

M.P. Pet Portraits: Celebrating the 'furry friend' in your life



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Melissa Paige, a young wife and mother to three year old Isaac grew up in Potton where she and her husband Chris Stone,

continue to make their home today. Melissa has held a variety of jobs over the years from working in a pharmacy as a Lab Technician to landscaping and horse farming. It is Melissa's love for animals that continuously called to her throughout her life and this is why she has decided to make a long time hobby and passion into a part-time career.

"I've loved drawing for as long as I can remember," shared Melissa. "I started doing it as a past time and a way to relieve stress. I think I had a talent for drawing from a young age, I remember people being impressed with my abilities when I



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Melissa Paige holds one of her pet portraits; she hopes to make her long time passion for drawing into a part-time career.

was in elementary school," she added.

Melissa has had no training in art other than a few art classes in high school but she discovered at a young age that she was able to draw things that she has an extreme passion for which she admits is mostly animals and flowers.

"I love the way each animal seems to come to life on the page right before my eyes," she said.

Melissa has been doing portraits of family pets and a few for friends for about seven years now; working in charcoal and also a water colour technique with pencil crayon. Melissa's first portrait was a tiger she did

for her Mom. Word soon spread and other people started contacting Melissa to have portraits done of their pets. To date, she has done between 40-50 pet portraits; mainly dogs, cats and horses.

Melissa's love for animals is evident as she is the proud owner of three dogs, a parrot, pot bellied pigs, rabbits and the list goes on... As a stay at home Mom, Melissa hopes to make extra money while having fun doing something she enjoys and that relaxes her while bringing joy to others as their pet comes alive through Melissa's portraits.

"I love being home with my son and my dogs," says Melissa.

"If I can make a little extra money doing this, that's great but there is much more in doing this than a dollar value," she said.

Melissa enjoys meeting new people and hearing about their animals. She feels that she falls in love with each animal that she sketches and finds it especially touching when she is asked to do a portrait in memory of a lost pet. When a portrait is complete, Melissa says that she is sometimes sad to see it go.

Melissa has a facebook page called M.P. Pet Portraits and she can be reached by email at Melissa@crstonescapes.com or by phone at 450-292-0464. The cost of a portrait depends on the size and whether it is done in charcoal or colour. Melissa says that she aims to make her portraits affordable because she wants everyone to be able to honour their furry friends and these portraits make a unique gift for any animal lover.

"In a world with so many animals abused and mistreated, it's very reassuring when I hear about how much some people love their pets," said Melissa. "I encourage anyone to adopt a shelter dog as so many need homes and deserve to feel the love that I've been talking about."

Once you adopt that dog and fall in love, give Melissa a call and she will be happy to capture the joy it brings you in a portrait you'll treasure forever.