

Media Scan

Thursday September 16, 2021

[FIN: Atlantic International Film Festival films to watch](#)

With each passing year, there are always buzzy, big Hollywood movies, arthouse favourites and local gems that seem to garner all the attention. With this column, I want to point your attention to a few films you may not have heard of yet. These are the ones that have my attention so far, and that I'll surely be checking out.

[Mariners on Main Yarmouth development well underway with October opening planned](#)

Mariners on Main – a revamped fitness and aquatics centre – is a beehive of activity these days. The complex, formerly known as the Yarmouth YMCA, is serving as a bridge facility for the community until a hoped-for expansion of the Mariners Centre is approved. A construction and opening of an expansion, if it goes ahead, would still be years away.

[Dr. Strang answers questions about Nova Scotia's cautious approach to the pandemic](#)

Nova Scotia announced this week that it would delay entering Phase 5 of its reopening plan until Oct. 4 following a spike in new COVID-19 cases. That date coincides with the province's proof-of-vaccination policy coming into effect. Matt Galloway of CBC Radio's The Current spoke to Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer of health, about the province's decision to delay reopening and how he expects people to react to changes in restrictions.

[Delaying Phase 5 affecting Glace Bay's Savoy](#)

Thanks to the recent swell in COVID-19 cases, some shows won't go on this fall at the Savoy Theatre. Theatre executive director Pam Leader confirmed Wednesday that the latest delay in lifting provincial restrictions means it's not financially feasible to stage "Dear Rita" until next summer/fall. "I'm just sick to my stomach today but anyway, it is what it is," Leader told The Cape Breton Post on Wednesday. "Just due to the financial impact it would have for us to start rehearsing shows like "Dear Rita," and start the set and then not to go into Phase 5 on Oct. 4, we're going to re-schedule it for next summer/fall."

[Father-daughter duo Todd and Melissa Labrador are passionate about preserving their Mi'kmaw traditions](#)

The father-daughter duo of Todd and Melissa Labrador is passionate about preserving their Mi'kmaw traditions. "I always think, you know, education is the key to breaking down so many barriers," says Melissa Labrador. "So the more we do this in public, the more the public is able to come in and be a part of this." These days, you'll find the pair of Mi'kmaw artisans at the Lunenburg School of the Arts. They're building a birch bark canoe, while welcoming curious visitors who wander into the workshop.

Article in The Chronicle Herald e-edition in **B4- Tourism Section**

[Sydney's Big Fiddle facing challenge](#)

It's a towering symbol of Cape Breton's Celtic heritage, a tourist attraction that greets cruise ship passengers and has been shared in countless photographs around the world. However, the famed Big Fiddle that stands outside the Joan Harriss Cruise Pavilion has almost played second fiddle to a larger version of the instrument, according to the man who created the 17-metre steel sculpture. Cyril Hearn, the Whitney Pier artist who designed and built the eight-ton waterfront attraction, says he's been approached by two other Canadian towns to build an even bigger fiddle. "I went to Orangeville, Ont., to build a bigger fiddle because when people have an iconic piece of art like that in their neighbourhood, it draws people from everywhere to come to take pictures of it," said Hearn, 63.

[Accommodation tax pays off for event organizers in Timmins](#)

An accommodation tax put into place by Timmins and a number of northern cities is starting to pay dividends. The money collected from hotel stays is helping the city support things like music festivals and sporting events. For example, the Northern Golf Association received a cheque in the amount of \$7,500. "So we're going to be upgrading the Internet servicing out at the (Hollinger) golf course," said Owen Rigg, a director with the Northern Golf Association.

[Indigenous tourism won't fully recover from pandemic until 2028 at the earliest, report says](#)

The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada is making a bleak prediction about its members' ability to rapidly recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The association says even with the very best travel conditions, Indigenous tourism operations are not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2028. A report from the association and the Conference Board of Canada shows modest recovery over the last year, but it still projects an overall 54 per cent decline since the pandemic hit last March. It says Indigenous tourism created about 39,000 jobs and contributed an estimated \$1.86 billion in direct gross domestic product before the arrival of COVID-19.

[Sask. tourism rebounds, but still down by \\$500M from pre-pandemic levels](#)

The province's tourism industry is doing better than last year, but its revenue is still down by \$500 million compared to the year before the COVID-19 pandemic began, according to the CEO of Tourism Saskatchewan. Pandemic restrictions meant a huge drop in revenue for tourism industries across the world, including in Saskatchewan, in 2020. There's improvement this year, but also a lot of uncertainty. "It's frustrating to kind of always be looking at restrictions looming. Who knows what's going to come down the pipe?" said Jacki L'Heureux-Mason, the executive director of Tourism Moose Jaw. Last year, the total revenue coming in from tourism in Saskatchewan — through spending on things like accommodations, travel, restaurants, and events and activities within the province — was \$1.2 billion, Tourism Saskatchewan CEO Jonathan Potts told CBC News.

[Proof of vaccination program announced in Alberta as state of public health emergency declared](#)

The government of Alberta has joined other provinces across Canada in announcing a proof of vaccination program as COVID-19 cases continue to soar to well over a thousand per day. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Alta. Premier Jason Kenney said due to the escalating COVID-19 situation, which he described as a "crisis of the unvaccinated," the province would enter into a proof of vaccination program. "It has now become clear that we need to go further," he said. In addition to the vaccine passport, Kenney declared a state of public health emergency for the province. Unless we slow transmission, particularly among unvaccinated Albertans, we simply will not be able to provide adequate care to the sick based on current trends," he said.