto the jelly, smooth surface, press against wall of glass to seal (stops jelly bleed so you get neat layers). Refrigerate uncovered for 1 hour until the surface has firmed up a bit - just enough to hold the jelly (jelly is soft, so custard doesn't need to be fully set).

Partially Set Remaining Jelly

1. Put the jelly in the bowl in the fridge at the same time to thicken a bit but not fully set. Refrigerate for 1 hour but check at 30 minutes to ensure it isn't setting too fast. The jelly should be sloppy but spoonable, scoops up in a small mound. If it fully sets, you'll end up with a "broken glass" effect on the next jelly layer rather than a clear layer.

Jelly Layer 2

1. Remove trifle and jelly from fridge. Jelly should be sloppy. Carefully spoon over jelly, smooth surface. Scatter over 1 halved strawberry (or half each raspberry and strawberry). Refrigerate for 3 hours+ (can leave in fridge for 48 hours, until ready to assemble).

Assembling

1. Cream: Beat cream, sugar, and vanilla until softly whipped.

2. Once jelly is set, just before serving, top with cream, then pile over remaining berries. Dust with icing sugar.

3. Serve!! P.S. It is imperative to ensure every serving includes a bit of every layer in the trifle.

Homemade Custard

1. Bring milk, ¼ cup sugar and vanilla to a simmer in a large saucepan over medium heat. Do not boil.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together remaining ¼ cup sugar and yolks, then whisk in cornflour until smooth.

3. While whisking, carefully pour in about ½ cup of milk mixture. Once mixed in, slowly pour in remaining milk while whisking. Once incorporated and smooth, pour back into saucepan.

4. Return saucepan to stove over low heat. Whisk constantly until it becomes thick and custardy – this will happen quite quickly, about 45 seconds (i.e., it is liquid when you start, then suddenly it thickens). Once thickened, remove immediately from heat (it will continue to thicken as it cools).

5. Immediately pour into a bowl and cover with cling wrap, pressing onto surface. Leave on the counter to cool to room temp until trifle is ready to layer with custard. Makes 750ml.



Halloween Family Dance

Thank you to the following community members who helped in many ways to put on the family Halloween dance party: Eva, Nevelda, Judith, Julie R, Sawyer, Linda, Jeff, Martine, Anita, and Haultain Memorial School Council for doing the concession.

Kudos to Jayson, Steve, and Monarch Music for our dance music.

Many thanks also for the donations of candy and prizes to Brian, Julie J, Kathy, Jodie, and Karen.

Please save the date for our Children's Christmas Party December 2 for a fun filled afternoon of crafts and a visit from Santa.

Details to follow!

Hall Rental Rates	
Gym use	\$60/hr + GST
Gym (weddings)	\$500 + GST + \$100 cleaning fee; damage deposit \$250
Children's parties	\$175 + GST + \$100 cleaning fee
Boardroom, multi-purpose small meeting rooms	\$30/hr + GST

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If you are interested in any of the open board positions, please email Volunteer@QueenslandDiamondCove.com.



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DIAMOND COVE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Diamond Cove Residents,

I hope this letter finds everyone well as we progress into winter and the Holiday season. With that I would like to extend warm wishes to everyone as you kick back with family and friends during the festive season.

I am not sure how the winter season will transpire for us, but we sure did not waste much time in late October and early November getting on with it. Time to head indoors and abandon yard work, now we get to shovel snow. On that note, please ensure that your sidewalks are cleared, in a timely manner, of the white fluffy stuff. For those in need of assistance, please lend a hand if you can with snow clearing.

The winter flowerpots have now been placed and thank-you to the residents that stored them through the summer season.

Take care and again, enjoy December and all the fun of the Christmas season!

Also, please feel free to contact me with any other concerns or questions at ajmclellan@shaw.ca.

Sincerely,
Jerry McLellan
President



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LITTLE TOES



Because humans typically have five fingers on each hand and five toes on each foot, it might lead one to believe that cats follow that same format. However, this is actually incorrect! Most cats only have 18 toes, rather than 20. A typical cat will have five toes on each of its front paws, but only four on its back ones!

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Friends,

The Calgary Ring Road is to date one of the largest public infrastructure projects in Alberta. Earlier this year, construction of the new West Bow River bridge and new interchanges at Old Banff Coach Road and Bow Trail opened for traffic. This is a milestone toward the overall completion of the entire Calgary Ring Road in 2024. These openings have improved access for communities, cut travel times for drivers by up to 20 minutes, and have vastly improved travel times for commercial carriers. When fully completed, the Calgary Ring Road will provide 101 kilometers of free-flow travel, create new travel options for drivers, and reduce traffic congestion. Construction of the West Calgary Ring Road is the final piece of the entire ring project, and the focus is now shifting to the final phase between Bow Trail and Highway 8, which is on track to be complete in 2024. More information can be found at www.alberta.ca/calgary-ring-road-overview.

Last fall, health care leaders, Indigenous partners, and experts from across Canada and around the world came together to form advisory panels as part of the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System initiative. The panels identified immediate, medium, and long-term improvements to strengthen Alberta's primary health care system. The recommendations will be implemented through a phased approach, with several moving forward immediately, improvements that will enhance community-based primary health care across Alberta. For more details see www.alberta.ca/modernizing-albertas-primary-health-care-system.

In addition to MAPS, Alberta's government announced the undertaking of a significant refocusing of Alberta Health Services. The new structure will center around four priority sectors: primary care, acute care, continuing care, and mental health and addiction. This will ensure Albertans get the health care system that works for them.

May the warmth of the season surround you and may this holiday season be a time of reflection and renewal, as we look forward to a new year filled with promise and opportunity. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

If you have any questions or input, please feel free to reach out to my office at Calgary.FishCreek@assembly.ab.ca.



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A CAST OF CHARACTERS



In December, it is common to watch a good Christmas movie or two. A popular film around this time of year is *The Polar Express*. Although there are lots of things to love about this film, you may not know that Tom Hanks plays six different roles! He is the voice of Santa Claus, Hero Boy, Scrooge, Father, Hobo, and the Conductor. Talk about talent!



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