

# Bold colours pay homage to First Nations culture

Starting in December the Valley Artisans Co-op is pleased to welcome its second new member this month, First Nations artist Laura Fauchon.

After exchanging Saskatchewan's wide open spaces - or as locals call it "the Land of the Living Skies" - for the hills, trees and water of Deep River, it took Laura Fauchon less than a week to find the Valley Artisans Co-op and get involved with the arts community.

She comes from a military family dating back to WWI and II and more recently her father and close cousins served not only as peacekeepers but served overseas as well.

When her son Alex and daughter-in-law Jany, both active members of the Canadian Forces, were posted to Garrison Petawawa, she, with son Zach, decided to follow, choosing Deep River with its excellent educational, health and recreational services.

Being of Cree, Salteaux and German descent, Laura grew up on the Peepeekisis First Nation in Saskatchewan.

Her parents and extended family were groundbreaking leaders, both politically and in business.

From an early age she was interested in art as a hobby and as therapy for herself. She was inspired by her extended family, many of whom were also involved in the creative arts - from Powwow dancers, painters,

sculptors and actors, to poets and writers.

"Although I didn't have any formal schooling artistically, I have always created on some level whether painting, drawing or doodling," she says.

Although she worked in the human services field working in Corrections, Family Work, and Preventive Services for over 20 years in southern Saskatchewan, her art was never far from her mind.

Recently she began taking her hobby more seriously, showing her acrylic paintings in coffee venues throughout Saskatchewan.

In her paintings you will see feathers and bold colours which reflect the influence of First Nations cultures.

Her work pays homage to her heritage and her spiritual journey and is always in honour of her Creator who has given her this gift to bless people.

Laura has been busy the last few weeks painting in her studio, preparing for the month of December.

"So far my introduction to Deep River has been very positive and it's exciting to know that I am in my element both artistically and culturally."

Be sure to visit the Valley Artisan Co-op to see Laura's paintings as well as the work of 30 different artists and artisans - the largest selection of quality art and craft in the Ottawa Valley.



## ARTISANS CO-OP WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Laura Fauchon pays homage to her heritage. Her paintings incorporate feathers and bold colours, which reflect the influence of First Nations cultures, and are on display now at Valley Artisans Co-op.

Submitted photo

This Sunday, December 11, is the third Sunday of Advent; it is also known as Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word meaning "re-joice!"

We light the pink candle of Joy in the Advent Wreath, as we joyously anticipate the coming of our Saviour.

The Advent wreath represents a custom that Christians have followed for centuries, and lighting its candles remind us that we are preparing for Jesus, the light of the world.

Please join us at either of our two Sunday services of Holy Eucharist; the 8 am service is quiet, spoken and reflective, while the 10 am service is sung and joyful, with Children's Time and Children's Ministry, and followed by coffee in the church hall.

You are invited to join us for our Christmas Carolling and Bonfire on Saturday, December 10 at 6:15 pm. We will meet at the church and then go to various parishioners' homes with our carolling.

Carol sheets will be provided but we have learned that flashlights do help.

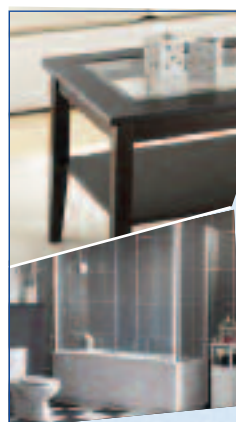
After singing for about an hour, we

**St. Barnabas  
Anglican  
Church**



will return to a roaring bonfire at the church, where we will enjoy hot apple cider and goodies, and perhaps roast a few marshmallows.

All are invited to fellowship and good food at the Advent Potluck Lunch on Sunday, December 18, after our 10 am service. Each family is asked to bring a main course or salad to be shared.



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## MATCH UP

To put a free notice in Match-Up, phone the NRT office at 584-4161, or email <NRT@magma.ca>.

**PHILATELICS:** Some stamp collector books from the 1990s, 1980s and possible older are available for free. Please phone 584-2238 if you're interested in them.

**BED:** A double hide-a-bed sofa, made in Canada and in very good condition, is being given away. Call 584-9904 if you'd like to come pick it up.

**SKATES:** Is there a boy or girl out there who wants to be matched up with an almost new pair of skates? If you're a size 11 girl or size 12 boy, call 584-1529 and come try them on.

**JABEZ:** The Jabez Blanket Ministry is looking for donations of yarn, zippers, gently used backpacks, clip-on earrings, and broaches. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the church hall of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, at 1 pm. If you'd like to join us, please contact Claire Kennedy at 584-2083 for more information. Pattern instructions and yarn are provided to make the blankets and you work at your own pace.

**NRFS:** North Renfrew Family Services has space limitations, so it is asking generous donors please not to leave bags and boxes outside the medical building entrance. If you have items to donate, please call 548-3358 to find out if they can be of use.