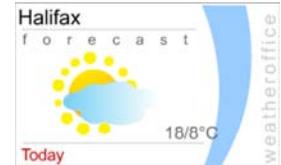




do we still send  
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## Dolphins on parade

### Easter Seals gets help from navy

By ELISSA BARNARD Arts Reporter  
Tue. May 12 - 5:51 AM



Artist Anne Camozzi has a final look at her painted dolphin, Sea Life Celebration, following the Monday launch of Dolphins on Parade, the fundraiser for Easter Seals Nova Scotia. (Tim Krochak / Staff)

Antigonish artist Anne Camozzi was surprised when her fibreglass dolphin arrived.

"The navy delivered it!"

This year Easter Seals Nova Scotia has partnered with Maritime Forces Atlantic, as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy, for Dolphins on Parade.

Following the success of Lobsters in the City and Guardians of the Sea, Easter Seals Nova Scotia hopes to raise over \$75,000 from this fundraiser, featuring up to 40 artist-painted dolphins installed for two years on the Halifax waterfront and in a few other locations.

"The admiral, because of his concern with soldiers coming back from Afghanistan, saw this as a natural fit," said development co-ordinator Owen Caldwell, at Monday's launch, attended by Rear-Admiral Paul Maddison as well as honorary chairman Ron Joyce of

Tim Horton's Foundation and Premier Rodney MacDonald. "This is the first time anybody has had a chance to partner with the navy. It's wonderful."

The navy is taking care of crating and transporting the six-foot-high dolphins, including the one that came to and from the Anne Camozzi Art and Design Studio.

A silk painter, Camozzi is involved with Easter Seals for her first time. "It's really exciting for me," she said. "When you're working as an artist you're often not connected with who sees your art.

"It was great to incorporate my love of painting and my love of nature in a public art project."

EnCana sponsored her dolphin and Camozzi focussed on the sea life considered in EnCana's environmental assessment of the Deep Panuke offshore natural gas project

EnCana's environmental advisor Marielle Thillet helped Camozzi identify the creatures including an endangered species of tern, a gannet," because they're beautiful," said Thillet, three species of whales, shellfish and fish. "We put in a blue fin tuna because we wanted one big predator and they're amazing."

The letter to potential sponsors states that the dolphins will "display your company's history of achievement along with your contribution to your community" and several dolphins commemorate anniversaries.

Halifax painter Laurie Mireau, sponsored by the Halifax International Airport Authority, celebrates the 50th anniversary of the airport as well as the 100th anniversary of aviation in Canada. She did 41 detailed mini-paintings based on historic photographs of the airport and photographs she took. "Artists always want visibility and it's a fun thing to do," said Mireau, who includes a figure that she repeats in every scene to create a game for

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Darrell Dexter NDP

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viewers like Where's Waldo.

Halifax artist Jake Seibert describes his dolphin, sponsored by HRM, as depicting "the evolution of the navy over 100 years, reverse panorama."

"I know the navy guys are going to scrutinize the ships so I made sure everything is up to speck." As a lab technician with Fisheries and Oceans by day, "I try to apply that scientific discipline and detail to my paintings."

Seibert has painted since he was a kid and his passion for art was reawakened when his mother, an art teacher, took him "on an enlightening trip to Italy." His previous public art projects include two boxes in the HRM traffic box program and an Aliant box that is at the Burger King drive-through on Young Street and depicts the Halifax Explosion.

Erika Himsl, an Annapolis Valley artist now working on a series of paintings of local wildlife, painted a lobster sponsored by Molson that is a historical perspective on the company and includes a nod to the navy in one of the steamships that John Molson owned.

"My grandfather was a lieutenant commander in the navy and doing this for a charity, I thought it was a neat idea," says Himsl, opening the Willow Tree Art Gallery with two partners this summer between New Minas and Wolfville.

The dolphins will start to appear on the waterfront by June 20. Easter Seals Nova Scotia needs to raise money for its program for people with physical disabilities including the Take Part weekly recreation program for kids and youth, Camp Tidnish, the New Leaf Enterprises business and food service training program and a program to make assistive devices available.

([ebarnard@herald.ca](mailto:ebarnard@herald.ca))

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