

THE DAILY MUSE

BRINGING THE WORK OF ARTISTS TO THE COMMUNITY.



Featured Artist: Glenda Mulholland

As she went through the educational system, first in England and then in Western Canada, art was Glenda Mulholland's favourite subject. But when it came time to select a career, she chose a safer route than life as an artist and became a registered respiratory therapist. It was a career decision she never regretted for it allowed her to work, live, and broaden her cultural experiences in different parts of the world such as Saudi Arabia and Taiwan.

A new adventure was undertaken in 2009 when Mulholland and her husband, Alan, moved to Prince Edward Island and bought a small acreage in Ellerslie. The couple designed and built their own energy efficient home and launched a small scale traditional farming operation that essentially allowed them to live off the land. It was a repeat of how they had lived on Mudge Island in British Columbia. Mulholland gave rein to her artistic side as she engaged in the creative endeavours of making butter, cheese, yogurt, and tending livestock. It was not watercolour painting as she had once done, but was nonetheless inspiring to her artistic soul. Then came severe allergies to hay and animal dander and Mulholland was forced once again to reconsider her life direction.

The couple moved to Summerside in 2016, and Mulholland found herself facing her childhood artistic dreams of being a visual and sculptural artist. The people and opportunities simply appeared and this time there was no reason not to fully embrace her artistic side. Mulholland joined the Summerside Art Club that meets on Thursdays at the Lefurgey Cultural Centre and took courses in pastel painting, basket weaving, rug hooking, and more. "I just didn't realize how much was going on in Summerside with arts, heritage, and culture until I moved here."

In her experimental journey of the arts she wanted to discover the heart of many different mediums and see what they were all about. Where it took her was back to her very first artistic love – watercolour painting – and into the new medium of recycled art. As Mulholland took up her brush and created the water colour strokes on paper she said it was "like returning home – coming back to a part of myself." No longer do her paintings just hang on her own walls, but they are for sale in shops and she is creating works for her first solo show in 2021.



Mulholland says, "It was an accident that I fell into creating recycled art. I always was a thrifty person, my mother made sure of that, and the creation of recycled art feels like a natural fit for me." Her first project was to take some paint and a milk can, given as gifts, to create a portrait of her former milk cow. Her second project involved allowing her imagination free rein to create a piece called "Ellerslie Nocturne" out of hardware cloth, gifted yarn and a silk tie of her husband's. Mulholland says it was truly liberating to free her imagination and let go. The artwork is currently hanging in the Summerside Library.

This summer she will undertake her third piece of recycled art, the biggest yet, as she sets about creating a five foot fish from hardware cloth and recycled lids of mason jars.

Mulholland has become very serious about her art. She describes herself as an emerging artist wanting to embrace all the possibilities. "I don't know where my art career is going, but I know it is going somewhere. Now that I have the time, support, and encouragement of the local arts community I know my art is going to flourish."



Summerside Arts Festival
Celebrating the Arts in Summerside - Presented by Wyatt Heritage Properties Inc.

Canada

Prince Edward Island

The Gentle Island

City of Summerside

Prince Edward Island