



Liz Allison, decorator at Great Big Affair in Truro, has spent countless hours creating a life-size paper mache Dutchie Mason. The creation comes just in time for the Dutch Mason Blues Festival on Aug. 8 in Bible Hill. Monique Chiasson - Truro Daily News

# Paying tribute to Dutchie

*Truro businesswoman displaying life-size paper mache of the Prime Minister*

By MONIQUE CHIASSON  
TRURO DAILY NEWS

**TRURO** — Eighteen years ago Linda MacFadden experienced the joy of meeting blues man extraordinaire Dutchie Mason. Now she has a special tribute to him in her store window.

MacFadden first met Mason at The Pond in Bible Hill during one of his concerts.

"He sat at our table. He was nice, funny and always a good conversationalist. And he was drinking and smoking like Dutchie did."

MacFadden owns Great Big Affair, a new wedding and special events decorating business in Truro. In honour of the upcoming Dutchie Mason Festival - Aug. 8 to 10 - her sister Liz Allison created a life-size paper mache Dutchie Mason that will remain in the Prince Street business's window until after the festival.

"People are so excited when they see it. They are amazed at how much it looks like him, especially young people who I didn't

think would know who he was," said MacFadden.

Allison used "hundreds" of pieces of paper for her life-like creation, tearing each piece instead of cutting them, and placing them in such a way to recreate Mason. It took her about 40 hours to finish the project that is made solely out of water, glue, paper and paint.

"I copied the likeness of him from an older photo of Dutchie. It's the first time I made a person and it was an emotional journey," said



Allison. "I learned a lot about him as I worked on it. I didn't know the level of his talent and that he won so many awards and how well known he is not only in this area but everywhere."

Allison never met Mason but was a fan of the Blues man. She is thrilled with the response her paper mache tribute has received.

"We get about 10 people a day who come in and comment on it. People are surprised to see it ... but it's also a way to get involved in the town's events and the festival."

The women encourage people to bring Mason memorabilia to the business. Some pieces have been offered and the ladies would like to add to the collection in the window leading up to the festival. All pieces will be returned.

As far as the paper mache tribute, "I won't sell it. I'll put it in storage and bring it out again next year," said Allison.

## Many hands needed to help out at the blues festival

By HARRY SULLIVAN  
TRURO DAILY NEWS

**TRURO** — With little more than a week left in the countdown to the Dutch Mason Blues Festival, one aspect still lacking in the all-important lineup is volunteers.

"I can get volunteers up from Halifax left and right," said artistic director David DeWolfe, of the blues, bikes and barbecue extravaganza set for Aug. 8, 9 and 10. "My problem is I can't get any great volunteers from Truro and that's where we want to get the volunteers from."

But getting such help is posing a bit of a problem.

DeWolfe said a festival of the magnitude that the Dutch Mason event has grown to requires at least a 100 volunteers to assist with set up and tear down, to serve as grounds and maintenance crews, drivers, for hospitality

duties and so forth.

"Even 75 would be good," he said

Last year, organizers had to get by with 60 volunteers and so far this year, the staff of five is looking at a total volunteer roster of 30.

"If you don't have good volunteers, you are never going to make it," DeWolfe said, referring to such other successful musical events such as the River Front Jubilee in New Glasgow, which can boast of some 200 sets of volunteer hands, several hundred who turn out for the Stan Rogers Festival and some 500 individuals who help out at the Jazz Festival in Halifax.

"My mission is to use the resources, personnel and people from Truro, so we hire from Truro and we take volunteers from Truro and try to do as much business in Truro as possible," DeWolfe said.

Anyone who does volunteer gets a free weekend pass to the festival for working as lit-

tle as a six- to eight-hour shift.

But some prerequisites are required, such as being "well-groomed, friendly, reliable, dependable, sober and punctual."

"All the key words, you know," DeWolfe laughed.

As well, anyone under the age of 19 requires parental permission and there would be limitations in where they could work, given that the festival is a licensed event.

Also, overly chatty, starry-eyed fans should leave their sense of awe at home.

"Speak when spoken to," DeWolfe said of anyone who might be having close contact with the performers. "You are there to be their host and accommodate them and supply their requests when we can."

Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to apply online to the [dutchmason.com](http://dutchmason.com) website by clicking onto the "inquiries" icon on the menu bar.