

## Featured Artist: Noella Moore

Noella Moore's artistic expedition has revealed that the artist within oneself will overcome all obstacles to emerge. For the Mi'kmaq artist/artisan it has been a journey taken in stages of discovering her artistic talents in relationship to her rich cultural background.

Moore says she cannot escape the artist in her for she is so deeply embedded. As a young girl in school Moore created drawings in her notebooks, but her creativity was not honoured so she put it aside for a time. She took up the traditional Mi'kmaq art of beading, and creating dream catchers, and expanded into sewing and quilting. Then in 2003 there arose an opportunity to take a five week course in basket weaving from Dave and Irene Hailey, and immediately she knew it was for her, "I was a natural - it was in my blood for basket weaving had been a long time art in my family that had not been passed down to my generation." Moore did not start with an easy pattern, but made her first basket a comb basket made of white ash. "I picked a hard one, but I was so proud of the final product which I still have today." From learning to work with white ash she went on to using reed and became more and more skilled with each finished project.

For Moore basket weaving is not about earning income. She has taught basket weaving as a way to share her culture of which she is so proud. But mainly she creates baskets for herself and each time the feeling is the same, "Wow! Look what I have created." Moore is especially proud of having created the Basket of Hope several years ago as part of the Residential School Survival Project. Four Island schools participated in the MCPEI project. Mi'kmaq children were read a story about the residential school experience and then given a wooden tile upon which to write an invoked feeling. Moore was selected as the artist to create an artistic work that would display the tiles. She wove a basket and applied to it each tile, calling it the Basket of Hope. "I was required to give a speech and present the work to residential school survivors. It was one of my proudest moments as a descendant of a survivor." The basket, encased in glass, has travelled on display throughout the Island and across Canada serving both to teach and to heal.

Recently Moore has learned Mi'kmaq Quill art that has been reintroduced to Lennox Island. "I love learning new stuff." The quill art has been



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well received as a commercial art product.

Over the years Moore took art lessons, but not trusting her own skill, she would move away from painting for a time only to find that she always had to come back for "I always was an artist." As a lover of nature, landscapes are her primary subject matter. She says of her painting, "It is a passion and a great stress reliever, but as yet she has sold little of her work because, "It is scary to show people who you really are." But those days are quickly fading for Moore has a wonderful fan base in her husband Trevor, and her children, Ashley, and Adam. Moore has two works in the 150 Anniversary Celebration at Wyatt Heritage Properties throughout the summer of 2017, and she is working towards her own solo show at MacNaught History Centre and Archives Gallery in the winter of 2019.



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