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www.yhqg.org

York Heritage Quilters Guild
PO Box 35510
2528 Bayview Avenue
North York, ON M4P 2Y4



I hope you’ve had a wonderful summer with lots of new adventures! Our big project was building a deck and I’m thinking about painting a few mini barn quilts on the new fence. There’s lots of inspiration to choose from!

Another guild year is beginning, and we’re delighted to welcome Jody Jacobson to the role of vice president. Jody is passionate about quilting and is a great addition to our executive team. I want to give a special thanks to Anne

McLauchlan who extended her past president role until this summer while the VP role was vacant. She continues to be a wonderful role model and inspiration.

I hope you will enjoy the Global Quilt Connections’ Sampler Platter on September 23 and 24 from 3:00– 6:00 pm. This is an online smorgasbord of presenters showing techniques and ideas that will help spark new ideas for us all. There is no registration required for individual guild members; we have purchased a guild ticket. The viewing links will be sent out a few days before.

Our Virtual Tuesday events are back on the calendar starting September 12. It’s a great way to spend an evening with other quilt buddies! Lori and Brandie will share more details and the link in the coming weeks. And our weekly sew alongs continue online and in person on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays. See the weekly Sew Along email for more details.

Pauline Grondin is featured at our first guild meeting on September 19 with a lecture about Canada’s history through quilts. Pauline is the Social Historian for the South Western Ontario Barn Quilt Trail. This is a hybrid meeting—in person at Toronto Botanical Garden, and online on Zoom. If you attend in person, you can shop at the vendor sale hosted this month by Sew Sisters.

There is no workshop in September, but there is a fantastic lineup of workshops starting in October. They are all listed on our website and you can register by email and pay online. Take a look!

There’s still time to register for the Edyta Sitar Alaska quilt-along which is a joint event with Royal City and Waterloo quilters guilds. Please visit the Royal City Quilters Guild website for all the details and to sign up!

And don’t forget to renew your membership – mailings will continue only to renewed members starting in October. Our membership director is away, so please renew online only as we need to record your information in our membership database.

Take care and keep on quilting!

Heather Briant—President
yhqg.president@gmail.com



Meetings from September through January will be held at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Our February and March meetings will be held virtually through the Zoom platform. April and May meetings are hybrid (both in-person and on Zoom).

Doors will open at 6:45 pm. the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm, and run until 9:00 pm.

Invitations to the all meetings on Zoom, including the link to the meeting, are sent a few days prior to each meeting.

Meetings will not be recorded this year.

If you are unfamiliar with Zoom and its controls, you can view the [YHQG Zoom Orientation video](#) prior to the meeting. And if you still have questions, join the meeting early and one of our Tech Team will be happy to help.

Prior to joining the meeting, we ask that you turn off any computer notifications you have (on your email account, for example) so we won't have dinging and donging going on during the meeting.

Once the meeting begins, please mute yourself to eliminate background noises.

September 19 (Hybrid meeting)

Pauline Grondin **Piecing Together Canada's History Through Quilts**

www.paulinegrondin.com

We are pleased to welcome Pauline Grondin to open our new guild year. Pauline, an enthusiastic quilter, will discuss the quilt designs of the past through their stories, traditions and superstitions. Generations of quilters—past, present and future—are united by the quilts that were works of their hands and their hearts.

Pauline is an award-winning professional storyteller, historical interpreter, heritage performer, and author. She is also the Social Historian for the South Western Ontario Barn Quilt Trail.

Our guest quilt shop vendor will be Sew Sister—please support our quilting community!



October 17 (In person meeting)



BJ Reid **Every Quilt Has a Story**

BJ Reid will inspire us with her creations and her humour, showing us a collection of quilts in the traditional style, as well as pieces of art and a few soft sculptures ready to reveal their personalities. The stories of BJ's traditionally styled quilts and artwork have been inspired and influenced by her connections to rural and urban life. She manipulates textiles and embellishments to skillfully create enigmatic soft sculptures and artistic fibre art.

BJ is a member of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA), a world wide organization of artists who work to raise the profile of contemporary fibre art.

Come and meet Mizz Cordelia!



MEETINGS

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November 21 (In Person meeting)

Johanna Masko
Modular Quilting: Making Big Quilts at Home

johannaasko.com
[@jmaskoquilts](https://www.instagram.com/jmaskoquilts)

If actually quilting your quilts, even the small ones, is the part of the process you enjoy the least, you are definitely not alone. Let Johanna Masko help you get your quilts—all the quilts—finished! Save money and time by using Johanna's practical modular quilting techniques to complete even very large quilts on your own at home.



Members Holiday Sale - November 21

Attention entrepreneurs, crafters, sewists, knitters, gift makers, and, of course, shoppers.

We invite you to take part in our annual holiday extravaganza at the November guild meeting.

Sellers: You may rent an 8-foot table for only \$20 to sell your handmade items. Tables can be booked by [emailing Heather Briant](mailto:Heather.Briant) to reserve one.

Shoppers: you'll have the opportunity pick up some unique gift items in plenty of time for the holidays.

Don't miss out on this opportunity!



December

No guild meeting.
Happy holidays!



**Helping you build your
stash for over 20 years!**

**35 King St, N. Cookstown
(Just north of Hot Stacks)**

We can't wait to see you!

705-458-4546 | countryconcessions.com





Location

Check your workshop registration for location. Workshops for the 2023-2024 guild year will be held on the Zoom platform.

Workshop Hours

9:30 am to 3:30 pm, unless otherwise noted

Registration

Please note that workshop space is limited. Please sign up early. Your registration is not confirmed until payment is received.

Fees

Payment may be made by cheque, cash, [credit card \(Square\)](#) or by e-transfer to treasurer.yorkheritage@gmail.com.

Some workshops require a kit fee, which is payable with the registration fee.

Cancellation fee is \$25.

Workshops Chairs

Leslie Batt

After a long hiatus from guild meetings, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again. A top-notch schedule for Workshops has been hammered out and registrations have begun. We're delighted that we were able to re-schedule Mary Elizabeth Kinch whose class was postponed in May 2023.

This year's lineup includes a wide variety of styles and techniques with something for everyone. A new addition is the choice of three-hour sessions for some of the classes. Classes are also offered on different days of the week.

[Send us a message](#) to register or make any queries.

Leslie Batt

2023/2024 Workshops

All workshops are on Zoom

	Members	Guests
Full Day	\$75	\$85
Half day	\$35	\$45

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Email Workshops1819@gmail.com to confirm your spot then pay by e-transfer or on our Square site

Mary Elizabeth Kinch

www.maryelizabethkinch.com

Foothills

When Saturday, October 14
9:30 am—4:30 pm

Skill level All

Cost \$75 members
\$100 non-members

Antique quilts have so much to teach us! Studying the late 1800s Canadian antique quilt, that I made my quilt after, I saw that it was chock-a-block with interesting design elements and delightful quirks. In this class you will discover how you can use these same intriguing details to use these in your version, We will also embrace a novel approach to construction and learn the important lessons this quilt has on the role of value, the impact of colour, and how sashing can be a game changer. Join me as we investigate the spirited design of the original quilt and be inspired, as you make your own.



WORKSHOPS

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Melissa Marginet
www.melissamarginet.ca

Wonky Wedges

When Thursday, October 19
9:30 am—12:30 pm

In the Wonky Wedges workshop, we will make a quilted panel and then turn it into a cushion that is sure to add style to your decor.



We will be using improv quilt piecing and a quilt-as-you-go method to create a panel for the front of the cushion. Then we will look at different ways of embellishing the panel with hand or machine stitching and prepare a back for your cushion using the leftovers from your fat quarters. (This technique is very fabric efficient.)



Melissa Marginet
www.melissamarginet.ca

Modern Quilting with your Walking Foot

When Wednesday, October 25
9:30 am—4:00 pm

Skill level All

In this workshop you will make samples of different quilting ideas that can be executed on the home sewing machine with a walking foot. Not everyone can afford a longarm quilter or wants to have someone else quilt their quilt. And not everyone enjoys free motion quilting. You will create samples of walking foot designs on small quilt sandwiches to help you understand what makes each design successful, and look at variations of the designs you stitch

Edyta Sitar Alaska Quilt-Along

In 2023, Royal City Quilters' Guild joined with York Heritage Quilters Guild and Waterloo County Quilters Guild for a quilt-along to work on Tula Pink's Butterfly Quilt 2.0.

Participants enjoyed working together on the project and made plans for a quilt-along for the 2023-2024 guild year. The project is Edyta Sitar's Alaska quilt.

[Visit the Royal City website](#) for FAQs and details on how to join. The first quilt-along is October 21.



Rainbow colourway available from Quilting by Design
Aurora Borealis colourway available from Mad About Patchwork

WORKSHOPS

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Johanna Masko

johannaasko.com

[@jmaskoquilts](https://www.instagram.com/jmaskoquilts)

Herringbone Patchwork

When Thursday, November 23
6:30 pm—9:30 pm

Herringbone Patchwork uses “partial seams” to create a clean, woven appearance to this beautiful, brick-like setting. We will start with a simple practice block before we work on a larger piece of patchwork. This technique is extremely scrap-friendly, so feel free to incorporate a wide variety of your favourite fabrics



Johanna Masko

johannaasko.com

[@jmaskoquilts](https://www.instagram.com/jmaskoquilts)

Secrets of a Patchwork Pro

When Wednesday, November 29
9:00 am—4:00 pm

Johanna completed a sampler quilt of 111 different 6” blocks, sewn in a total of 30 sewing sessions using NONE of the provided templates. How? By using every piecing trick and Quilt Math formula she knew, plus inventing a few more along the way.

“Secrets of a Patchwork Pro” is a hands-on workshop exploring the technical side of patchwork construction, from recognizing the underlying grid structure of traditional patchwork blocks to the many ways to approach commonly used patchwork units.

Global Quilt Connections - Sampler Platter September 23 and 24

Mark your calendars for another GQC Sampler Platter from 3 - 6 pm on the weekend of September 23 and 24. This offering is free for guild members and no registration is required. More details on the Sampler Platter as well as the link will be shared closer to this virtual event. Here's a sneak peek at the speaker lineup featuring 18 fantastic presenters!

Saturday Sept 23, 3:00 - 6:00 pm eastern

Kelly Ashton: Kelly's "Partial" to Partial Seams; You Can Be, Too!; Dara Tomasson: Doodles to dazzling designs; Jennifer Houlden: Creating Eye Catching Fabric Runs is as Easy As 1-2-3; Beth Cunningham: POP! POP! Punch Needle (an ancient embroidery technique); Katie Lewis: No-Reverse Applique Design Transfer; Cyndi McChesney: Surprising settings for Multi Image panels; Emma Powell: Itty Bitty Dolls for Applique based on South American Arpilleras; Dana Jones: Demystifying Design for Foundation Paper Piecing (FPP); Lyric Kinard: Foil + Fabric = Fun!

Sunday Sept 24, 3:00 - 6:00 pm eastern

Nanette Zeller: Painterly Applique Using Colored Pencils; Elizabeth DeCroos: A Quilt that's not a Quilt; Julia McLeod: The 4 'S's of Piecing with Silk; Jane Hauprich: Fear The Negative No More!!; Carole Lyles Shaw: Vibrant Stitching - Big Stitch Hand Quilting; Melissa Marginet: Dot-to-Dot Walking Foot Quilting; David Owen Hastings: Backing, Binding, Batting, Beauty: designing a quilt from back to front; Stephanie McIntyre: Sew Sustainably! Recycled Leather Reverse Appliqué; Kristin Echols: Add a Bold Seminole Band to Your Next Project

GUILD CALENDAR

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September Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Activity
Monday	Weekly	9:00 am—3:00 pm	In-person CQ Sew-Along at Stan Wadlow
Tuesday	Weekly	9:00 am—3:00 pm	In-person CQ Group at East York Community Centre
Tuesday	Weekly	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Zoom CQ Sew-Along
Saturday	Weekly	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Zoom Sew-Along
Tuesday	September 12	7:00 pm—9:00 pm	Zoom Virtual Tuesday
Tuesday	September 19	7:00 pm—9:00 pm	Monthly Guild Meeting (Hybrid) Pauline Grondin Piecing Together Canada's History through Quilts Vendor: Sew Sisters Quilt Shop
Saturday Sunday	September 23 September 24	3:00 pm—6:00 pm	Global Quilt Connections Sampler Platter
Tuesday	September 26	7:00 pm—9:00 pm	Guild Executive meeting
Friday	September 29		Newsletter submission deadline



- Computerized Machine Quilting Service
- 400 Bolts of 108" Wide Quilt Back
- Basics, blenders, precuts and more!
- Mail-in option




Contact Michelle:


4319 Hartfield Grove,
Mississauga, ON


416-244-2815


quiltedmemories.ca



QUILTING EVENTS

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September 8-9

Quilt Show

London Modern Quilt Guild

Friday, September 8
10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday, September 9
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Goodwill
255 Horton Street East
London, ON

\$10.00 admission

www.londonmodernquiltgildcanada.com
londonmqgcanada@gmail.com

Featured artist Debbie Grifka, trunk show,
Improv Appliqué workshop, vendors,
Edgar & Joe's Café, daily demos, free
parking

September 15-17

Simcoe County Quilt, Rug, & Artisan Fair

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Simcoe County Museum
1151 Highway 26
Minesing, ON L0L 1Y2

\$10.00 admission

museum.simcoe.ca

One-of-a-kind hand-crafted gifts for sale.
Exhibits, hand-on activity areas and
demos, merchants mall, music, outdoor
stage and concession area

September 23-24

Yorkshire Rose Quilt Show

Yorkshire Rose Quilters' Guild of Toronto

Saturday, September 23
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 24
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Ellesmere Community Centre
20 Canadian Road
Scarborough, ON

\$10 admission (cash only)

[Yorkshire rose quilt show](#)

A lively mix of modern and traditional
quilts. Over 100 quilts displayed, vendors
mall, members' boutique, tea room,
special draw. Fully accessible.



September 29-30

Our Love of Fabric Quilt Show

Busy Hands Quilt Guild and
Pieces & Patches Quilt Guild

Friday, September 29
10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday, September 30
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

King Street Baptist Church
361 King Street East
Cambridge, ON

\$8 admission

[Our Love of Fabric Quilt Show](#)

200+ quilts, vendors, café, guild
challenge, door prizes, free parking

October 13-14

2023 Quilt Exhibit

Waterloo County Quilter's Guild

Friday, October 13
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, October 14
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Manulife Sportsplex at RIM Park
2001 University Avenue East
Waterloo, ON

\$10 admission

www.wcquiltersguild.on.ca

300+ quilts on display, vendors, small
quilt draw, handmade boutique, door
prizes

October 28-29

Twisted 2023 Quilt Show

Twisted Stitchers Quilt Guild

Saturday, October 28
10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday, October 29
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Audley Recreation Centre
1955 Audley Road
Ajax, ON

\$10 admission

www.tsqguild.ca

Quilt show & sale, door prizes, raffle quilts,
members' boutique, merchants mall, tea
room, silent auction



Community Quilting Projects

- Prepared tops for quilting
- Block kits for piecing in three pattern choices
- Quilting kits of top, batting, and backing fabric
- Slab block kits/make your own

Community Quilting Groups

Join a virtual CQ sew-along on Tuesday or Saturday mornings. Zoom links are sent out to all members each week. Or join us in person on Mondays at Stan Wadlow Community Centre or Tuesday at the East York Community Centre. Check your email for registration information.

Community Quilting Chair

Anne McLauchlan

For those of you who are new to our guild, Community Quilting (CQ) is the charitable quilting arm of the guild. In 2022, the guild donated almost 250 quilts to various charitable organizations or to individuals in need. Most of the quilts are either children's quilts or adult comfort sized quilts, but some members very kindly make bed sized quilts as well.

While members are welcome to donate a finished quilt or top that they've made using their own stash, we have several other ways that members can participate in this program.

We have two groups that meet in person from September to June at community centres. One of these groups typically continues (at a different location) during the summer months.

The Monday in-person group meets every week, starting on September 18, 2023 (with a few cancellations for holidays or other events) at Stan Wadlow Community Clubhouse located at 373 Cedarvale Avenue, Toronto, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Members bring their own sewing machines, projects and supplies, but there are usually a few kits available for someone who wants a new project. There's a kettle for tea and people usually bring a lunch.

The Tuesday in-person group meets every week, starting on September 12, 2023 (with a few cancellations for holidays or other events) at East York Community Centre, located at 1081-1/2 Pape Street, Toronto, from 9:30 am to 2:15 pm. There are a few guild owned sewing machines there and members typically work on guild projects, like sandwiching tops, making backs, or other projects. Again, there's a kettle for tea and a microwave for warming things up, and people usually bring a lunch.

There's an expectation that people who attend one of the in-person sessions will spend at least half of their time working on CQ projects, but anyone is welcome to drop in to have the group help to sandwich a quilt of any kind (we have raised tables to work on, so it's much easier!), to drop off finished items, or even just to have a chat. For people who are new to quilting, coming to some of these sessions is a great way to learn new skills from experienced quilters and designers.

We also have two online Sew-Alongs each week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays. These run throughout the year, with few cancellations. People work on personal or CQ projects at home while talking to other members. It's amazing what one can learn at these sessions! These sessions were started during the pandemic and were intended to be more of a social opportunity for our members. They are a great way for out of town members to stay in touch and for new members to connect with other members!

Finally, quilts which have been sandwiched at one of the in-person CQ meetings are brought to each of our in-person guild meetings. These sandwiches are picked up by members who take them home to quilt and bind them. There's no real deadline to bring them back, so don't worry if it takes you a month or two or more to finish quilting a sandwich for the guild.

Sometimes we'll have quilt top kits available at the in person meetings or the in-person CQ sessions, which can be picked up, finished, and brought back (again, no time pressure!).

One of our special projects in recent years is to ask members for completed child and adult comfort quilts which are donated to a charitable organization called Nonnina's Table. This organization puts together hundreds of gift baskets that are given to people living in poverty during the December holiday season. In addition to providing quilts (we aim to give them 100 quilts each year), we ask members to bring in toiletries and other items to our November meeting, which are then delivered to Nonnina's Table to help fill their baskets.

During the pandemic, we set up drop off and pick up locations at several members' homes in different locations in the city to help keep our CQ program running. We're keeping these locations going. People can generally pick up a quilt sandwich or kit at these locations or can drop off finished items. The locations and contact information are set out at the side of this article. Please contact the member you want to visit, in order to arrange an appropriate time.

Our Members' Work

Over the spring and summer, our members have kept working away for CQ! Thanks go to Bev S, our intrepid designer, who works away on tops, kits, and fabric donation management. This program wouldn't work without her! We'd also like to thank Bob G, Alexandra S, May P, Debra B, Anne S, Jean H, Heather Q, Sylvia R, Lee O, Jean P, Mical P, Sandra B, Phoebe V, Jody J, Del H, Elizabeth D, Wendy D, Sandra Y, Catherine W, Margaret J, Leslie B, Jacintha B, and B.J. R for contributions of finished quilts and tops. Some quilts have arrived without information about their makers. If your name isn't on this list, we thank you as well!

Recent Donations

Two large donations were delivered over the summer. Sixty quilts (30 for children and 30 for adults) were delivered to Anduhyaun Inc., a residence for Indigenous women and children fleeing abuse and violence. The same number and type of quilts were delivered to the YWCA, for use in their shelter for women and children fleeing abuse and violence.

In addition, three quilts were sent to Quilts for Survivors, five quilts were given to Wendy D for delivery to Syrian refugees who are arriving here imminently, and 10 quilts have been delivered to two families of Afghani refugees already living here (one of them is one of the Afghani translators who assisted Canadians in Afghanistan) by Rosemary M.

Anne McLauchlan
Community Quilting Chair



DISPLAY AND COMPETITION

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SEPTEMBER 19 SHOW AND SHARE IS IN PERSON! AND ON-LINE!

A big thank you to one and all who brought quilted items to our June Show and Share in person and on-line! We are looking forward to seeing what our members have created over the hot summer months!

IMPORTANT: Whether you are coming to the September meeting in person or on-line through Zoom, please send a photo of your quilted item and a description to yhqq.zoom@gmail.com by noon on Monday, September 18. All photos we receive will be posted to the guild website as per usual after the meeting. *Thank you!*

September 19 In Person: please bring your quilt or quilted item with you and check in at our Show & Share table near the stage. We will add you to our list of members who wish to speak about their quilt/project at the podium (which members at home can also see remotely on Zoom). Our team of white glove volunteers will display your quilt/quilted item to our members at TBG and on-line. We look forward to once again hearing the stories of your creations!

September 19 Online: please be prepared to discuss it when it is shown in our slideshow at the meeting and online (you will need to unmute). In case of audio challenges, we will read your description to the in-person audience.

Leslie Batt & Susan Gaston
Display & Competition Co-Chairs

VIRTUAL TUESDAYS

Date: Tuesday, September 12

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Virtual Tuesday is back!

Mark your calendars for Tuesday September 12 at 7:00 pm for the season opener of this YHQQ members-only and Zoom-only special interest group dedicated to scraps, sharing of skills and socializing. An email with all the details will be coming soon.

The first session will have a special guest speaker (or maybe two) and prizes. It will also be a chance to show off what quilty things you've been doing on your summer holiday. Please send photos of current Works in Progress (WIP's), updates on Virtual Tuesday initiatives from last season (e.g., Plaidish, Kawandi etc.) and progress shots of projects from past YHQQ workshops. Basically all pretty pictures are welcome!

Lori Dunn and Brandie Wolff

Quilt Frames Looking for a Home

Two sets of frames (wooden slats with clamps), 9'2" x 12"

If interested, [please contact Maura Payne.](#)



MEMBERSHIP

Time is Running out!

Our new guild year started on September 1. Since I know that none of you want to miss out on one single thing, don't forget to renew if you haven't already. We have lots of great things in store for this year.

Our first guild meeting of the new year takes place on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:00 pm at the Toronto Botanical Gardens and virtually on Zoom. After the September meeting, we will use our new mailing list that contains all paid members for the new year. Only those people who have renewed will continue to receive the weekly email and newsletters. The best way to ensure you are up to date on everything is to renew early.

We will not be accepting renewals (therefore no money/cheques) at the meeting because it is a very busy night. :) [Click here to renew now](#). If you have trouble renewing online, please email us.

Looking forward to a great year!

Joanne Laing
Membership



Ann's

Ann opened Ann's Fabrics in Stouffville more than 40 years ago. The store carries a large selection of cottons and flannelettes—over 700 bolts of material--along with a wide variety of quilt quarters, batiks, and panels.

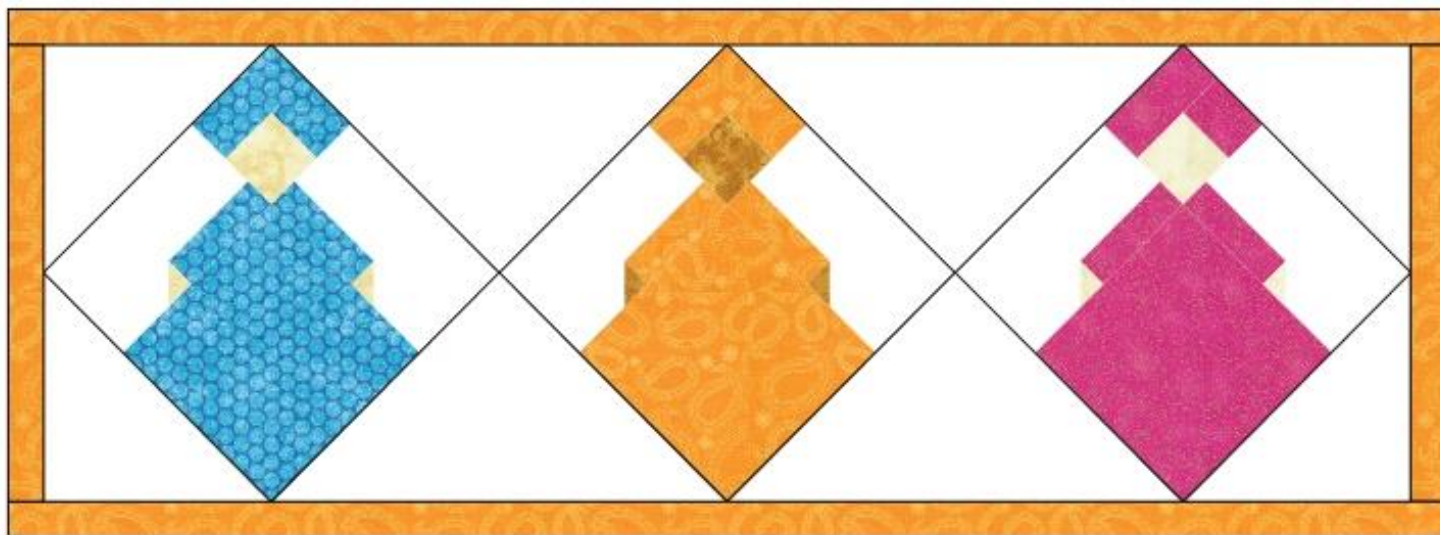
Ann has a wealth of knowledge and you can ask her about anything sewing related.

It's worth the drive to beautiful Main Street Stouffville to visit the store.

[Visit Ann's online.](#)

INTERNATIONAL QUILT DAY 2024

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Registration is now open for International Quilting Day on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Registration is free for members of our Guild and the other sponsoring guilds. Visitors may join the festivities for \$25.

Members of the sponsoring guilds and paying guests are welcome to submit up to two quilts to the Virtual Quilt Show. Please be prepared to provide the following information about your quilt(s):

- Quilt name
- Pattern designer
- Quilter, if other than yourself
- An artist's statement or brief history of the quilt. (Limit of 50 words)
- Up to five photos for each quilt. We recommend an overall view of the quilt along with several close-ups of interesting details.

The deadline for submitting quilts for the Virtual Quilt Show is February 3, 2024.

We are pleased to announce that we will have three keynote speakers this year:

- Kaffe Fassett, Colour Inspiration
- Dana Jones, Pagtinabangy: The Quilts and Quiltmakers of Caohagan Island
- Laura Coia, Sew Very Easy

Some of the other events you can look forward to this year include:

- A vendor showcase;
- sessions from a variety of presenters; and
- door prizes!

Visit the [IQD website](#) for more information about IQD, to register for the big day, and to submit your quilts for the Virtual Quilt Show. Watch for our ad in the Fall issue of Canadian Quilter magazine and help spread the word on your social media accounts.

See you at the celebration!

Save the date: Saturday, March 16, 2024



Meet Wendy D

What got you started in quilting?

I've always enjoyed fabrics and textiles and the colours and playing around with them. I learned how to sew clothing but I was following a high standard because my mother was an excellent seamstress and what I did was never quite good enough. It was never good enough in my eyes either. So, when I came to quilting, I thought "oh, straight lines! This is good!" When you're sewing clothing you have to go around curves and I'm really bad at doing the 5/8" seam around the curves.

What is your favourite quilt that you have made?

I have a couple of favourite quilts. One is a quilt that I've made at the behest of a founding member and president of the guild. When she talked to the guild one evening, she said "you should always make a quilt for yourself, something that speaks to you." So, I took that to heart and I made myself a huge quilt that I can wrap myself up in when I watch TV. It's about Haida Gwaii (formerly the Queen Charlotte archipelago off the BC coastline). I had been to Haida Gwaii. It's a place of rugged beauty in the landscape of trees and water, as well as stony and sandy beaches. I tried to express that in this quilt.



The other favourite project is a wall hanging. It was my entry for the guild's challenge under the theme of "A Novel Idea". I was able to "play" with the idea of the progression of the printed word from manuscript to book to computer tablet.

What is your favourite quilt that you have NEVER made?

I saw a quilt at the Greenwood Quiltery in Guelph. I didn't take note of what it was, but it was a variation on the block that has a quarter circle, moon, and a square.

What are you working on now?

I've seen a quilt in an old magazine, and I couldn't get a pattern, so Bev S (YHQG member) showed me what to do. It isn't difficult after all. Every 8" block is the same and when you put it on the wall, the white piece creates a line. She could see what the pattern was—she is amazing!

Do you have a quilt that is not finished, and, that you never intend to finish?

When I first started quilting, I never started another project until I finished what I was working on. But lately, I started working on another project at the same time. There is also another project that I started, but I don't think I'll ever figure out how to finish it. I don't use patterns per se because, truthfully, I can't follow them. I find it difficult to understand them sometimes. Maybe I've followed two or three really simple patterns, but basically, I work with blocks that I like and put it together. So, I know how to make disappearing nine-patch or disappearing four-patch but they are not patterns, they are just blocks.

Do you document your finished projects via pictures or lists or a journal?

I'm not good at that. I made many quilts and have given them to acquaintances, and then later on wondered what happened to them (the quilts). The other day I came across a scrap from a piece of batik that I had worked on, and I remember thinking "I made a quilt out of that. I



A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left corner onto the title.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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wonder what I did with it?” The reason why I remembered is because Jan M (YHQG member) really liked it and I hold her quilts in such high estimation. If she likes my quilt then I figure “ah, it must be okay”.

How long have you been a YHQG member?

Probably since 2005, so 18 years.

Why did you join the guild?

Through the invitation of Catherine S (former YHQG member). She moved to the Hamilton area about twenty years ago. She organized the small quilt groups so that people could get to know one another in the guild. She said “if you join the guild, I’ll put you in our small group.” I said “that’s great, but I’m not very good.” She said “you don’t have to be good, you just have to be interested.” So, I joined.

What do you like best about being a YHQG member?

I’ve learned in life that you get back way, way more when you put yourself in a volunteer position. I learned that from other organizations that I belong to. I sort of came to the board backwards. I went to Community Quilting when it was held at Anne S’s (YHQG member) house. She was very generous at offering her house for storage. We had bolts and bolts of fabric at that time. She had large rooms that many people could go and work on large projects. When she could not manage it any longer we found the community center at Stan Wadlow. At that time, they offered us storage for the fabrics and our sewing machines and ironing boards. I love the community aspect of being a York Heritage member. There’s all that comradery, but I learned so much just by being around other quilters and by just being around people who had tips that they could share. There are things that I picked up that I don’t know if I would have ever learned them.

Have you ever volunteered to be on the Executive? If yes, what capacity?

They made an exception for me. For any position on the board you have a maximum years-of-service. I think it’s three or something like that. And since nobody else wanted to do it, I ended up doing it from 2010 to 2022—twelve years!

Do you have a quilt currently on your bed?

I never have because I love the feel of a duvet. The duvet is light. Even if I used the quilt top as part of the duvet, it just wouldn’t work. Funny, eh?

Favourite fabric, thread, tool, etc.?

That Purple Thang. I won it at one of the draws and I just love it. I broke the first one so I got a replacement. I used it for a number of years, and then I lost it in my sewing room. So, I went and bought two more at Sew Sisters Quilt Shop. Then, when I was tidying up my sewing room, I found the lost one—so now I have three of them!

What is your quilting happy place? What quilting process do you enjoy?

I enjoy trying to figure out the right colours. Bev tells me I’m a monochromatic person; I’m not drawn to bright colours. The process for me is putting together what works. I don’t like to buy a lot of yardage on spec. I do buy fabric at the Community Quilt sales and I’m drawn to certain colours like greys and black and their variations. For me, if I’m doing something and I need to finish it off and I don’t have enough yardage, I think of ways to make it work with what I have. Kind of like a painter who has run out of cobalt and needs to find something that will finish off the project without actually running out and buying more. I like the process of deciding on what goes together. So, I like scrappy. The other thing with scrappy is that it appeals to my economy-mindedness.

How many sewing-related machines do you have?

Two. I had another Janome, that my daughter killed. I had just had it serviced and she borrowed it and she tried to sew six pieces of denim and threw off the timing and broke a number of needles. So, I got that fixed and gave her that machine. It was a time when my dad had passed and I got a little bit of money, so I bought a Janome sewing machine that has all the

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stitches. Then in 2010, Bev, said, “You want a good machine. You want to look at Juki.” I was able to get one for \$1,000 at a shop on Queen Street. It only does straight sewing, but it’s as steady as a rock. I love sewing on that machine.

Do you have a sewing room or dedicated space? What’s the best thing about it?

Yes. I like that I can leave wherever I am in the project and just walk out of the room and come back, and nobody has touched it.

How do you organize all of your quilting-related stuff?

Badly! About three years ago, Jane C (YHQG member) showed how she organizes her room using boxes. I thought that made sense, so I made six colour-coded boxes, and that’s where I put my scraps. The other fabrics, where I have some yardage of them, I keep them in Ikea drawers so that I can see what’s in them.

Do you have any funny or interesting (or embarrassing) quilting related stories to share with our members?

I was going to make a quilt for my daughter and, since it was one of my earlier projects, I wanted something straight forward. I saw a pattern that appealed and appeared to be something I could handle. It was ‘Storm at Sea’ which has bias seams throughout. I guess the lessons from my mother stuck because I completed it without any bias distortions!



The other funny story is my other daughter’s wedding quilt. Because I wasn’t a precision stitcher at the time, I learned that ‘Diamonds in the Deep’ which is a log cabin variation required exact cutting and accurate and consistent scant quarter-inch seams. When I came to assemble my first attempt, the blocks were many different sizes! Following a workshop on how to achieve precision quilting, the quilt came out beautifully.

I was able to use some of the orphaned blocks from my first attempt in another quilt. I still have some leftover blocks.

What quilter do you admire most or follow on social media?

I don’t go on social media; I don’t follow any particular quilter. I’m drawn to projects by what catches my eye in a magazine.

Have you ever worked on group quilts?

I joined a small quilt group with Catherine S and we did a project where each had an assigned area—a certain size and colour—and it was going to be what it was going to be. I don’t know what happened to that quilt. We did finish it. I’ll have to ask Catherine about that. I think, out of the group, one person got it.

Do you take quilting-related classes?

I have. When I first started, I was taking at least three workshops a year. Then I realized that I had nothing to use all of these techniques, so I’ve been really selective about the classes I take. I want to learn technique more than I want to learn a certain quilt. By technique, I mean technical things like how to put the colours together well or ideas for free-motion quilting.

What’s in your UFO (unfinished object) box?

I had travelled to Japan years ago and am probably never going to finish the project I purchased there. I was in this temple and found a second-hand kimono. For some reason, in Japan they don’t put a lot of value or treasure second-hand things.



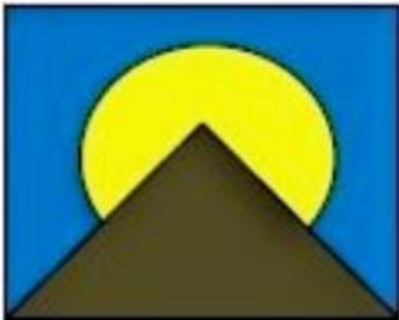
I bought two old kimono jackets from a vendor and she gave me a beautiful obi, the belt that goes around the kimono. It's just gorgeous. The reason I held onto it is that my husband doesn't like cutting into things. It took me about eight years and, with the help of my daughter, I convinced him that I needed to cut into it to be able to make something else out of it. His idea was to just hang the whole thing up. I said "no, no." So now I cut into it, and I don't know how to finish it. So, that's going to bother me for a while.

Do you have a quilting adventure?

I've been to one retreat. It was organized by Judy M (YHQ member) at Peaceful Nights Guild. It was up at a hotel near Alliston (Nottawasaga Inn?). I really enjoyed it, but it was never repeated. Like I said, when I travel, I don't like to buy things on spec. I went to Japan and I went to the stores on the street where some of them were four or five stories high and full of wonderful fabric. I just felt so overwhelmed that I didn't buy much. Fabric is too heavy to travel with anyway.

What do you want YHQ members to know about you?

The thing I take great stock by is Community Quilting. CQ has gone from being a minor thing in the guild to being a thing that many members participate in to give back to the community, to people who would otherwise never have access to the kinds of quilts that we are able to distribute. When I started as the coordinator for Community Quilting, we were distributing maybe 25 quilts a year. When I left, we distributed many more. I only came to realize it because there was a speaker coming into town and she wanted to see what we did and how we did our outreach. I was asked to count the number of quilts that had been distributed. I was really shocked because it was 325 or 350 in one year. That's what we do, and more, every year since. I've done that probably in the last 8 to 10 years. That's the level of involvement. Community Quilting is a group project. There are so many factors in it. When my kids started moving out, I thought I would do some volunteer work. I couldn't find my niche. And then I thought "I'll just make quilts." And so that's what I do. And then I facilitated the distribution.



Pieceful Night Quilters Guild

The Pieceful Night Quilters Guild will be closing its doors in June, 2024. Their goal is to make the last year a memorable one with a celebratory feel. They would like to connect with past PNQG members (who are YHQ members) as well as invite anyone who might want to come as a guest or join the guild for the last year. The meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

The following eight speakers have been booked: Sandy Simmelink, Sue Sherman, Cristina Bono (a completely different program than the one she'll present to YHQ), Irena Swanson, Atsushi Futatsuya, Rachel Derstine, Vicki Conley, and Fuzzy Mall.

Former PNQG members can attend all meetings free of charge. Guest fee (\$10/meeting) or join (\$45 for 10 meetings). Registration on the PNQG website is required for all.

[Visit the PNQG website for more info and to register.](#)

Save those Orphan Blocks!!

Did you know our Guild made \$167 from selling orphan blocks at \$1/block at our Celebration of Quilts show last November? The blocks were either leftovers from CQ projects or donated to CQ by members.

So, don't toss those orphan blocks 'cause they're great for fundraising!



MEMBER NEWS, YOUR EXECUTIVE

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Marion B

Marion B, a long time member of YHQQ died suddenly in August.

Marion was a proficient quilter. She was a reader and long-time book club member, a faithful and active church attendant, a knitter, a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. And Marion was a compassionate friend who will be dearly missed.

Marion was a warm-hearted friend, a woman with a great sense of humour, empathy for others, sensible and down to earth. Nursing was her field and she would ask the questions others were afraid or embarrassed to ask because she knew they were the ones that needed to be asked. Compassionately, she would respond, if asked.

Don and Marion fostered dog guides for the Lions Foundation. You would have seen her with an obedient dog, usually a poodle, sitting quietly under her chair at guild meetings.



Guelph Sews for Quilts of Valour

Save the Dates

- Sept 25: 10:30 to 4:30
- Nov 13: 10:00 to 4:30
- Jan 15: 10:00 to 4:30
- March 11: 10:00 to 4:30

Royal Canadian Legion
57 Watson Pkwy, S in Guelph

Visit royalcityquiltersguild.ca to learn more or
email rcqg.qov@gmail.com

NEXT ISSUE

Submissions for the next issue should be sent to
yhggNewsletterEditor@gmail.com no later than **Friday, September 29.**



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