



Mother and Son participating are Tara Lathan-Durepos and her son Jacob Durepos.



Dagmar MacDonald of Brockville showcasing her work

PAINT NIGHT FUN!

By Tanya Hammond

Paint for Play Night Fundraiser was the headline that caught my eye along with a beautiful painting of sunflowers. Could I really do this? I've heard about Paint Nights in Brockville for a while now, but a piece of me just kept thinking; I really should have some experience painting to participate. Then another part of me thought, it's for a good cause, it looks like fun, the ad says no experience necessary and wouldn't it be great to create a piece of art like the one in the picture. So I signed up and the rest, as they say, is history.

On July 4th I joined a large group for a fun night at Captain George's Fish & Chips in Brockville. We were instructed by talented Teacher and Artist, Mary-Louise Scappaticci (<http://mlscap.wix.com/ml-scappaticci>). Before we began, she made us take a small oath, promising ourselves to relax, have fun and let the creative painting just flow. Of course the oath ended in laughter because as a group we collectively knew that we couldn't take ourselves too seriously. Mary Louise gave us some simple tips on composition and skilfully led us through the process one step at a time, all the while

allowing us the freedom to put our own personal interpretation into our creations. She demonstrated great patience with the rambunctious group as she showed us how to create our "Sassy Sunflowers". There were a couple of rebels in the class who put their own spin on things. Local business owner, Dagmar MacDonald, did an awesome job on her single sunflower. It was great to see everyone have such a good time no matter what their skill level.

The paint night was not only about being inspired to create, but more importantly, about raising money for Making Play Possible, a program that gives all children and youth in Leeds and Grenville the chance to participate in recreation, regardless of the barriers they face. Last year, Making Play Possible supported more than 350 children in the area. What could be more fitting than painting for fun to fundraise for a program that helps kids have fun! For more information, or to apply for funding, check the website www.makingplaypossible.com or call 613-498-4844.

Another local organization to benefit from paint night parties is the Brockville Public

Library. There will be an upcoming paint party held at the Keystorm Pub on August 14th for \$40 each with \$20 from each ticket going directly to the library fundraising campaign. For more information, call 613-342-3936 and to get your ticket to paint.

Not all paint nights are fundraisers, some are just simply for the pure joy of it. Galop Gallery Artist, Christine Sloan hosts paint nights in Prescott and Dawne Fiegen of Wiltse Creek Studio will be adding some to her skilful offerings as well. Call Christine at 613-349-5322 and Dawne at 613-659-2928 for their upcoming schedules.

It's no surprise that paint nights are popping up everywhere. They are a fun way to satisfy the kid in you. You get to hang out with some friends for a few hours, share some laughs, be inspired to create and best of all, take home your creations to show off! Next time you're looking for a fun night out, try a paint night with some friends or make it a date night. Remember, no experience is necessary, but a sense of humour is a must!!

I encourage you to give it a try!! LH