

Model building

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The Daisleys are truly a model family.

Bill Daisley took a keen interest in building model airplanes when he was a boy and now with tiny tweezers, alligator clips, knives, files and other tools the family assembles these models in the basement of their Fredericton home.

Shelves are filled with some 200 model kits. There are containers and boxes with hundreds of spare parts in case they ever need any extra bits and pieces. It's not unusual for them to mail spare parts to other

modellers throughout the country and into the U.S. too.

The family is volunteering its time to teach model building to air cadets who are building airplanes that are specific to Canadian history and the Canadian Air Force. Neighbourhood kids will drop into their home to learn more about model building. Friends of the Daisley boys have become modellers too after giving it a try.

There are three model building stations in their work area. Bill, Ben, Matt, and sometimes Melissa Daisley, will be there, working on all kinds of model kits of cars, trucks, planes, ships and even models of mythical characters such as dragons and cartoon characters.

The time they spend at this varies; some days it's only a few minutes, while other days they will spend four or five hours at a time here.

"It's not a compulsive thing. I think obsession is very close to being the right word but not in a bad way," says Bill Daisley.

This family's inventory of models and parts is small compared to some

modellers' collections.

In the loft above Gordon Barrett's garage, which he calls his model room, there are 500 model kits. If he lives to be 100, he estimates, he might build them all but the building of these kits is secondary compared to his interest in collecting model kits.

He likes to look at them and think about what these bits and pieces of plastic could be made into. This engineer who works for a structural steel company finds his hobby very relaxing.

"It helps me to change my mindset and focus on something that is quite a bit different than my job."

Barrett started to build cars and other models when he was 10. He likes mechanical things and cars. Putting them together held great appeal.



While he got away from the pastime for a while, he's back at it and his interest in them is as great as ever. He takes his time to plan each kit he builds.

Typically he builds large-scale cars and trucks and only a few of them each year. The biggest challenge, he says, for him is doing a better job on each model he builds.

"In my model room I have my collection of model kits on display on shelves so you can come in and look at it and open the boxes and look at the parts. I have some really unique pieces in my collection."

Over time his taste in model kits changed. Once he preferred stock cars, muscle cars and Formula One racers. Now he is into collecting kits that he always wanted but was only able to buy them recently.

It takes a steady hand, good eyesight and lots of patience and attention to detail to do this.

Bob Kerasiotis has been a model-builder for 50 years. He used to build models of navy ships with his father when he was a kid. He's built airplanes, tanks, cars and trucks.

He limits the purchases of new kits to those not seen often and reissues of kits that were made in the 1960s. A true compliment to a model-builder is when someone looks at a photo of their work and can't tell the difference between it and the real thing.

"I had a picture of a 1957 Chevrolet at work and my boss looked at it and thought it was actually my car."

All of these modellers belong to the Capital Area Modellers Society, which started in 1986 in Oromocto. It holds model shows each spring.

This gives modellers a chance to display their projects, model kits and some of their model building techniques.

The show attracts some of the top modellers from around the Maritimes. Modellers compete to win gold, silver and bronze awards for the kits they enter to be judged in a model build contest.

The CAMS Spring Classic Model Show and Contest is the longest-running show in the Maritime provinces, and one of the oldest in Canada. Entrants come from as far away as Ontario

Because the show has grown, it's moved to a larger venue. This year's show will happen on May 29. For more information on the CAMS spring show, go to its website www.capitalareamodellers.ca