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**ILLUSTRATING:** Jo-Anne Jager's art appears in children's books. **C1**

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# Rocky Life

## WHERE DO I START?

Interior designer Val Murray offers advice on decorating your home in this week's Lifestyle page. **C3**



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## Jo-Anne Jagers is illustrator for two children's books

BY EMILY COCHRANE  
STAFF REPORTER

Long-time Rocky resident and artist Jo-Anne Jagers is a published illustrator of two children's books.

She has been illustrating and painting for over 20 years.

"I've always appreciated all forms of art; I'm very visual," she said.

"Little Blue Penguin" was published in 2007 and "McKenzie's Frosty Surprise" came out in 2008.

They are available at [www.woodlilypublishers.com](http://www.woodlilypublishers.com).

The author of the two books, Patricia L. Atchison, lives in Water Valley, where the books were published by Wood Lily Publishers.

Jagers, originally from Calgary, has lived in Rocky for 29 years.

She enjoys the outdoors and the inspiration for her art often comes as she is walking her two malamutes.

She loves taking pictures on her walks and uses the images for reference later on.

Jagers supports conservation efforts and likes it when she can reflect that in her art.



Jo-Anne Jagers of Rocky holds her two published illustrated works, the children's books Little Blue Penguin and McKenzie's Frosty Surprise, written by Patricia L. Atchison.

The work on McKenzie's Frosty Surprise was done hand-in-hand with Ducks Unlimited.

Because Jagers has a full-time job other than her art, the illustrations for one book can take months.

She estimates that completing the illustrations for McKenzie's Frosty Surprise took 400 hours, as they are all hand-drawn and more detailed than her first book.

The illustrations in her book were done using watercolour and acrylic paints as well as oil pastels.

"I dabble in a little bit of everything ... all mediums," said Jagers.

Jagers has been freelancing her artwork since 2000 after attaining her Art Diploma through ICS Canada.

She is currently enrolled in an online computer graphic artist program.

Her clients usually commission her to do a piece that is somehow unique to them and has memories tied to it, which she enjoys being able to provide.

Often the piece is of a pet that passed away or of a photograph taken during a favourite vacation.

Jagers became an instructor for the Rocky Arts and Crafts Guild in 2008.

She teaches classes in painting with pastels and stylized faces for children and young adults.

Jagers is currently teaching a two-day beginner/intermediate watercolour course today, Tuesday, November 10, and on November 17.