

Volunteer Spotlight Interview



CATHY CARREAU

Nadine: What is your day job?

Cathy: I'm retired now, but I worked with curriculum at the school board for a number of years, and my background is also English teaching and student services.

I was curriculum consultant for courses from primary to grade 12, though my concentration was more grades 9 to 12. So I did that, and I was the liaison with public health, with the youth health centres. All of our senior highs and some of our junior highs have a youth health centre in them that's staffed by somebody from public health. Then, I was a healthy living leader with the board. And then I worked with technology education. Over the years, I've had several different portfolios. And that was the joy of my job. A lot of different things!

N: How did you get involved with FIN? How long have you been a volunteer?

C: I came on, probably around 2005, to replace someone who was leaving what's now the FIN Kids Teachers Advisory Committee. Because of my curriculum connections, I could see where films would fit with the curriculum. So that's how I got started, and then I really enjoyed it. I loved the people; we'd argue around that table—we're all very passionate! And then, gradually, I got more and more involved with the festival generally,

especially when I retired. I think I did a couple of nights at the outdoor films. Last year I got more involved with it.

N: What is your favourite FIN Atlantic International Film Festival memory?

C: Well, to tell you the truth, there hasn't been any one specific thing, but I have to say I really love working with people. I've been able to make connections with people, so, when I go somewhere to do something with FIN, I know everybody! So it's not anything specific as much as it is just being with the people; I'm there for human connection.

N: What part of the film festival would you recommend to a first-time festival goer?

C: Get to the movies early! I would really suggest that you download the program because that really keeps you straight and you can cross-reference.

N: So you should really plan out your movie watching?

C: That's right.

N: What do you most look forward to every year at FIN?

C: The social aspect, the energy! You get this feeling that there's really something going on, and you can see it throughout the city, too—there's SOMETHING going on here! I really love that whole thing.

N: What is your favourite film?

C: You know what, a film that's probably not well heard of that I've watched two or three times at least, and that I've wanted to go back and watch, is A GHOST STORY with Casey Affleck and Rooney Mara. He plays a ghost with a sheet over his head; it's a love story. At first, when it started, I thought, "What is this?"—especially when he comes out with a sheet on. But I decided to hang in with the film, and I really connected emotionally with it. He's obviously a big man, covered with a sheet, but even with that, the sheet had emotion to it: you could see the shoulders slump, you could see him struggling with things. I won't give too much away, but he goes to different points in time historically, and it kind of shows how he and his wife have been connected through the ages. It really is a magnificent movie.

My other favourite one is DREAM GIRLS. That's another one—I could watch that so many times.

N: What is your favourite movie snack?

C: Oh, popcorn and chocolate! I try to stick with just the popcorn, but, you know, the chocolate does make it sweet. But popcorn's my biggest, for sure.