**Kingston Makerspace invites community members to come create together**



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Mandy Marciniak

*Members of the Kingston Makerspace group gather with their newly created sign. The group operates out of a space located at 4 Cataraqui Street and for a full calendar of events visit www.kingstonmakerspace.ca*

Kingston Heritage

By Mandy Marciniak

Heritage News -For many people, the idea of creating their own household items or repairing a broken item around the house can be a bit overwhelming, but what if you could go somewhere and people helped you to make and repair these items? The only thing you would have to do in return is share some of your skills and maybe some of your tools. This is the concept behind Kingston Makerspace.

"In a nutshell, Makerspace is a community workshop where people come in to use communal tools that we all sort of collectively buy into with a membership, explained group founder Ryan D'eon. "People also come to share expertise and skills with others. On any given night you can have someone who knows about metal working, someone who knows about wood working and someone who knows a bit about programming and they bring all of those skills together and learn from each other."

The group started in Kingston back in November, but the concept of Makerspace groups has existed in other cities for a while. For group member Adrienne Montgomerie, it's really about creating and being able to become self reliant in terms of home projects. "I have a science background and I edit science textbooks, but I grew up without a handyman in the house and I felt that those skills were lacking for both me and now for my children too. I wanted a space where we could learn new skills and come together with others. The Makerspace helps us learn new skills and really teaches us to become self-reliant and that feeling is fantastic." So far the group has almost 50 paying members and they are receiving more and more interest from social media daily. They have projects in their space that have been created by their very own 3D printer and they even have a wired up door lock that is controlled by RFID tags for members.

As their membership expands, so do the projects and different theme nights. Workshops originate out of interest from different members and their skill sets.

"Our theme nights are growing and changing all the time. We do nights on micro controlling, coding and sewing and then on Wednesday nights we have an open house where people can come in and work on whatever they want. We also run some specialty programs on things like software security, bronzing and metalworking. The possibilities are really endless at this point," added Montgomerie.

The space also allows people to come work on projects that they may not have room for in their own homes. Montgomerie said that they are working on having the space open more and more as membership increases. For now, she just encourages people to come check it out and enjoy the space.

"The main reason I would encourage people to come out is to have access to a community and other people who can help you use different tools and combine collective knowledge. You can learn valuable skills and maybe teach others valuable skills in the process and who doesn't want that?" For more information on Kingston Makerspace and how to join visit their website at [www.kingstonmakerspace.ca](http://www.kingstonmakerspace.ca) or look for them on Facebook.