



SAINT JOHN

## SAINT JOHN STORY SERIES

*Saint John Story Series is a place to profile and highlight City of Saint John staff, service areas, and the positive impacts of City led initiatives within our community.*

### **Artist-in-residence creating mythical creature for Rockwood Park**

August 17, 2022

Walking through the trails of Rockwood Park, the wheels of Nathasha Pilotte's imagination begin to turn.

"There's an interesting geological history here and the way the stones and the park itself have naturally developed over time," says the Saint John-based watercolour and fibre artist. "The fauna of the park, with the blend of the rocks and the root systems, I find it fascinating every time."

The new artist-in-residence for the City of Saint John will take inspiration from this natural terrain for her residency project, making her own large-scale puppet from textiles and found objects in Rockwood Park.

"I was hoping to create a mythical creature that might be living in this kind of an environment, so that is a little bit of a hint of what the project is going to be about," says Nathasha.





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Nathasha, who you will often see set-up at her stall in the City Market, has written and illustrated several children's books, and she's looking to use her storytelling background in her residency.

"I would love to create a little bit of a legend that would go along with the creature," she says.

She will be using an art form known as wet felting in the creation of the creature, which involves wool, soap, water, and agitation to create 3D pieces. It's a technique she's been exploring since 2016, though during the past few years she's invested more time in learning to master it.

"I just fell in love with the material, and the craft. Wool is a material that is so versatile, you can do a hundred thousand things with it. If you can dream it, there's a good chance you can probably make it happen," says Nathasha.

"Wet felting has a big element of luck and chance, but I find it so fascinating the way that it comes together – and although you have an idea of what you want to do, the piece itself will tell you what it wants to be in the end."

Nathasha is splitting her time between the Interpretation Centre at Rockwood Park and the Saint John City Market. The public will have the chance to visit her on site at either location and take part in public events this fall.





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“It’s very exciting and humbling. I have to say thank you to the Saint John Community Arts Board and the City of Saint John to allow me this opportunity,” says Nathasha.

The Artist in Residence is funded by the Saint John Community Arts Board through the City of Saint John. For more information about the program, click [HERE](#).

To watch a video with Nathasha talking about her project, click [HERE](#).