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## Featured Artist: Jules Aucoin

Woodworking was Jules Aucoin's creative outlet until he saw a stained glass lampshade his wife Paula had commissioned from Island artist Frank MacAulay. As he closely examined the detailed work in the lampshade, he fell in love with the medium and knew it was something he wanted to explore.

After enrolling in a community school course instructed by Earl Crane, Aucoin found that the craft came naturally to him. That was twenty-seven years ago and there has been no looking back. He quickly discovered that stained glass allowed him to be even more creative than working with wood because of the wide selection of glass, colours, and designs, "The variety allowed by imagination to flow and give full range to my creativity." Aucoin quickly learned that embracing the techniques of stained glass was the easy part; it was tedious practice that was necessary to perfect the art especially that of the foiling, soldering, temperature control etc. He says to be a stained glass artist one cannot have a fear of breaking glass. In the early days he worked from patterns, but then began to develop his own designs with inspiration gather from other sources such as Pinterest. He has made a variety of glass projects such as lamps, mirrors,

windows, cupboard windows, Christmas ornaments, etc.

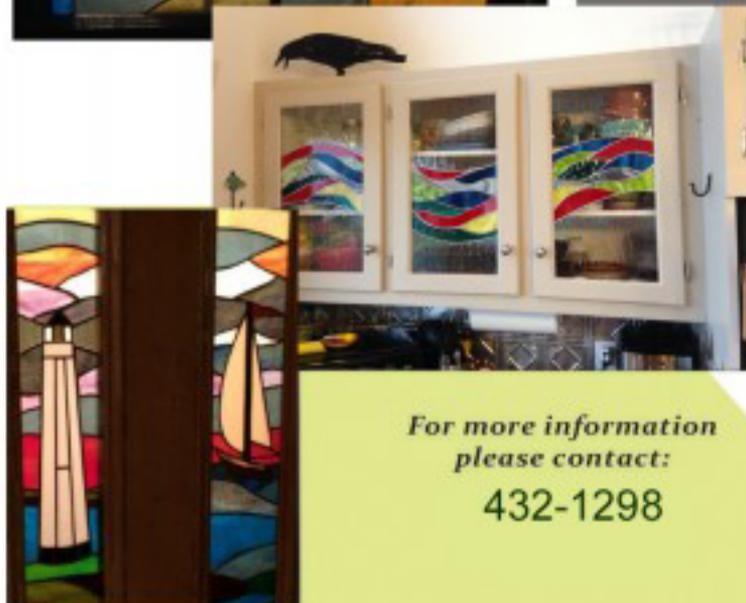
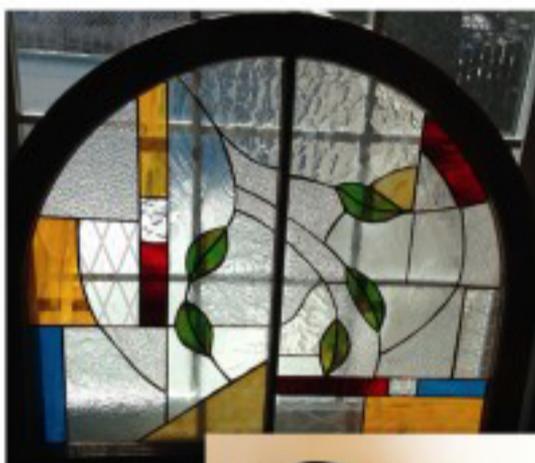
Aucoin never wanted to make his art a commercial venture. He determined to keep it a hobby so that the creativity would always be with him. He does however accepted commissions. His latest project consists of three cupboard windows for a family cottage recently constructed. He is especially proud of the design which is of a wave flowing from one window to the next.

For the past number of years Aucoin has demonstrated the art of stained glass on Water Street during the Arts in Motion-Chautauqua Festival. "I love doing the two hour demonstration because people are so curious and I truly enjoy showing them how to cut and prepare the glass and show them how a pattern is put together. I will look down at my watch with amazement to find that two hours has flown by. I also like that demonstrating gives me the opportunity to meet interesting people from various places."

Aucoin says, "For me being a stained glass artist is all about the personal satisfaction of creating a thing of beauty."



Jules Aucoin: Artist & Craftsman



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