

Life and love under the sea

Dal alumna and her husband scuba dive across the country

BY TARINI FERNANDO, ARTS & LIFESTYLE EDITOR



JOEY AND ALISHA POSTMA HAVE BEEN SCUBA DIVING AROUND CANADA SINCE MAY. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AFTER A DIVE IN NORTH BAY, ONTARIO. PHOTO BY BONNY PERRON

Alisha and Joey Postma are living their best life. The wife and husband have been scuba diving around Canada since May, documenting the underwater world for their new online project called Canadian Splash.

The goal of the 13-part project, which the couple launched on July 1, is to explore and photograph the waters of all provinces and territories in Canada. So far, they've dived in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia as well as Newfoundland and Labrador.

Canadian Splash is just the latest of a few projects on the couple's website, Dive Buddies 4 Life, which they started two years ago.

"It's basically an education platform," Alisha (AKA Ali) says of Dive Buddies. The website includes resources for scuba divers, scientific profiles on aquatic animals and original underwater photography and videos from the couple's dives around the world.

By teaching people about the world's bodies of water, Ali says she hopes people will be "inspired" to protect them.

A large part of Ali's desire to protect the water comes from her time spent at Dalhousie University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in marine biology and sustainability. It was also through the Dal water polo team that Ali and Joey met.



JOEY AT THE BOW OF A BELL ISLAND SHIPWRECK. PHOTO BY ALI POSTMA

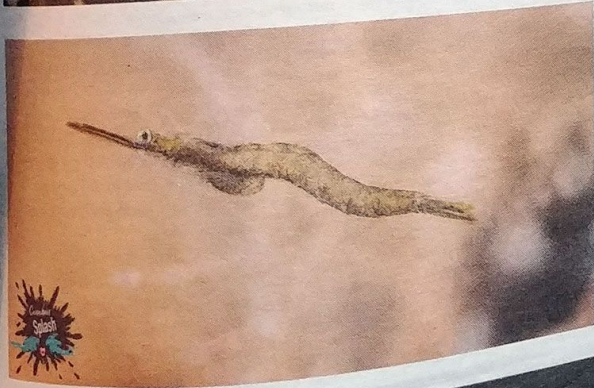
The couple now spends their time moving from province to province, exploring various bodies of water as they go. But travelling around the country and scuba diving isn't cheap. The Postmas both work full 40-hour work weeks to support their lifestyle — Joey as a computer programmer, and Ali as a project manager, as well as doing some copywriting and underwater photography part-time.

For students, it would likely be impossible to live this nomadic lifestyle. But Ali says for any students who have their Open Water Diver certification, there are great diving sites right outside of Halifax. There is even an unofficial Dal SCUBA society for anyone

with an interest in scuba diving.

Ali acknowledges that for some people, however, the ability to scuba dive is "not really a question." But encouraging people to scuba dive isn't the main goal of the couple's website and projects. Their mission ranges from teaching people how to scuba dive to encouraging people to "look a little bit deeper into the tide pool," as Ali says.

In any way possible, Ali says she and her husband want to encourage others to "explore and experience the underwater world," because, as she puts simply, "it's a pretty cool place."



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