



## Vendor Spotlight: Sharon's Serenity SeaGlass

By Laura Kirkpatrick

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Collecting sea glass has always been a past time for Sharon Randles – even when she was a kid. She spent many days walking along the beaches in Cape Breton collecting sea glass in little jars. Now, Sharon creates beautiful handmade sea glass jewelry at the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market as Sharon's Serenity SeaGlass.

For 26 years, Sharon worked as a nurse, eventually as Director of Nursing at a long term care facility. While caring for a special fellow nursing friend who was fighting cancer, her friend said to Sharon, "Life is too short to be doing something you no longer have a passion for." Her friend unfortunately lost her battle, and Sharon left her nursing career to move forward using her creative side.



“Before nursing, I always painted and cross stitched,” Sharon said. “I could always craft but nursing and my family took up my time.”

After testing out her jewelry-making skills with her friends in Cape Breton last January, she applied to become a vendor at the Halifax Seaport Farmers’ Market. She’s now been selling her pieces for the past year and loves the whole process of the business.

“It’s amazing what you find on the beach,” Sharon said. “You don’t just find sea glass. It’s about finding yourself and finding spirituality.”



Sharon loves being with the public and interacting with them. For her, it doesn’t matter if you’re a nurse or selling sea glass jewelry. You’re still providing a service to people. She’s grateful for the people who come to her booth and strike up a conversation. Sometimes, she still can’t wrap her head around what she does every day.

Aside from making jewelry and nursing, Sharon is also part of her family singing group, The Burke Family. The group, which also includes her nine siblings, sings in local venues and has won two East Coast Music Awards over the years. To Sharon, family is everything and this is another way to bring them all together.

For now, Sharon is happy right where she is. She loves the Halifax Seaport Farmers’ Market and how it provides her the opportunity to do something she normally wouldn’t do. When asked what advice she could pass on to potential new business owners, she said: “Follow your passion. We’re all the same and trying to get through life. Do what makes you happy and if you can spread some happiness along the way, do it.”

