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## SHOWCASING HER CREATIVITY



Graham Paine/Torstar

The Prep to Step Up program held its year-end celebration recently, recognizing the achievements of their neuro-diverse adult clients. Here, Rebecca from Limehouse poses with her artwork depicting whales and a ship.

### **■ NEWS**

## WORK IS MORE OF A 'VOLUNTARY APPRENTICESHIP'

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started here so you can work off the damages," Page said. "I could tell they're not the type of kids to do that, these are the kind of kids that I would want in my shop to show them something."

Once school lets out, the teens agreed to work off the damages the Furniture Renew for a few weeks.

"They're going to be doing some not-so-fun labour and some hands-on learning," Page said. "I'm not just getting them in here to sweep the floors, that's not beneficial."

While the work is punitive, Page said he feels it's more of an involuntary apprenticeship.

"Maybe it will show them a different trade or that hands-on work would be something they would enjoy," Page said. "I'm excited to be a part of a big decision that was made incorrectly and turn it around into something positive."

Page said he thought about his own actions when he was a teenager.

"Once I started getting into trade work and working with my hands I started to calm down a lot," Page said.

Even now, Page said, if he feels frustrated or angry, he'll come to the shop and work.

"I'll come here and sand

for two hours, and I'll be fine instead of getting mad."

Furniture Renew does repairs, restoration and refinishing of furniture for projects of all sizes. Page said he's finished individual pieces as well as major contracts with entire schools.

In addition, Page said he hoped to start offering some classes focused on basic skills for young children as well as classes for all ages.

Furniture Renew is located at 1 Rosetta St. unit 12.

More information about Furniture Renew is available at www.FurnitureRenew.ca.