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Dolphin art in aid of Easter Seals

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Local artist Anne Camozzi paints a six-foot dolphin statue in her local art studio. Camozzi is taking part in Dolphins on Parade, a two-year project facilitated by Easter Seals Nova Scotia which will see up to 40 dolphins painted by artists from across the province and put on display in the Halifax Regional Municipality. (Heather MacAdam photo)

very supportive of her ideas, she said.

"They liked my ideas, and it turned out the colours that are EnCana's corporate colours were the same colours that I wanted to use, so that was kind of fun."

Camozzi said she plans to use three various shades of blue, as well as green and purple, on her dolphin.

Lori MacLean, spokesperson for EnCana, said the project is a fundraiser for the programming offer by Easter Seals, which she described as a tremendous program.

"We saw the project as being a worthwhile [project] to support," she said.

MacLean added they were quick to chose Camozzi to sponsor after seeing her ideas.

"We were struck by previous images in her portfolio. What she's envisioning on the dolphin are sea creatures relevant to the environmental assessment that was done for the offshore project Deep Panuke."

Each artist will start with the same six-foot sculpture and create their vision.

"I imagine every artist thinks of totally different things," Camozzi said. "[It will be fun to see] what colours they used and what they did."

The project is very interesting and exciting, Camozzi, said, adding she was very happy to be able to support Easter Seals, an organization that supports children with disabilities.

"I liked the idea of using my art for that purpose. I also really like the idea of doing something celebratory about the natural world. The dolphin seemed to lend itself to painting elements from the ocean."

Camozzi added it's a fun and colourful project to be working on during the winter months.

This is the first time the local artist has painted on a three-dimensional surface, but has been enjoying it so far.

As an attractive incentive for companies to join the Canadian Navy in remembering their roots and celebrating their accomplishments, Easter Seals Nova Scotia is allowing the cost of sponsorship to be distributed over a 2-year period.

The overall cost works out to approximately \$7 a day to share with the world your history of success and community support.

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Easter Seals Nova Scotia has just launched a public art project that will include work by a popular Antigonish artist.

Dolphins on Parade is a two-year project spanning the entire Canadian Navy Centennial Celebration.

Participating artists will be painting six-foot tall dolphins which will be put on display in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Each of the dolphin sculptures are sponsored by a different company.

Up to 40 dolphins will grace the waterfronts of HRM which, according to the Halifax Waterfront Development Corporation, will be visited by over three million people.

From May to September of both 2009 and 2010, the dolphins will be on display in conjunction with the Canadian Navy Celebration.

Owen Caldwell, development co-ordinator for Easter Seals Nova Scotia, said Antigonish artist Anne Camozzi was chosen by Encana Corporation to paint their dolphin for the Dolphins on Parade project.

"She was the first artist chosen from 25 artists who have submitted applications from around the province," he said.

Camozzi said she learned about the project through a call of submission in the Visual Arts Nova Scotia newsletter.

This project was a competition, she said, and artists were required to submit a portfolio.

"They were looking for artists to submit ideas," she said. "I had the idea of doing an ocean eco-system on the dolphin. So all of the elements that I'm going to put on the dolphin are going to be birds, fish, whales, grass, and star-fish – different elements that actually live in the ocean around Nova Scotia."

In addition to the sea-life, Camozzi said she also plans to have people on her dolphin.

"When people first [look at] the dolphin they won't really see everything," she said. "They'll kind of have to explore and walk all the way around it."

Camozzi said she wants her dolphin to be a celebration of ocean life.

After being chosen by EnCana, Camozzi said she collaborated about the project with staff from the company, who have all been

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