

'Sing the praises of Saint John': Artist designs 'Johner Jackets' to celebrate civic pride



Convenience store owner Andrea Scott was one of the first people to receive a custom "Johner Jacket."

Photo: Sean Mott/Telegraph-Journal



Sean Mott | Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • These days, Andrea Scott is sporting a new jean jacket at her convenience store on Stanley Street. This isn't your mother's jean jacket, though; a map of Saint John is stitched across the back and a shoulder patch bears the number 506.

Scott only has one question when it comes to her new jacket.

"I haven't quite decided if the collar should be up or down," she said. "1980s or not."

Scott, the owner of Webster's Store, received the custom jacket from her neighbour Sarah Harris, a teacher and artist who is designing and giving away homemade jackets to honour Saint John and the people who make it a good place to live.

"I think collectively we need to sing the praises of Saint John," Harris said. "We really need to appreciate where we live and how lucky we are to live here."

Harris calls the clothing pieces "Johner Jackets." She embroiders colourful designs on the jackets that speak to the character and style of the city.

"I think that we need to reclaim the word Johner," she said. "I feel like people have a negative association with Johner and I think that's kind of sad."

Harris moved to Saint John from British Columbia two years ago. It's a move, she said, has changed her life.

"This city has given me so much," she said. "I think it's a beautiful place and fun and accessible and welcoming."

Harris picked up embroidery a few months ago and began experimenting with different images. She decided to start creating the Johner Jackets using jeans.

"I started thinking about what kind of jacket I want to wear," she said. "I think that flowery stuff looks pretty on jean jackets."

The jackets, which take around 50 hours each to make, aren't for sale. Harris is giving them away as gifts to people in the city she thinks are making a positive impact.

"I'll give them to people who make Saint John a fun and awesome place," she said. "I just thought it would be really neat if we had these jackets represent Saint John."

Scott was one of the first people to receive a Johner Jacket.

"I was completely surprised," Scott said. "It was very sweet of her. I love it. It's like a hug."

Harris has turned to social media to ask community members who in the city deserves a Johner Jacket. She's already received a load of suggestions, and she's compiled them into a list she'll run through, one patch of jeans at a time.

"It's about giving back to a city I love," she said. "It makes me feel connected to this community and the people in it."



 Published an hour ago

Comments

My profile

Post a comment

1500 characters remaining

Post

All Comments **1**

All Comments 1

Linda_Dupuis 11 minutes ago

What a nice thing to do! It takes someone "from away" to recognize Saint John's qualities of beauty, history and culture. Saint John's citizens are a warm and welcoming community. The city has so many wonderful attributes - attributes that many in other communities across the country find sorely lacking. For one, I am very grateful to be living in a vibrant, growing and caring community as is Saint John and surrounding areas.

Reply ↩

Report 🚩

